

December 2018



News & Views

A newsletter of Northminster Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

4:00 pm - Intergenerational Service

7:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service

10:30 pm - Musical prelude for the 11:00 pm Candlelight Service

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

WWW.NORTHMINSTER-INDY.ORG

Ponderings on December Worship

The word “advent” means coming or arrival. In this season of the church year we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world as a baby. The less popular and less understood meaning of the season is preparation for Christ’s coming again. We watch, and we pray for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace.

This year the worship staff have decided to move from the Revised Common Lectionary for our scriptural focus and follow the Narrative Lectionary.

Texts were selected that lead well to the proclamation of what God is doing. The stories tell of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption. In all these varied contexts, we find God dealing with the complexities of human life. Stories from the gospels differ each year, avoiding repetition and highlighting what is distinctive about each gospel’s telling of the story of Jesus.

The Narrative Lectionary follows a 4-year cycle. The texts include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement:

- From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel’s early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.

- From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels. This year is the Gospel of Matthew.

- From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul’s letters.

- The summer months are open for series.

This is an experiment and we will be evaluating along the way. If you notice a difference or have an opinion please let us know.

We begin on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd. The reading comes from the prophet Habakkuk. This is a very small book with a very big vision. The prophet and God have a deep discussion and allow us to listen in. Communion will be celebrated. Our word for the day is WATCH.

The second Sunday of Advent is December 9th and the reading is from the Book of Esther. This is one of the two books in scripture that do not mention God. So what does it have to do with Jesus? Our word for the day is WAIT.

December 16th is the third Sunday of Advent. The word for the day is PROMISE and the prophet Isaiah will remind us how long the Jews had been waiting for their Messiah. Our chancel choir will join with orchestra and present Rutter’s Gloria to move us toward the birth of our Savior.

The 4th Sunday of Advent is December 23. We leave the prophets

On the cover: Six little lambs - 2016 Christmas Eve worship service.

and move to the Gospel of Matthew to hear the story of Joseph. The man found himself in a real pickle and yet managed to do the right thing. Our word for the day is TRUST.

Christmas Eve - December 24th we celebrate the birth of a baby in Bethlehem.

- 4:00 Children and Youth choirs will lead us in worship for all generations.
- 7:00 will be a quiet, candlelight communion service.
- 10:30 the musical prelude will begin for the 11:00 candlelight service.

Christmas continues as we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Christmas on December 30th. We remain with Matthew’s version of the Christ story and sing some of the carols we missed earlier.

It is easy to get caught up in the secular trimmings of Christmas this time of year - shopping, cookies, decorations, parties. Be sure to include regular worship in your Advent plans. It adds so much more meaning to all the other experiences. Have an awesome, amazing, astounding Advent.

Blessings - Teri

PS- Be sure to thank Doug Johnson and Carol McDonald for all their help during John Wright’s sabbatical.

Befuddled by Beliefs?

Ever wondered about what Presbyterians believe – or not? This six week series, **Wednesday evenings beginning January 23, 2019**, explores this from both the official position of Christianity and the encouragement the Reformers provided to think for oneself. Using the book *Christian Doctrine* by Dr. Shirley Guthrie (\$12 through the church office), participants will briefly discuss the tenets of the faith and then spend significant time in discussion of how they apply to daily life. Topics include . . .

Session One - “Am I a theologian? What is a doctrine and why do we need them?”

Session Two – “Eureka! I found God – or has God found me? The Doctrine of Revelation”

Session Three – “Did Jesus have



to die for ME? The Doctrine of Atonement”

Session Four - “The Devil made me do it! The Doctrine of Predestination”

Session Five- “Why is there evil? The Doctrine of Providence and the Problem of Evil”

Session Six – “Is this all there is? God’s power over death and the Doctrine of the Resurrection”

The class will be facilitated by the Rev. Jill Hudson, retired Presbyterian pastor and former Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

What Do Deacons Do?

The Deacons prepared 30 Thanksgiving food baskets for the families at School 55/Butler Lab School. The Deacons would like to thank the Meijer store at 56th and Keystone for their generous donation and help with these Thanksgiving baskets.

They Deacons also distributed Butter Braids, and they thank the congregation for their support for the Deacon’s budget.

The Deacons are in charge of the Clothe-a-Child project. We hope that you have financially supported

the project this year and that you have signed up to be a shopper. It is not too late to send in a contribution (made out to Northminster with Clothe-a-Child in the memo section) or sign up to help. Contact Deacon, Mike Shannon, at michaeldeanshannon@gmail.com for more information.



Take the Prayer Survey

We would like to know your perceptions and involvement in prayer. Please take a short 14-item survey to help guide the development of a Prayer Ministry Team at Northminster. Paper copies are available in the Gathering Place on Sundays, or go to: <http://bit.ly/NPCprayerSurvey>

Thank you - John Brooks,
Mary Beth Riner, Mo Wilson
Exploratory Prayer Team

Westminster Neighborhood Christmas Baskets

The Mission Team would like to thank all who contributed to the collection of shampoo, conditioner and deodorant for Westminster Neighborhood Ministries.

With the help of the Preschool children and families, and some additional funds from the Mission budget, we were able to supply 300 bottles of each for this worthwhile project for our east-side neighbors.



Christmas Joy Offering

“Joy to the World! The Lord has come! Let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, Let Heaven and Nature Sing.”

Each Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Joy Offering, you honor God’s greatest gift by providing assistance to

current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Celebrate the Joy and give this Advent season. Specially marked envelopes can be found in the pews. Or you may gift online: presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy.



Food Pantry Tuesdays

Mission Team Pantry Partners welcomes anyone with available time and willing hands to assist on the second Tuesday of each month. All that is required is four hours at Second Presbyterian’s Food Pantry. To sign up, contact our pantry coordinator John Reed: (cell) 317-919-6505 or email: bjjkreed@comcast.net. And don’t forget to repurpose your shopping bags.

Place plastic, paper and cloth bags in the collection basket located across the hall from the church office.



Thanks and Gratitude

The Northminster Mission Team would like to call out heartfelt thanks to Victor Perkins and Tom Stayton, our team co-chairs for the past two years. Our team has grown in numbers and expanded projects. And Victor and Tom

have performed yeomens' tasks in guiding us and keeping us on our designated path of providing assistance and relief to the impoverished families, in particular women and children, in our congregation, neighborhood, city, state and world.



Above: Northminster's 2018 gift presented to Westminster Neighborhood Services helps stock their pantry shelves. Left to right: Ashlee Walls, Director of Major Gifts, Mission Team member Carrie Savage-Zimmerman, and Chrissy Petersen, Executive Director.

December Youth Group

- 12/2 Youth Group, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Northminster.
- 12/9 Youth Group Scavenger Hunt and Christmas Party, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Northminster.
- 12/30 Youth Group New Years Eve Eve, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Northminster.

Children & Family Ministries

Nursery care, Preschool and Church School classes are available for children during 9 and 11 am services on Sundays. On the first Sunday of the month, grades K-5th remain in worship to participate in Communion. On **Sunday, December 16, grades K-5th will remain in worship** for Big Music Sunday.



Confirmation will be offered for students currently in 7th and 8th grades. Confirmation is an opportunity to learn more about faith, to explore what we believe and how to live out those beliefs in the world. With the support of pastoral staff and church mentors, each student will create their own faith statement and, at the conclusion of the class, may choose for themselves if they would like to join the church.

There will be an informational meeting held on **December 9th at 10 am** in the Youth Room for interested youth and parents. **Confirmation classes begin January 6th.**

Those who choose to join the church will be confirmed on April 28th in Worship.

Christmas Eve 4 pm Service - Youth and Children Worship Leaders

If you would like to participate as a worship leader or reader during the 4:00 pm family service on Christmas Eve, contact Maureen Wilson (mwilson@northminster-indy.org or 317-251-9489 ext. 18).

Parables of the Opossum Paul - by Jean Dodds

I have had a small book of devotions published, "Parables of the Opossum Paul." The stories were written over many years, some when I was co-pastor at Washington St. P. C. and conducted their worship services twice a month. At the same time I was working for Church Financial Campaign Service and conducting worship services in churches all over the country who were having capital campaigns. The Stewardship Series became part of the CFCS curriculum. Other series in the book include the Christmas Series, the Easter Series and the Everyday Series.

I would love to let the folks at Northminster know they are now available at Amazon Books and Barnes and Noble. (\$12.95)

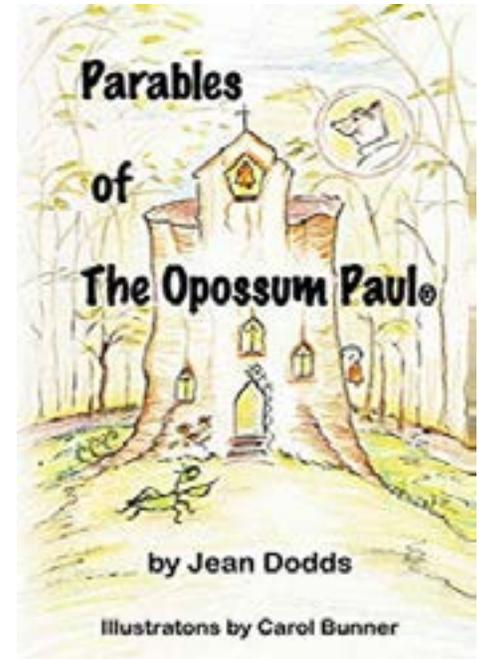
All the years I helped in Children's Church we always told the stories that went with the lessons but those lessons were told by the characters in my stories. Many kids will remember the Opossum Paul, pastor of the Church of the Hollow Stump, Manny, the praying mantis who closed each story with a prayer, and Grannie Annie Owl, everyone's favorite Sunday School teacher. Here are a few sentences taken from the back cover of the book:

"Charming devotions for all ages to read and to share..."

Children of all ages will delight in the charming tales told of the characters who attend the Church of the Hollow Stump, while learning valuable lessons about love,

forgiveness, and the grace of God. The simple ecumenical messages have been enjoyed by all ages from preschool to senior citizens."

Three copies of the book are now in the church library.



Senior Ministry Events

3B Exercise

3B is in Calvin Hall every Thursday at 1:30 pm. 3B (Body, Brain and Beliefs) is an exercise class for ages 55 and older focusing on building flexibility, strength and balance; challenges to increase memory and problem-solving skills as new brain cells grow; and time to recall beloved scriptures with devotionals and "scripture in motion." Exercise improves circulation and keeps the brain and body healthy. Therefore, we do 3B! Join us to learn more!

Caregiver Support

All caregivers are welcome. You don't have to be a member of NPC to attend. On the first Monday, at 6:00 pm & on the first Wednesday, at 1:00 pm, in the Conference Room next to Ruth's Office.

Contact Denise

Your Senior Consultant, Denise Harrington, is here to answer questions, provide information and make referrals in regard to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Caregiving, Rehabilitation

Therapy, Estate Planning, Grief, Probate & Guardianship and Elder Law. Check the bulletin board outside of Denise's office for updated information, or contact her at 317-509-7085 or dharrington@northminster-indy.org She is at the Northminster on the 3rd Sunday.

NorthStars - Walking the Camino

Plan to come for bagels and coffee on Friday, January 25, at 10 am in Calvin Hall. Carol Frohlich is going to share her Camino de Compostella adventure story.

She promises a few pictures too! Questions? Contact John & Marty Brooks: 317-848-6995 or n9kyc@yahoo.com

December Calendar Highlights

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|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 12/2 | 10:00 AM | Sunday Advent Study begins |
| 12/3 | 6:00 PM | Caregivers Support Group |
| 12/3 | 7:00 PM | Cancer Support Group |
| 12/4 | 7:00 PM | Team Meeting Night |
| 12/5 | 6:00 PM | Wednesday Advent Study begins |
| 12/9 | 10:00 AM | Confirmation - Parent/Student meeting |
| 12/10 | 6:00 PM | Stephen Ministers |
| 12/10 | 7:00 PM | Stephen Ministers |
| 12/11 | 4:00 PM | Finance Committee Meeting |
| 12/12 | 9:30 AM | Spiritual Striders |
| 12/12 | 1:00 PM | American Village Bible Study |
| 12/15 | 10:00 AM | Chancel Choir - DRESS REHEARSAL |
| 12/18 | 9:00 AM | Newsletter Stuffers |
| 12/18 | 6:00 PM | Sarah Circle |
| 12/18 | 7:00 PM | Session Meeting |
| 12/24 | 9:30 AM | Stephen Ministers Leaders |
| 12/24 | 4:00 PM | Christmas Eve Service |
| 12/24 | 7:00 PM | Christmas Eve Service 7pm |
| 12/24 | 10:00 PM | Chancel Choir Warm Up |
| 12/24 | 11:00 PM | Christmas Eve Service - 11pm |
| 12/25 | (All day) | Building Closed |
| 12/26 | (All day) | Building Closed |
| 12/30 | 5:30 PM | Youth Group - New Years Eve Eve |

Italian Night - Save the Date

Saturday, February 23rd, 6 – 8:30 evening of food, faith and fellowship, Calvin Hall. Join us for an evening of food, faith and fellowship to support Youth Ministries!



December Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Alexander Rearick | 12/1 |
| Lynne Tobin | 12/1 |
| Sarah Keesling | 12/2 |
| Susan Johnson | 12/4 |
| Janice Whiteman | 12/5 |
| Nancy Durrett | 12/6 |
| Dianna Jo Yohn | 12/7 |
| Tracie Wells | 12/8 |
| Megan Yohn | 12/8 |
| Jacob Mann | 12/9 |
| Phillip Goodchild | 12/10 |
| Tori Kincaid | 12/11 |
| John Reed | 12/15 |
| Doris Rodenbeck | 12/15 |
| Elizabeth Brandes | 12/16 |
| Arthur Angotti III | 12/17 |
| Roger Haag | 12/17 |
| Joline Ohmart | 12/17 |
| Rachel Fritz | 12/19 |
| Gabriel Goncalves | 12/19 |
| Jean Smith | 12/19 |
| Kimberly Damisch | 12/20 |
| David Deer | 12/20 |
| Tony Mascari | 12/20 |
| Jason Teising | 12/20 |
| Betty Kniptash | 12/21 |
| Fred Rooks | 12/21 |
| James Arend | 12/22 |
| Emily Giltner-Teising | 12/22 |
| Betty Randall | 12/22 |
| Mary Tarbell | 12/22 |
| Sharon Gremel | 12/23 |
| Tom Duncan | 12/24 |
| Victoria Eder | 12/24 |
| Janice Richardson | 12/24 |
| Heidi Smith | 12/28 |
| Greg Hardesty | 12/29 |
| Eric Rasmussen | 12/29 |
| David Gresham | 12/30 |
| Kathryn Loughran | 12/30 |
| Glenda S. Whiteman | 12/30 |

The Chancel Choir presents: Gloria - Sunday, December 16th

The Northminster Presbyterian Chancel Choir is proud to present John Rutter's Gloria, a 20-minute holiday jubilee featuring choir, soloists, organ, percussion, and brass ensemble.

John Rutter is one of the most well-known and well-loved names in choral music today. A British composer of a large list of small anthems and large-scale works, his

Gloria offers both tender moments as well as festive fanfares, perfect to ring in the Christmas season!

We will be presenting this piece at both 9:00am and 11:00 am services on Sunday, December 16th. You won't want to miss this, so be sure to bring friends and family as well.



Christmas Eve Photographers Needed

For many of us, church attendance on Christmas Eve is a long-standing tradition. If you are planning to be here at Northminster for any of the three worship services, would you consider taking photographs? You may use your own

camera / phone, and we have a very nice Nikon available as well. (A quick tutorial is probably all you will need.) Please respond to Susan Glant: 317-251-9489 ext. 10. or sglant@northminster-indy.org.

Discipleship in December: Explore the Advent Scriptures

The season of Advent begins the new church year on Sunday, December 2. In addition to beginning both a new season and a new year, we will begin using a new and different lectionary to guide our weekly worship. (See Pastor Teri's article about the Narrative Lectionary.)

You are invited to 'dig in' to the scripture texts which will guide our Advent journey – on either Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings. We hope you will join us! And, of course, you're welcome on both Wednesdays and Sundays!

Wednesday, November 28, at 6:00 pm led by Pastor Ruth.

Sunday, December 2 at 10 am led by Maureen Wilson.

The prophet Habakkuk (1:1-7, 2:1-4, 3:3b-6 and 17-19) challenges us to WATCH.

Wednesday, December 5, at 6:00 pm led by Pastor Teri.

Sunday, December 9, at 10 am led by Carol McDonald.

The Old Testament character, Esther (4: 1-17), invites us to WAIT.

Wednesday, December 12, at 6:00 pm led by Pastor Ruth.

Sunday, December 16, at 10 am led by Carol McDonald.

The prophet Isaiah (42: 1-9) assures us of God's PROMISE.

Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00 pm led by Pastor Teri.

Sunday, December 23, at 10 am led by Maureen Wilson.

Matthew's Gospel (1: 18-25) tells us of Joseph who placed his TRUST in God.

