

Highlights *From the Heights*

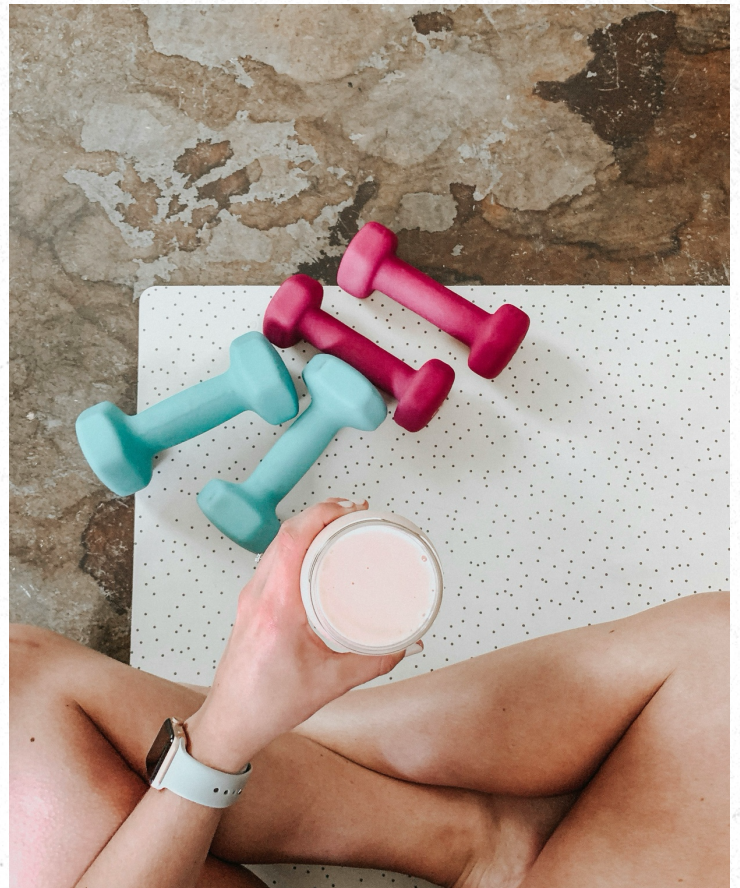
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | JUNE 2025 – VOLUME 6

PASTOR'S CORNER — GET IN SHAPE

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. — Romans 12:4-8

I'm willing to bet that just about every time you visit the doctor for your annual checkup, he or she says something along the lines of, "you're a bit out of shape and need to eat healthier and get more exercise." Then again, maybe that's just what the doctor always tells me. Regardless, study after study has shown that we are becoming more physically sedentary and what we eat isn't doing us any favors. Time and again Scripture reminds us that what is true physically is even more true spiritually, and that our spiritual needs are actually more important and pressing than our physical ones. If getting in shape physically is important for a healthy body, then getting in shape spiritually is essential for the Body of Christ.

In Philippians 4:19 it says, "*my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*" God has provided everything we need in order to faithfully follow Him, and He has provided everything we need as a community of faith, the body of Christ, to fulfill the mission and work He's given us. Knowing how God has formed and shaped us for mission and ministry is an essential part of our growth as disciples of Jesus Christ, and the church can not function as God has designed it if we don't know where we fit in His Body. If you've been part of a church for a long time, you've likely heard talk about or been part



of classes helping you learn your spiritual gifts, but how God has shaped us for ministry goes beyond just those gifts. A helpful acronym to think about this is SHAPE — Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experience. While the gifts and personality God has given us might not change, our heart and abilities do, so where we might have had the ability to serve God in one way in our 20s, when we're in our 60s or 70s our ability is different. The invitation and call to serve is still there, but how God is inviting us to live that out changes.

Knowing our SHAPE is just one part of the puzzle, though. It's also about looking at the ministry and service needs of the Body here at Northminster and seeing where our SHAPE fits into those opportunities. As Frederick Buechner once wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." To push the analogy perhaps a bit too far, if you discover that your spiritual SHAPE is a circle, then we want to make sure we aren't trying to make you fit in a square hole at the church. If our gifts don't align with ministry opportunities, then we can find ourselves getting burned out and frustrated. On the other hand, when the two do line up, we are energized and excited.

To help us all discover how God has formed and shaped us for ministry and find out what opportunities to use those gifts exist, we are having a 4-week Sunday School class that begins on Sunday, June 15. We'll look at the biblical foundation for knowing and using our gifts; explore how our passion, abilities, personality and

experiences are used by God in shaping us for ministry; discover the different kinds of spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit provides; and take a look at some of the ministry opportunities in and through Northminster. Whether you've been walking with Jesus a part of Northminster for a few months or many decades, we believe there is something for all of us to discover and learn through this class.

As time passes, our physical abilities change. Sometimes, the same is true for how we are to make use of the spiritual gifts and abilities God has given. The call to serve never goes away, but how we serve changes as we change. Join us for the Get In SHAPE class beginning June 15 and discover how God is inviting you to serve Him and His Body during this season of life. We look forward to exploring this with you.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

JUNE 2025 MISSION FOCUS: DAYSTAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

We all know how important it is to invest in the next generation, and Daystar Junior School is doing just that. This school for children ages 3 to 15 years is located in the slum areas of Kirombe Uganda, East Africa. It is fully registered with the Ministry of Education Sports as a nursery and primary day school.

Founded in 2014, it opened its doors on February 2, 2015, with the vision "Raising children who are good examples." The school's mission is "To help our children discover, develop, release and maximize their potentials in God."

Our contact with the school is Jude Nyanzi, the school's founder and principal who is a man full of vision and determination. He often sends us pictures of the school and occasionally joins us through the YouTube

worship service, as well as in person to let us know how the school is thriving. Our donations from here in Central Virginia have helped to purchase uniforms for the students and provide materials so that they can build new desks.

We are excited to see the ways that God continues to use Daystar in the lives of these precious children, and we feel privileged to be able to help the school in their vital mission of raising children who "maximize their potential" for the Kingdom of God.

Construction of the "Northminster Wing" is now complete (see next page for pictures), and we are so grateful to have been part of this incredible project. Ongoing donations will go toward supplies, scholarships, materials, uniforms and more.

THE 'NORTHMINSTER WING' AT DAYSTAR JUNIOR SCHOOL IS COMPLETE!

Thanks to your donations over the last two years and with the completion of the terrazzo floor, construction on Daystar Junior School's new classroom building, called the "Northminster Wing," has now been fully completed! Here are some pictures of this



LIFE TOGETHER

Keeping in touch with one another

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

9 Judy Reyburn
14 Marge Mills
21 Kaleigh Bennett



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

Don & June Hedrick, June 12, 1960
Bobbie & Debbie Irvine, June 26, 1971
Bob & Marge Mills, June 28, 1980

PRAYER REQUESTS

*I sought the Lord, and He answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears.*

— Psalm 34:4

Several members have asked for prayers for needs that they'd prefer not to share publicly. Please lift up these prayers, knowing that God knows for whom you pray and what they need.

Pam Tinsley is home healing from a broken arm.

Ernie Baker is healing after breaking a rib in a fall.

Marge Mills request prayer for back pain.

Julie Lerner requests prayer for debilitating back pain and grieving the recent passing of her dog, Punkin.

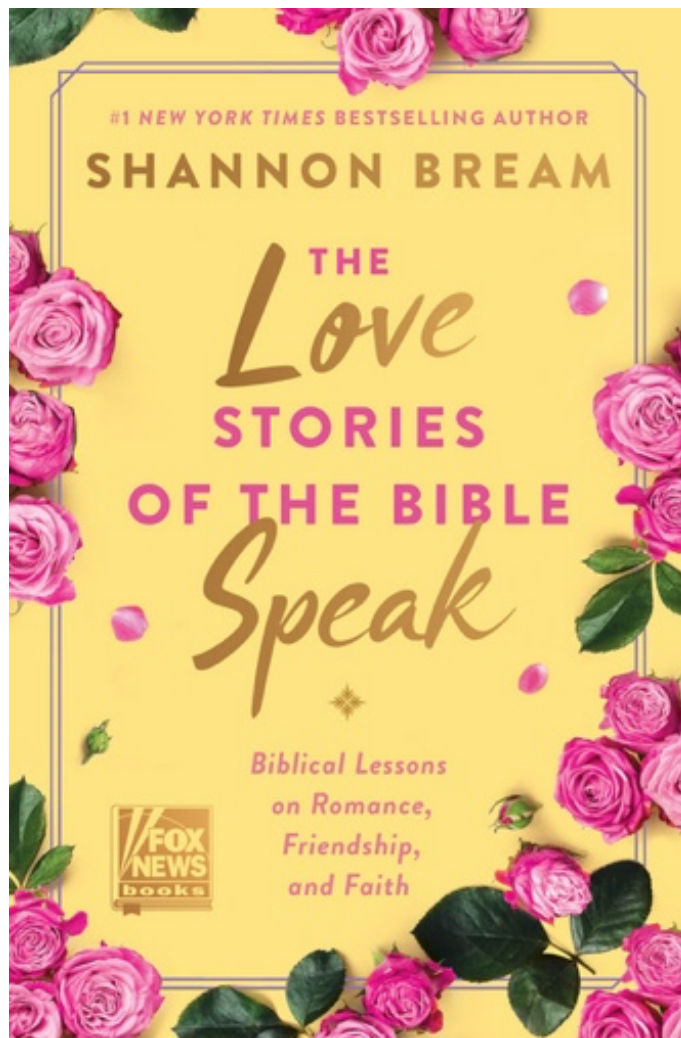
Remember others who cannot be with us in church:
Arlene Horton, Mary Murray, Mary Wilhelm and **Dolores Wright**.

All active servicemen and women, law enforcement personnel, first responders.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2025 GENERAL FUND

	April	Year To Date
Income	\$11,162	\$40,460
Expenses	\$ 9,480	\$40,498
Balance	\$ 1,681	\$ -38

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS MONDAY, JUNE 2



The Women's Bible Study will meet on Monday, June 2 at the church at 7:00 p.m. We will be studying the second half of the chapter, "Jesus and John", and will begin on page 246 at "The Inner Circle" in The Love Stories of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream. Please read the chapter and complete the questions in your workbook. Come prepared to share what you got out of the reading and any questions you might have.

Once again we are going to ask you to bring something to share related to our refreshments.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday night. And, as always, bring a friend.



DON & JOAN RICKETTS BODY LIFE FUND

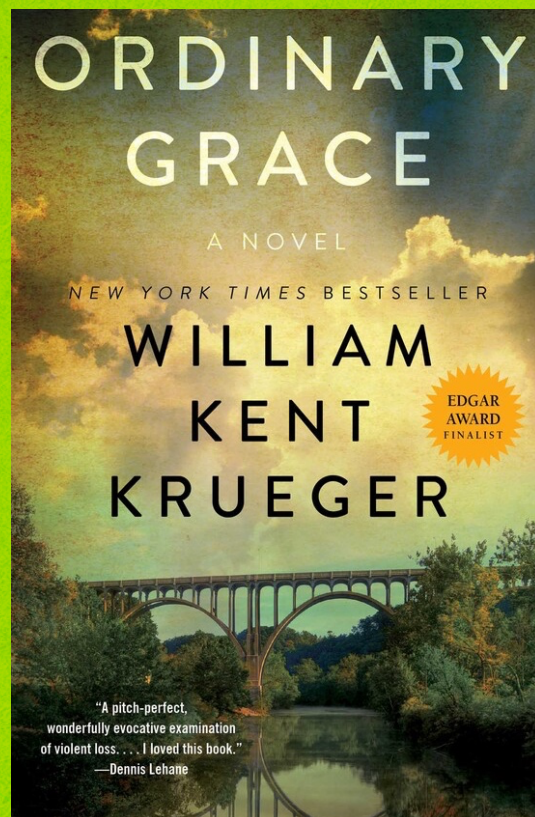
Following the lead of Pastor Ray Steadman in his book, *Body Life*, Northminster seeks to be the body of Christ. One way of doing this is by reaching out not only to people in our community, but also assisting members of our own congregation who find themselves in a financial crisis.

When a family in the church has special needs that they are unable to meet, perhaps due to losing a job, or some sort of crisis, money from the Body Life Fund can be requested to help. While money does not usually solve people's problems, it can be a source of great encouragement to a family that is struggling through a crisis. Although the church cannot fully support a family that is out of work, any financial help is usually appreciated greatly, and tells them that the church truly cares.

Northminster's "Body Life Fund" was established in 2002 and named in honor of Don & Joan Ricketts.

Funding for the Body Life Fund occurs through contributions made directly to Body Life, not from the general income. Over the past several years, we been blessed to be able to provide special assistance to many in our congregation. As a result, the balance in the fund right now is very low. We invite you to consider prayerfully making a special donation, above and beyond your regular giving, to help replenish this fund so that we might be able to bless others in our church family should the need arise.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB MEETS THURSDAY, June 19, 10 AM @ NORTHMINSTER



The Women's Book Club will meet on Thursday, June 19th at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Northminster in the Tatman Room. The book we are reading is Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.

In Ordinary Grace, 13 year old Frank Drum and his family in the summer of 1961 in New Bremen, Minnesota, face a series of tragic events that force them to confront the darkness and beauty of life. Told from Frank's perspective 40 years later, the novel explores themes of faith, forgiveness, and the resilience of the human spirit. Frank's family navigates secrets, lies, and adultery, all while grappling with the loss of loved ones and the shattering of their innocence. Despite the pain and tragedy, they also find moments of grace and resilience, ultimately learning to forgive and let go.

Please bring a refreshment to share and join us on Thursday, June 19th.

Looking forward to another lively discussion and, as always, bring a friend!!

MILLS' MUSINGS — RIVERS OF LIVING WATERS

Quick, what's the first image that comes to mind when you read the words "Holy Spirit?"

A dove? Tongues of fire? A mighty wind?

Did anyone choose "rivers of living water?" Me either.

Although the connections between the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and rivers of living waters probably aren't top of mind for any of us, they are linked in three easily overlooked verses from the seventh chapter of John's Gospel:

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39, ESV)

The feast, as we learn at the outset of John 7, is the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (in Hebrew, *Sukkot*). The seven-day feast, celebrated in the Fall, was a time both to remember God's past provision for Israel in the wilderness and to praise God for the harvest that had just been gathered. Since late autumn usually brought a drought, this festival also was a time of corporate prayer that God would refresh the land and refill the cisterns by sending once again his life giving rain.

This context helps us understand why a water bearing ceremony was central to *Sukkot*. Each day of the feast, priests would use a golden pitcher to draw water from Jerusalem's Pool of Siloam. They would then bring the water to the Temple where it would be mixed with wine and poured out on the altar as a drink offering. This ceremony was accompanied by joyful music, dancing, and huge public celebrations, a fulfillment of Isaiah 12:3, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus had told the Samaritan woman at the well, "Everyone who drinks of this [well] water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14). Now, at the Feast of Booths, he plainly tells his disciples that the living water he had promised was the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In these few words, spoken on the last day of the feast, Jesus laid a foundation that later would help his disciples understand the Holy Spirit's connection to his own person and work. In the moment, Jesus' first disciples couldn't fully grasp the meaning of his words. But once he was "glorified," John's term for Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the Spirit would be poured out in all his fullness. That outpouring wouldn't end with the disciples in Jerusalem on the first Christian Pentecost. Those disciples would themselves become conduits through whom rivers of living water would continue to flow.

Today, you and I are Jesus' disciples. One of our responsibilities is to continue to let the presence and the power, the goodness and the blessings, of God's Holy Spirit flow through us and thereby nurture and nourish a dry and weary land.

Quick, what's the first image that comes to you mind when you read the words "Holy Spirit?"



Online Worship & Giving

Northminster has worked hard to take advantage of various online resources to help us stay connected. Our efforts have primarily focusing on helping you join us for worship on Sunday mornings through live-streaming the service, and providing ways for you to make your donations to church online. Here's a basic tutorial for these services.

Worshipping With Us Through YouTube

On a Phone or Computer

On any internet-connected device, go to www.npcmh.com/live to find our worship service. You *do not* need a Facebook account to access this. If you don't see the Live feed, refresh your browser to reload the page. We usually start the live stream about 5 minutes before the service begins, but we might be a little bit late every once in a while.

If You Have a YouTube/Google Account

Make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@npcmh) and set it to notify you whenever we go live, and YouTube will send you a notification when the service starts.

We do encourage you to watch the service on the largest screen you have available, to help give the sense of "being there." Many modern TVs allow you to "send" a video from your phone or laptop directly to the TV.

On A "Smart" TV, Roku device or Apple TV

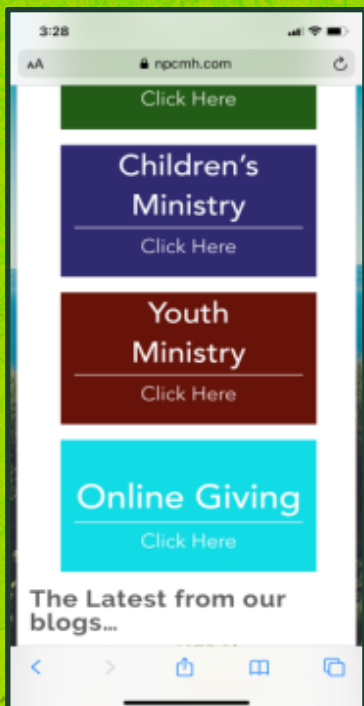
If you've purchased a TV in the past 5 years or so, most likely it is a "smart" TV that includes a variety of streaming services and apps. On those TVs, or if you have a Roku or Apple TV, you can open the YouTube app. You don't need a YouTube or Google account to use these apps, but it can make finding the service easier. If you need to search for it, go to the search tab and enter "npcmh."

Find the Bulletin Online Each Week

To assist your worship, the bulletin will be available on our website at www.npcmh.com/online-order-of-worship. This is formatted to work well on a computer, phone or tablet.

Donate Online Through tithe.ly

You can now make donations online! You can do this on a computer, phone or tablet. Simply go to our homepage, www.npcmh.com, and scroll down until you see the blue "Online Giving" button (pictured on the left). Tapping or clicking on it will send you to a secure donation page. Once there, you can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation. There is a small processing fee for each transaction, and you can choose to include those fees in your donation if you would like (otherwise the church absorbs those fees).



NORTHMINSTER ON THE 'NET

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www.npcmh.com

Calendar, Directory & more

npcmh.churchcenter.com (This is also an app for your phone! Go to your app store and search for "Church Center")

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