

December 2017



News & Views

A newsletter of Northminster Presbyterian Church

God Restores God's World

page 2



VISIT US ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 OR 11:00 AM

WWW.NORTHMINSTER-INDY.ORG

Worship in December: Advent 2017 – God Restores God's World - by Carol McDonald

The new church year begins on Sunday, December 3. For the four Sundays of Advent, we will move with Prophets and Evangelists towards the birth that forever changed the course of history.

December 3 – Advent I Restoring God's Time

The Prophet Isaiah and Evangelist Mark challenge us to “keep awake.” In today's lessons (Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37), the foreshadowing of Holy Week reminds us that Advent is preparation not only for the birth of Jesus, but also for his second coming. And no one knows the day or the hour! We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and children older than preschool age will join in the entire worship service.

December 10 – Advent II Restoring God's Geography

A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.” The Prophet (Isaiah 40:1-11) and Evangelist (Mark 1:1-8) invite us to notice the geography of this holy season: paths, highways, valleys, mountains, hills – geography that leads us home. Music for the day will include several selections from The Messiah by G.F. Handel.

December 17 – Advent III Restoring God's People

God's love story to and for God's people is shared by the Prophet

(Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11.) The chancel choir, soloists, and guest instrumentalists will present Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata No. 3 from Christmas Oratorio.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 – Advent IV Restoring God's Power

10 am – One Morning Service
The Prophet (Isaiah 9:2-7) reveals the fulfillment of the promise. The Evangelist (Luke, Chapter 1) reveals both Zechariah's and Mary's astonishment at the promise of unbelievable births.

The Light of the World Breaks Forth!

4:00 pm -The “Joyful Noise” Service – for All Ages

All of our Children's Choirs will sing for this inter-generational service. Children of any age will be invited to participate in a “Gathered Pageant” directed by Pastor Ruth. No rehearsal necessary! The Christmas Joy Offering will be received. Sing carols, light candles; hear and see the joy of the Christmas story!

7:00 pm - Candlelight Communion

We will sing carols, light candles, and gather at Christ's Table to welcome his holy birth. Saxophonist and Section Leaders will join us in our music expression of worship.



Rev. Carol McDonald

Pastors Carol and Ruth will tell the stories of some of Jesus' grandmothers. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received. Join us to hear the old, old story in a new way.

11:00 pm - Candles, Carols and Choral Music

The prelude begins at 10:30 pm as our Chancel Choir proclaims, in song, the joy of this holy night. We will hear familiar stories, sing carols together, and light candles to welcome the light of the world into our midst. Pastors Carol and Ruth will tell the stories of some of Jesus' grandmothers. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received. Join us as the old story takes on new meaning for our world today.

December 31 – 9 and 11 am

The Prophet (Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3) and Evangelist (Luke 2:22-40) help us reflect on the year gone by – and give us hope for the new year to come.

Choir and Orchestra present: Bach's Cantata No. 3 from Christmas Oratorio – by John Wright, Director of Music Ministries

One of the rich Northminster December traditions is the Chancel Choir and orchestra's musical offering during one of the Advent Sundays. We hope you can attend worship Sunday, Dec. 17th as these forces and soloists present Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata No. 3 ("Herrscher des Himmels, erhore das Lallen") from his Christmas Oratorio. Composed in 1734, the Christmas Oratorio (Weihnachtsoratorium, BWV 248) is a collection of six free-standing cantatas composed for six feast days across the

two weeks of Christmas, beginning with Christmas Day and continuing through the feast of Epiphany. These cantatas were offered in Bach's two churches in Leipzig in 1734 – 1735. The third cantata, set for soloists, chorus, strings, oboes, flutes, trumpets and timpani, is exuberant in nature and focusses on the shepherds' joy and subsequent travels to Bethlehem after hearing of the Christ child's birth. One of the great gifts of these musical Advent Sundays at Northminster is the fact that the chorus and orches-

tra are so physically close to the listeners, which creates an aural, visual and spiritual experience. Bach's music has a power and expressivity that transcends the earthbound, so hearing and seeing this cantata in worship affords one the opportunity to come away inspired, filled and renewed. On behalf of the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, we appreciate this opportunity and hope you'll share this worship service of scripture, prayer and music with us.



Adult Education for Advent: The Music of the Season

Have you ever wondered why we don't sing Christmas Carols immediately after Thanksgiving? How much do you know about Handel's Messiah? And what about the music written by J.S. Bach for this holy season? Join Marland Pittman

(see photo at right), our seminary intern, in the Board Room at 10 a.m. on December 3, 10, and 17 to explore the music we will experience at Northminster this Advent season.



Church School in December

Our curriculum for Advent comes from Seasons of the Spirit. Words of hope, comfort, joy, and God's gift of love guide us through this season. Please take a moment to look through the cart of books from our library for words to inspire and guide you and your family during Advent. Additional resources are available in the library.

December 3

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Hear a message of hope from the prophet Isaiah. Preschool will learn that the season of Advent begins with a message from Isaiah to watch, wait and hope. God is very near. What message of hope would you like to give to the world?

December 10

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophet Isaiah offers a message of comfort from God for people in difficult situations. What are some messages of comfort that we can share with our families and community?

Christmas Lite Concert - December 3

Bring your friends of all ages on Sunday, December 3, at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary for Northminster's annual light and humorous celebration of Christmas. Choirs, soloists, sing-a-long carols and a visit by a man in red help us usher in the holiday season.

Lunch Before Christmas Lite

Following the 11 a.m. service on December 3, and before the

December 17

Focus Scripture: Psalm 126

Shout with Joy! Celebrate the good things God has done for us. What great things do you think God is doing in our world today?

December 24

Focus Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2:1-7

Mary receives news that she is to play an important role in God's purpose for the world. Jesus is born! Jesus was God's special gift to the world and would share God's love with everyone. With whom would you like to share God's love? What would you do?

December 31

Focus Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Join in the joy of Anna and Simeon and the sight of baby Jesus. How is your family celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas?

Christmas Lite program, the Congregational Life Team will host a light lunch in Calvin Hall. The menu will be a deli sandwich, fruit and chips. Cost is \$5 for those 5 years and up, with a family max of \$20. You must have a reservation for the meal. Reservations may be made during coffee hour on November 12, 19, and 26, or by calling the church by November 29.

Fourth Sunday Adult Education

There is no class on Sunday, December 24th.

We will resume our discussion of Painting the Stars - an exploration of the intersection of science and faith - on Sunday, January 28th, at 10:00 am in the Board Room.



Annual Bake Sale

The Presbyterian Women will be sponsoring a Bake Sale again this year on December 3rd. Donations of baked goods to sell would be appreciated. Please bring your baked donations to the Gathering Place on the morning of December 3rd. Items will be available for purchase from 10 to 11 am, and from Noon to 1 pm. Money collected will go to special mission projects from www.presbyteriangifts.org. Questions? Contact Melissa Hopkins or Norma Arend.



“GO and SEE” – Stewardship Update - by Carol McDonald

Some Numbers for you ... as of November 10 ... We are grateful for ...

- 22 brand new pledges for 2018
- 141 renewed pledges for 2018 (73 of these reflect a 3% average increase) and that
- 77% of our pledged goal for 2018 has been reached.

We really want to hear from those of you who pledged in 2017

but have not yet offered your loaves and fish for 2018.

And we hope those of you who did not pledge in 2017 will join our ministry and mission in 2018!

Only as we join our loaves and fish together will we be able to collect baskets of “leftovers” to share with our community and our world.



What Do Deacons Do?

Your purchase of Butterbraids enabled the Deacons to raise \$689 to help purchase the Thanksgiving food baskets that will go out to our partner School 55 the week of November 20th. We are grateful for your purchases and grateful to be able to help the families at School 55.

The Deacons are the organizing force behind our annual Clothe a

Child project in December. Deacon Mike Shannon is our fearless leader this year. It is not too late to contribute to this worthwhile project of buying warm clothes for School 55 children and not too late to sign up to shop/help with this event on December 7th. Contact Mike Shannon at mshannon@miller-eads.com for more information. Sign up to help at: <http://bit.ly/NPC2017cac>



Family Promise / IHN Guests at Northminster

As you think about the upcoming Christmas holidays, consider those in our community who are displaced, without a place to celebrate. From December 17-24, Northminster will host 4 such families in our warm, friendly church building. We need food preparers and servers, activity hosts, overnight hosts, and drivers to help these guests experience some of the joy of the season.

You can sign up online at: <http://bit.ly/IHNfpDec17>. We will also have signs ups in the Gathering Place on Sundays.

Questions? Contact Dolly Craft (317-502-2080 or dollybike@aol.com) or Nancy Jarrell (317-840-9325 or njvjarrell@att.net.)

Share the spirit of Christmas with others by volunteering for Family Promise/IHN!



(Above: Nancy Jarrell, delivering support check to IHN Family Promise, from the Mission Team.)

Food Pantry Tuesdays

Our Mission Team Pantry Partners welcome anyone with available time and willing hands to assist on the second Tuesday of each month for four hours at Second Presbyterian's Food Pantry. To sign up, contact our intrepid food pantry leader, John Reed: (cell) 317-919-6505 or email: bjjkreed@comcast.net. As always, don't forget to save those holiday shopping bags. Place plastic, paper and cloth bags in the collection basket located across the hall from the church office. Speaking of our pantry partnership, the following is an excerpt from Second Presbyterian Church's thank-you letter to Northminster:

"The Northside Food Pantry is deeply grateful for our partnership with Northminster Presbyterian Church. Northminster faithfully



Thanks from the Mission Team

Thank you for your contributions of toiletries to Westminster Neighborhood Ministries' Christmas baskets.

sends a whole crew of volunteers each month, and these individuals obviously care about hunger, about being Christ to others, and about seeing Christ in others. Their compassion and dedication to serving in this way is inspiring, and a model for partnerships with other congregations as we work together to end hunger in our midst. It's a 'northside' need and is truly a 'northside' effort. **Thank you** for your support, and to all who have a part in sharing about and interpreting the pantry's mission to your congregation.

On behalf of the Northside Food Pantry, thank you for your continued support. I welcome your feedback, ideas, and questions regarding how we can better serve our community together. Together we are making a difference and sharing God's love and abundance with our neighbors in Washington Township.

With gratitude and joy,
Rev. Madison VanVeelen
Coordinator of Northside Mission Ministries"

With a little help from the Deacons and the Mission Team budget we were able to deliver 300 shampoos, conditioners and deodorants to WNS on December 1st!

Christmas Giving

Looking for a unique gift this Christmas and one that benefits others? Then please consider the 2017-2018 Presbyterian Giving Catalog where your small gifts can have a big impact. Brochures are under the TV in the Gathering place or online at presbyteriangifts.org. Heifer International (a solution to hunger and poverty that works) is also a worthy organization and one that our children's offerings support. Their website is heifer.org and information pamphlets are also in the Gathering Place.

Christmas Joy Offering



"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

- *Galations 6:10*

Do you know 50% of our Joy Offering supports active and retired church workers? The other 50% provides racial ethnic education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Keep these sisters and brothers in mind during Advent.

We will receive the Joy Offering on Christmas Eve, December 24. Giving envelopes can be found in the pews. Or you may give online: presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy

Older Adult Ministries

Presby Day

No Presby Day in December. We will start back in March of 2018. Please continue to join other activities throughout the winter months. Happy Holidays!

Caregiver's Support Group

Monday December 4th at 6:00 pm & Wednesday December 6th at 1:00 pm in the Conference room next to Ruth's Office.

3B Exercise

Join us Mondays & Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Northminster! Come join us at 3B for laughter, lightweights, aerobic and strength training. Exercise helps maintain the ability to live independently and reduces the risk of falling and fracturing bones. Therefore, we do 3B!

New Members

Please welcome new members Joe and Sharon Dzwonar. They come to us by letter of transfer from a sister church in LaPorte Indiana where they were very active. Sharon and Joe (*below*) moved to

Alzheimer's Support Groups

for Caregivers This group continues at Irvington (55 Johnson Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46219) on the 3rd Tuesday each month, at 1 pm, in the parlor.

Contact Denise

If you have questions about Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Caregiving, Rehabilitation Therapy, Estate Planning, Grief, Probate & Guardianship and need a referral for Elder Law, contact Denise Harrington at 317-509-7085 or dharrington@northminster-indy.org. She is also available at Northminster on Thursdays.

Indianapolis to be closer to family. They are both retired and look forward to getting to know more people at NPC and to find their place amongst us.



Thank You from Building & Grounds

The Buildings & Grounds Committee wishes to express our appreciation to the following folks who helped during Work Days on October 27 & 28:

Jim Aelick
 Jim Arend
 Norma Arend
 Mike Boris
 Bob Bowers
 John Brooks
 David Cornett
 Jerry Gray
 Bob Gudgel
 Troy Hill
 Nancy Jarrell
 Hitch Learned
 Bill Lord
 Becky Merkel
 Greg Merkel
 Neil Moehring
 Adam Newsom
 Keane Ricchiuto
 Tony Ricchiuto
 Frank Sauer
 Blake Schlabach
 Evan Schlabach
 Russell Wareham



Many tasks around the Northminster property were completed and we were able to help the Dynes move back into their home.

Join us the next time we have Work Days at Northminster!

December Calendar Highlights

Dec. 1	12:15 PM	High School Student Lunch
Dec. 3	10:00 AM	NPC Kid's Club
	10:00 AM	Advent Adult Education
	10:00 AM	Exodus Refugee Mtg.
	10:00 AM	Presbyterian Women Bake Sale
	12:00 PM	Lunch before Christmas Lite
	1:00 PM	Christmas Lite Concert
	5:30 PM	Youth Fellowship - Scavenger Hunt
Dec. 4	6:00 PM	Stephen Minister Training
	6:00 PM	Caregiver Support Group
Dec. 5	7:00 PM	Team Meeting Night
Dec. 10	10:00 AM	NPC Kid's Club
	10:00 AM	Advent Adult Education
Dec. 11	6:00 PM	Stephen Minister Training
Dec. 12	8:30 AM	Preschool Santa Shop begins
	4:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
Dec. 15	12:00 PM	Chancel Care Christmas Party
	6:00 PM	Youth Fellowship - Christmas Party
Dec. 16	10:00 AM	Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal
Dec. 17	IHN/Family	Promise Week Begins
	10:00 AM	NPC Kid's Club
	10:00 AM	Advent Adult Education
	10:00 AM	Chancel Choir - Brunch
Dec. 19	6:00 PM	Circle 3 - Sarah Circle
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
Dec. 24	10:00 AM	Christmas Eve Morning Worship
	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
	10:30 PM	Music Prelude
	11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25		Building Closed
Dec. 26		Building Closed
Dec. 28	9:00 AM	Newsletter Assembly
Dec. 31	12:15 PM	Youth New Year's Eve Lunch



Middlers Get Together

“Middlers” is a fellowship group for those in their 40’s, 50’s and early 60’s. We will gather at the home of Tony and Jennifer Dzwonar (5229 E 74th Pl, Indianapolis, IN 46250) on Saturday, January 6th at

6 pm, for a pitch in meal. The main course will be provided and participants are asked to bring sides and any biblically fermented beverages they would enjoy. RSVP to Tony at dzwonar@me.com.

NorthStars presents: Avoiding Scams and Schemes

Have you ever been scammed? Come and learn about protecting your personal information online, mail orders and prize scams. Scams come in various forms - by mail, phone, email and data breaches. This presentation is how to protect your information and say NO to becoming a victim. Learn all about the scams that are hitting our area from Sharleigh Poindexter from the Better Business Bureau. On Wednesday, January 17th, enjoy the warmth of Calvin Hall at 10:00 A.M. at Northminster Church in the middle of the winter.

Lunch will be served for \$6, following the presentation. This event is open to the public, but reservations are a must by Friday, January 12th.

Reservations can be made by contacting Marty or John Brooks at n9kyc@yahoo.com or phone: (317) 848-6995. Reservation can also be made by calling the church at (317) 251-9489. Money for lunch will be collected at the door.

Hope to see you there!



Welcoming Refugees

In anticipation of receiving and sponsoring a refugee family in early 2018, the Mission Team is asking for donations of household goods.

Items needed are: furniture, kitchen utensils, hygiene and cleaning items, warm coats, jeans, new underwear, and other gently used clothing will also be accepted as will sheets and towels in good condition. (Please do not donate something you would not use yourself.)

We can store some of these items on Calvin Hall stage. **Please contact Associate Pastor Ruth Moore before bringing items**, so we can discuss what is still needed: (317-251-9489 ext. 14 or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org).



► The Meaning of the Caregiver's Compass

The Caregiver's Compass is a symbol that summarizes the most important characteristics of a Stephen Minister. It guides Stephen Ministers in their caregiving and their learning.

Stephen Ministers are **compassionate** caregivers; they share their care receivers' pain and help them bear it. They embody Jesus' promise to never let us suffer alone.

Stephen Ministers know that trust makes caring relationships possible, so they relate to their care receivers in a **trustworthy** manner. They maintain confidentiality. They show up for visits and follow through on promises. They stick with their care receivers through thick and thin.



By God's grace Stephen Ministers are **full of faith**. They bring Christ's care to their care receivers and trust God to bring results. They pray with and for their care receivers, share Scripture with them, and use other distinctively Christian caring tools in their caring relationships.

Stephen Ministers are **skilled** caregivers. They take their training seriously and are so committed to their care receivers that they strive to care in the right way at the right time. They not only recognize their God-given gifts, they work to develop them.

Stephen Ministers are **Christ-centered**. They know that their calling to care comes from Jesus and that he is the power behind all that they do as Stephen Ministers. When Stephen Ministers care, they bring Christ's care to their care receivers; they never think their care receivers' well-being depends on what they do, but on what Jesus does in and through them. Stephen Ministers work on staying connected to Jesus so that they will be able to bring his love to others.

For information about becoming a Stephen Minister, or to ask to talk to a Stephen Minister, contact Carol Campbell (317-776-2700 or clrjcampbell@sbcglobal.net), John Reed (317-919-6505 or bjjkreed@comcast.net), or Tony Dzwonar (317-797-8722 or dzwonar@me.com).

Communion & Chancel Care Guild

Early on Communion Sundays and Monday mornings you will find a dedicated group of women from the Communion and Chancel Care Guild working. On Sundays, they prepare the elements for communion and clean up afterwards. On Monday, they change the dorsal curtain, straighten up the sanctuary,

Members

Betty Bowers
Marty Brooks
Betty Sue Drake
Linda Furuness
Sally Gray
Sharon Gremel
Pat Johnson
Nancy Leffler
Pat McVey
Dorothy Moos
Gayle-Sue Murphy
Lynne Tobin

chancel, and chapel and send cards to members who are ill or grieving. Guild members serve with a sense of commitment and friendship that makes their service meaningful.

Thank you to the 2017 members of the Communion and Chancel Care Guild:

Group Leaders

Eileen Alsop
Marilyn Baumgardt
Elle Keppler
Mary Ann McCormick

Chairpersons

Barbara Angotti
Mary Ann McCormick

Wednesday Night Dinners

Dinners are available at 5:30 pm in Calvin Hall.

Meals are kid-friendly and we always have a salad and a vegetarian option.

Reservations are due to the Church Office (317-251-9489) on Mondays at Noon.

Adults, \$5/meal. Kids, \$2.50.
Pay by cash, check, or credit card.

December Birthdays

Alex Rearick	12/1	John Reed	12/15	Jim Arend	12/22
Lynne Tobin	12/1	Doris Rodenbeck	12/15	Emily Giltner-Teising	12/22
Sarah Keesling	12/2	Elizabeth Brandes	12/16	Betty Randall	12/22
Susie Johnson	12/4	Arthur Angotti III	12/17	Mary Tarbell	12/22
Danielle Howard	12/5	Roger Haag	12/17	Sharon Gremel	12/23
Janice Whiteman	12/5	Joline Ohmart	12/17	Tom Duncan	12/24
Nancy Durrett	12/6	Ian Smith	12/18	Victoria Eder	12/24
Jody Yohn	12/7	Rachel Fritz	12/19	Janice Richardson	12/24
Stephanie Alexander	12/8	Gabriel Goncalves	12/19	Maggie Hooper	12/28
Tracie Wells	12/8	Jean Smith	12/19	Heidi Smith	12/28
Megan Yohn	12/8	Kimberly Damisch	12/20	Greg Hardesty	12/29
Jacob Mann	12/9	David Deer	12/20	Eric Rasmussen	12/29
Phil Goodchild	12/10	Tony Mascari	12/20	David Gresham	12/30
Tori Kincaid	12/11	Jason Teising	12/20	Kate Loughran	12/30
Jack Prather	12/12	Betty Kniptash	12/21	Glenda Whiteman	12/30
Ben Palladino	12/13	Fred Rooks	12/21		

THE ARTS AT NORTHMINSTER
SOUND
and spirit



PHILATROI - STRING TRIO
 2.11.18 @ 4:00

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Violinists Philip Palermo and Zachary DePue and Violist Michael Isaac Strauss present a concert of diverse chamber repertoire.

MOZART - MASS IN C MINOR
 3.18.18 @ 4:00

Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra present a Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart masterpiece. With its magnificent choruses, ornate solos and sonorous orchestral sections, the "Great" Mass in C minor represents a summation of all the influences on Mozart.

VOLUME FIVE
 4.13.18 @ 7:00

The critically acclaimed bluegrass band Volume Five brings their soulful singing, great harmonies and precision picking to Indianapolis. Nominated for Song of the Year and Emerging Artist of the Year at the 2017 IBMA Awards.

TANNAHILL WEAVERS
 5.18.18 @ 7:00

Trend setters in and ambassadors of Scottish traditional music, the award winning Tannahill Weavers make a stop on their 50th anniversary tour.

