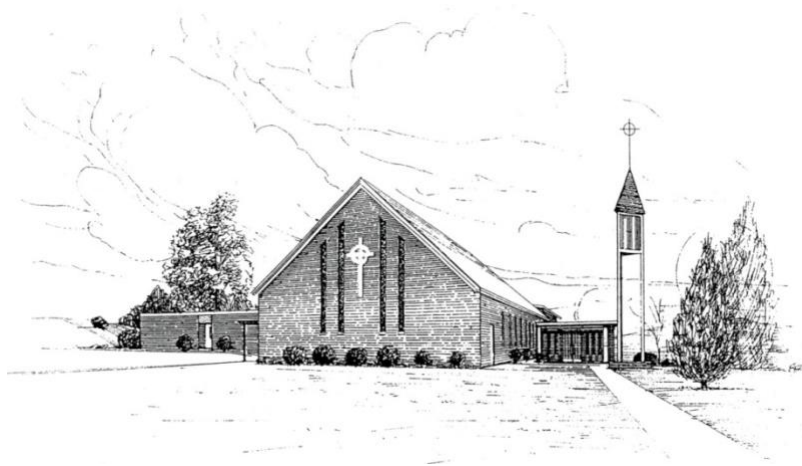


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

November 17, 2024
Twenty sixth Sunday after Pentecost



WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

I Samuel 1:4-20; Daniel 12:1-3; Mark 13:1-8

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

BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 336 *We Gather Together*

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: God has been our dwelling place.

**Congregants: We come today to rest in Him,
our Rock and our Fortress.**

Minister: God has been the voice that is our guide.

**Congregants: We come together today to listen,
that we might hear His Word.**

Minister: God has welcomed us into His holy presence,
and gives us strength and vision and purpose.

**Congregants: We come today to receive His gifts,
and to give ourselves to His service.**

Minister: God alone is our joy and hope and crown.

Congregants: We come today to sing His praise!

Minister: Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy One, in Your hands are days past, future, and today,
and we praise You for guiding and protecting us throughout.
You provide us with true hope, with lasting peace, with unending joy.
You have plotted and planned the universe by Your hand,**

**and in Your perfect wisdom You have set it on its course.
We praise and thank You for Your love, and ask for Your presence.
We know all too well that we are not worthy of Your grace.
Too often we settle for the way things are.
We embrace what is comfortable and disengage
from working for necessary change and transformation.
We fail to hope for a new day and a new world
because we do not have enough faith in You.
Have mercy on us, and forgive us.
Fill us with the passion to live and follow where You lead.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the one, true Good News!
Our God is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.
We are forgiven, rescued, and redeemed.
Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 538 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises (Sung twice)**

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 16:5-11

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. ¹¹ You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER / 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.

ANTHEM

Love One Another

Jane Ellen

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Hebrews 11:8-16

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’ ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison, adapted from Psalm 19)

Open us, Holy One, to Your Word and Your Way.

Clear our minds of daily distractions.

**Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive
the message You intend for us today. Amen.**

SERMON

GOING HOME

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 375 *Shall We Gather at the River*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

O God, Maker and Provider of all,

You have blessed us with many good gifts.

Use us, and what we have gathered,

**to feed the world with and through Your love.
We pray through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)

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.

GO FAITHFULLY

***HYMN OF DEDICATION 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

***CHARGE**

May we leave this house of worship emboldened by the Spirit,
redeemed by God's grace, with hearts filled with victory songs.

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

***Indicates the People Standing**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL MEET AFTER WORSHIP TODAY.

If you have any matters to bring before the elders, or if you would like to become an active member in Northminster, please contact the Minister.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION will be held during the morning worship service on Sunday, November 24, on Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the liturgical year, when we consider how all our reflections come together in the adoration of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfasts will meet Thursday, November 21st at 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Deli. It's a great way to start your day; come join us!

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, November 24th.

After church the Fellowship committee is sponsoring a traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon for our members, their family and friends. Sign up on the form in the Narthex or call Susie in the church office at 540-366-8115 so we will know how many to expect from your family. We want to make sure we have plenty of food for everyone!!

We are updating the address directory. A copy is in the narthex for you to check and see if your information is correct or changes need to be made.

Presbyterian Women – The new year for the Presbyterian Women will start January 2025. 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 769-8736 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 November 17^h.

While you are cleaning out your closets, if you have winter coats and shoes, we will be collecting those for Blue Ridge Literacy. Because of lack of storage, they cannot take anything else. You can leave your donations in the narthex.

We will once again participate in Operation Christmas Child this year. Be on the look-out for boxes to pick up and fill. They will deliver these on November 18th.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
	12:00 pm	Thanksgiving Luncheon

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Walt Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer
Skylar Kirby	Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth	

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	Gladys Hughston
Vicki Widener	Dan Cone
Glenna Brammer	Glenna Myers

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer

