

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 15 *Rejoice! Rejoice! Believers*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

MSB refers to yellow Memorial Song Book
*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers
Matt and Susan Graybill, Walt and Marie Haines

Calendar

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Sunday School Morning Worship Session Meeting
Tuesday	10:30 am 5:30 pm	P.W. Coordinating Team Meeting Mission Study Task Force
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Festival of Lessons and Carols

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*November Twenty Seventh the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Sixteen*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION
(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages
as they prepare for worship.) Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 1 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Frankie and Bob Bielawski
Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.
(Sung by the Youth)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)
Minister: I am coming soon, says the Lord.
Congregants: So be it. Come, Lord Jesus!
Minister: Awake from your sleep, for salvation is near.
Congregants: The night is far gone, the day is at hand.
Minister: Let us worship the Lord our God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)
Unknowable God of mystery and majesty,
You have revealed Yourself to us in the child of Bethlehem,
and we come to You this day in praise and adoration
for the gift of Yourself to the world.

**We are aware of the darkness all around us---
hate and strife, envy and deceit, greed and selfishness.
So we bow now in Your presence in thanksgiving
for the sure and certain hope of redemption.
Tune our hearts this season to sing a new song,
the song of Your coming among us,
in Jesus Christ, through whose name we pray.
Amen.**

* HYMN 14 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unexpected God.

we come before You as sinners.

Our service is lukewarm, our commitment is weak,

our worship is drowsy, our hope falters.

Our spirits need to be awakened,

and our love for You and others needs Your spark.

Open our eyes to Your coming,

and bend our wills to Your Word.

Hear these our silent prayers.

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

Hear the good news, that is worthy of every ear and heart:

At the center of Christmas is the love of God.

In His gift of Jesus, the child of the manger,

we find joy, we find peace, we find hope.

For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Praise be to God!

* HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Romans 13:8-12a

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from

sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ ‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

THE SERMON

WAKE UP!

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 20

Watchman. Tell Us of the Night

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

Announcements

Ushers for December 4, 2016 – John and Lee Ann Kabana

THE SESSION WILL MEET this afternoon following the morning worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Northminster, please contact the Minister.

On December 4th at 11:00am, we will be having our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols Service. Please make plans to join us and bring a friend to kick off the Christmas season with a special service by our choir, musicians and readers.

I wanted everyone to know that together we filled 44 boxes to send to children around the world. Considering the size of our congregation, it was a great accomplishment. On behalf of all of the children who will have big smiles on their faces when they get your gift I say, a task well done! If you look at the bulletin board across from the office you will see a picture of what a typical graduating class of students looks like after they have finished the “Greatest Journey” course and received the very best of gifts “Jesus Christ” Emery

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas morning). Our service for that day will be held on Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00, and will include the celebration of Holy Communion.

December 17th Teddy Bear Toss at ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS GAME!!

Northminster is doing a family outing to see Roanoke’s new hockey team. So bring the whole family and/or a friend with you, and join us at the game! Mark your calendar for December 17, 2016 at 7:05 at the Berglund Center. We will meet at 6:30 to hand out the tickets. The cost is \$8.50/ticket. AND it is a special event night- a Teddy Bear Toss. Bring a Teddy bear to the game, and after the Rail Yard Dawgs score their first goal- we toss our teddy bears onto the ice. They will be collected and distributed to a children’s charity for Christmas. Dana Esworthy is organizing the event, and they expect a big crowd. So we need to know by December 4th who will attend. You can give the money along with the count to either Margie Cundiff or Dana Esworthy before the event or in the offering plate at church. (Write the check to Dana Esworthy please since she is buying the block of tickets.) We are opening this up to everyone in the church, so it should be a lot of fun! If you have any questions, contact either Dana or Margie.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help provide transportation to church each Sunday for some of our members who could not otherwise attend. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the Minister.

ALL WORSHIPPERS ARE ENCOURAGED to sit towards the front of the sanctuary, to help build a truly worshipping community with everyone gathered together in praise.

A COLD WEATHER CLOTHES COLLECTION DRIVE will be held for the refugees and immigrants of Blue Ridge Literacy through the month of November. Please bring cold weather clothing for any age group---especially women and children---to the church, and Blue Ridge Literacy staff will take the clothing to those in need.

Presbyterian Women – The new year for the Presbyterian Women will start January 2017. Work on the year book has started and I will be gathering information on the circles. If you are not a circle member now, I encourage you to join one this coming year. It is a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our Church activities. We have two circles, a morning circle that meets at the Church and a night circle that meets in the homes of members. The meetings usually have a Bible study, short business session and of course refreshments and a time to socialize. Call Elise Lanford at 366-7818 if you are interested in joining us this year. If you are a circle member now and your phone number or address has changed or you want to change circles, please let me know. This information is needed by mid-November.

"Devotional booklets and daily scripture reading guides can be found in the hallway outside the fellowship hall in the new wall racks and on the table. Current and past copies of devotional booklets including, *These Days* and *The Upper Room* are available. Please help yourself to any of these excellent publications."

The 2016 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

IF YOU HAVE A NEED OF THE INTERIM MINISTER, you can reach him at 493-9622, or at rmerritt@brlit.org, or leave a message at the church office. If you do not reach him, leave a message and he will get back to you as soon as possible. (Please do not send him a text---he does not understand that technology!)

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Jesse Amos	Laura Blackwell	Bobby Brammer
Kara Moretz Campbell	Eloise Dunagan	Mary Donato
Barry Ferrell	Ella Guntner	Tom Hale
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Rose Howard
Atwood Huff	Mary Ann Huff	Nancy Maile
Betty McFadden	Mac Pace	Sarah Plymale
Dot Seigler	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Harley Walker	George Wingeier	Shirley Wynn

Friends and Family

Hayley Guthrie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Guthrie)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)
Mike Duckworth – (brother-in-law of Holly Woodson)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
PHONE: (540) 366-8115

Russ Merritt, Interim Minister
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant

THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2016: Kathy Baker, Sarah Godsey, Greg Cundiff, Chuck Lockard, Tom Olsen

Class of 2017: Lynn Kirby, Judy Ferrell, Matt Graybill, Bob Newman, Dave Snider

Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace