

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

*May Seventh the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 23: Acts 2:42-47; I Peter 2:19-25

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 248 (Verse 1) *Hymn to Joy*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: God is with us this day!

Congregants: He is with us indeed.

Minister: Even if we walk through the darkest valley,
we will fear no evil, for He protects us.

**Congregants: God prepares before us a Table
of goodness, and our cup overflows.**

Minister: Most assuredly, His goodness and mercy
shall be with us all our days.

Congregants: We shall dwell in His house forever.

Minister: Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Christ is the door by which we enter Your Kingdom,
Your promised new land, and life eternal, O God.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving / 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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Congregational Hymns 817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Prayer after Communion

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women
to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered
the Church Triumphant.*

Ushers

Margie Cundiff, Matt and Susan Graybill, Dave Snider

Communion Servers

Barry and Judy Ferrell, Matt Graybill, Marie Haines, John Kabana

**He alone is the source of comfort and strength,
and the anchor for our faith.**

**Through him, You have shown us the path to salvation,
where peace is forever and grace has no bounds.**

**As we begin our worship, may we know Your presence with us,
and might our voices give praise and thanksgiving.**

Through his name we make our prayers. Amen.

* HYMN 254 *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We are called to love, O God,

**and yet we are not always willing to love one another,
or to love You as You have loved us.**

We seek forgiveness, yet we do not forgive.

We ask for grace, but share little of it ourselves.

**We come to this Table seeking what we need,
and not willing to consider the needs of others.**

Wash us anew, we pray, with the waters of new life.

Hear these our silent prayers.

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

The good news has been preached to us, and we

have heard. The stone has been rolled away,

God has raised up Jesus from the tomb, and

through his wounds we have been saved.

In Christ we are forgiven, praise be to God!

* RESPONSE Hymn 236 (Verse 1) *The Strife is O'er*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. The strife is o'er, the battle done, The victory of life is won; The
song of triumph has begun. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Christ is Risen While Earth Slumbers Suo Gan, Welsh melody

THE SECOND LESSON John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'

²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

THE SERMON

WHEN EASTER PEOPLE GATHER

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*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 May 14, 2017 – Bob Newman, Ann Pace

We thank our church family for the many acts of kindness and sympathy extended to our family upon the death of Chuck’s mother, Rachel Lockard. Your cards, food and prayers were deeply appreciated. We are blessed to share our Christian faith with the caring members of Northminster! Chuck and Susan Lockard

THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped with hosting the meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks this past Thursday!

We are unable to locate our Coffee Pot Urn, if you have borrowed it can you please return it back to the Church.

Northminster Presbyterian is celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2017. The worship committee is planning a homecoming celebration on Sunday, October 1st with a special service and luncheon to follow the service. If you have a special person you want to be invited, please give the name and address to Judy Ferrell. When we have finalized the plans, we will let everyone know!!

The Synod Men’s Conference will be held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center from July 14-16. For more information, see the brochure located outside of the church office. You can also visit www.midatlanticmen.org.

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.

"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 2017 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

Calendar

Today	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Morning Worship / Communion
Monday	6:00 pm	C.E. Committee Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Wednesday	3:00 pm	Mission Committee Meeting
Next Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Morning Worship

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Kara Moretz Campbell	Eloise Dunagan
Barry Ferrell	Tom Hale	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Rose Howard
Atwood Huff	Mary Ann Huff	Jim Maile
Nancy Maile	Jace Newman	Mac Pace
Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens	George Wingeier
Shirley Wynn		

Friends and Family

Hayley Guthrie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Guthrie)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

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
Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale,
Holly Woodson