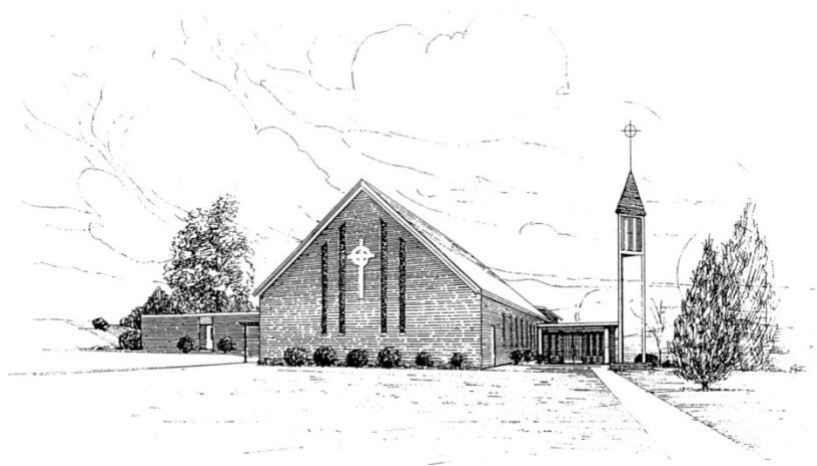


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



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

Genesis 45:3-11; Psalm 37:1-11, I Corinthians 15:35-38 and 42-50

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 744 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 146)

Minister: Praise the Lord, my soul!

I will praise Him all my life!

Congregants: I will sing to my God

as long as I live.

Minister: Happy is the person who has God to help him,
whose hope is fixed on the Lord his God.

**Congregants: The Lord reigns forever,
our God from age to age.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer and Sustainer,

You have scattered the stars across the universe,

You have shaped the mountains and valleys and filled the seas,

**You have given breath and life to the multitude of animals around us,
but most of all You have promised Your loving presence all our days.**

In Christ You have claimed us, called us, guided us,

and yet too often we have lived lives ignoring Your goodness.

We have centered on ourselves instead of serving You,

we have lived for our needs and ignored the needs of others,

we have followed sinful paths and strayed from Your way.

**Father God, forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short.
Send Your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
the gift of love, the bond of peace, and Your amazing grace.
Forgive us, make us anew, and strengthen us to obey,
so that we might live according to Your holy Will.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, God hears us when we cry out for forgiveness.
He knows our hearts, despite our failures,
and He treasures each of us as His children.
Know this: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved.
Let us live in this assurance and peace,
and may we be strengthened to do the work of His Kingdom.
Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, Whose grace has
pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 20

¹ The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you! ² May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion. ³ May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favour your burnt sacrifices. Selah ⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfil all your plans. ⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord fulfil all your petitions. ⁶ Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand. ⁷ Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God. ⁸ They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright. ⁹ Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.

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

O Praise the Lord

Adam Gumpeltzhaimer

O praise the Lord, all ye people praise him, for He is good, Alleluia.
With all the saints and angels join now and sing a joyful song.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' ⁵²Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, reveal to us now Your truth and wisdom.
Open our hearts, our minds, our spirits,
that we might encounter Your Holy Spirit,
and discern Your will for our lives.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

THE BARTIMAEUS EXAMPLE

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

*** PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)**
Holy God, You alone are the source of all love and goodness.
Our world is broken by sin, and in need of Your love and light.
Take these offerings and use them to bless those in darkness.
Bless those who give and those who receive,
that they will know Your grace and Your way.
We pray through Jesus Christ. 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 722**
Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

***CHARGE**

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

***Indicates the People Standing**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTRY GROUPS OF THE CHURCH will meet for lunch and work following the morning worship service. If you would like to join one of the church ministry groups (Stewardship dealing with church resources; Fellowship overseeing building ties that bind us together; Worship guiding the spiritual life of the congregation; and Discipleship providing the church's faith training and mission outreach efforts), join us.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday (March 2) in our morning worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Table of our Lord's grace.

Thanks to the many hands that helped prepare soup and sandwiches for our Soup for Seniors luncheon. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal and contributed \$142 along with 130 lbs. of food. All donations will be used by the LOA.

The Discipleship ministry took many bags of clothing to the Salvation Army, RAM and the Rescue Mission last week. While we appreciate your clothing donations, organizations other than the Salvation Army or Goodwill only accept certain types of clothing. Therefore, **we are no longer accepting clothing at the church.** If you have clothing to donate, please drop it off at a donation center of your choice.

In January, the Discipleship ministry sent monetary donations to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, hurricane relief that went to Montreat in North Carolina, the Presbyterian Center, RAM, the Rescue Mission, and CEDEPCA, which helps with the impoverished in Guatemala.

Jane Livesay is in need of pillow cases for the Little Dresses for Africa project. We want to thank her for making 411 dresses and thank you for providing the pillow cases and materials to make them. Little Dresses for Africa is a Christian organization that sends dresses to girls in Africa but also sends hope.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministers Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
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	Mary Ann Huff
Jyke Jones	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Justin Plymale	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth	

Friends and Family

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

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer

