



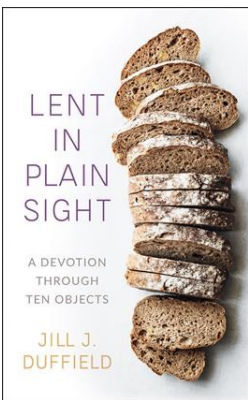
MARCH 2020

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NORTHMINSTER *Life*

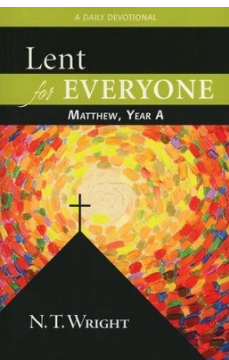
SUNDAY CONNECTIONS—LENTEN STUDIES



Builder's Class

Join us for a 6 week study based on the devotional book *Lent In Plain Sight*, by Jill J. Duffield. God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

The Builder's Class is designed for adults, married or single, in the middle years of life, the part of life most often devoted to building family and building career. We support each through prayer and fellowship as we study God's word. We encourage you to join us! **Begins Sunday March 1, 2020 Books available in class. Room 109 Downstairs We will have Coffee in the room.**



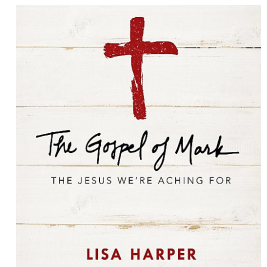
Adult Connections

The Adult Discipleship committee, led by Elder Charlotte Nolan, is delighted to welcome our friend Dr. Bryan Whitfield to one of our adult Sunday School classes during the season of Lent. Bryan will be teaching on the gospel of Matthew, which the lectionary lifts up each Sunday during this year's Lenten season. He will use N. T. Wright's wonderful book *Lent for Everyone — Year A*, and copies will be available for everyone. Dr. Whitfield is Associate Professor of Religion and the Director of the Great Books Program at Mercer University. He has earned 6 academic degrees and before coming to Mercer in 2002, he taught at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and Columbia Theological Seminary. This class will meet downstairs in the community room.

SPRING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 4TH

Beginning March 4th at 10:00am in the community room, our weekly Spring Bible study will follow the video teaching of Lisa Harper as she works through the Gospel of Mark.

In *The Gospel of Mark*, you'll follow Jesus through His days of early ministry to the cross and discover what it means to be the recipients of His overflowing compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion.



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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?*

If you don't know it already, take a look at [Psalm 13](#). Out of 150 psalms (prayers) in the Hebrew section of our Bible, roughly one third of them are laments like this one.

LAMENT: a passionate expression of grief or sorrow; a song, poem, or prayer expressing such emotions.

Heartfelt lament takes a little getting used to, in part because an intense prayer like Psalm 13 asks us to risk offending God with our deep complaints about the injustice and brokenness often present in this life. In the words of Eugene Peterson, "Untutored, we tend to think that prayer is what good people do when they are doing their best." But it turns out that lament is no offense to the God we meet in Jesus, at least not if we are to trust our teacher's example. At the lowest point in his ministry, amid the shame of a catastrophic cross-ending, it was the language of Psalm 13 on which our Lord leaned to name the cursed abandonment of (our) death ([Mark 15:34](#)). To put the matter crudely: If Jesus can lament, why not his people, too?

Of course, no one is suggesting more gripes for the sake of gripes. Lord knows there is enough of that already. (No, really. The Lord knows. Woe to us when we confuse our boredom and entitlement for real harm.) But the Lenten season is as good a time as any to practice the grace of lament. Start with Psalm 13. Practice those words for yourself or your family if you find that your way to the Father seems blocked by pain, injustice, or the lingering decay of body and spirit. Or -- and this is where lament becomes a ministry -- practice Psalm 13 or something like it on behalf of those in the world who need it most: the battered, the abused, the lost, the tortured, the persecuted, the forgotten ... to name but a few.

In this way, learning to lament during Lent is learning to pray for the world through the prayers of our dying Jesus. It is to dabble in the mystery of crying out to a Trinity who, after the cross, is already more acquainted with the world's sorrows than we are. It is to work on exchanging the personal benefits of middle-class religion for the sacred burdens of Christian discipleship.

I'm grateful to make this Lenten journey with you again this year. RWH



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

March 1st, we had the joy and privilege of welcoming 16 new members to our congregation! We are blessed beyond measure to have these saints on our membership roll and are thankful for everyone in our church family.



Allen & Barbara
Fatkin



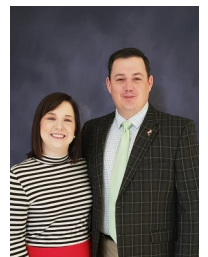
Doug & Carol
Holt



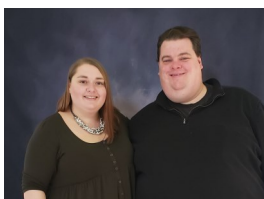
Martha
Hopkins



Brad & Nancy
and Rosie Miles



Michael Napier &
Chloe Radford



Steve & Helene
Olk



Donna Shuford
(& member Mary Beth)



Horace & Cam
Stringfellow

Not Pictured:

Judy Lowe

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Lunch Bunch

MARCH LUNCH BUNCH - TUESDAY, MARCH 3

The Lunch Bunch is a Dutch treat group that gets together on the first Tuesday of the month. The group is open to anyone who likes to eat out and have fellowship time with members and friends of the church. The Lunch Bunch will dine Tuesday,



CHILI COOKOFF - SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8th! You don't want to miss this fun annual event, hosted by our youth. Bring your favorite chili or Brunswick stew recipe to enter in the competition. Don't forget the desserts! We'll be auctioning off your donated goodies by our one-and-only greatest emcee & auctioneer, Minor Vernon!

MEN'S LUNCH - THURSDAY, MARCH 19

MEN'S MINISTRY LUNCH

The Men's Ministry Lunch is a monthly opportunity for men to fellowship and support local missions. This month, men will meet February 20 at noon at a location that is to be determined.

The invitation: Bring \$20 cash for lunch. We'll pay for our meal as a group and then what is left over after the bill we'll pool together month to month as a mission offering.

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT - SATURDAY, APRIL 11 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This Easter, we're reaching out to the community in new and exciting ways. Saturday, April 11th, we will host a community-wide Easter egg hunt. To make this event successful, we need your help. We are seeking volunteers to bring filled eggs for the hunt (these can contain stickers, candy, trinkets, etc), and we will need help with set-up, clean-up, and coordination of activities during the event. You may bring your filled eggs by Friday, April 10th. Please sign up in your blue response sheet in or contact Jennifer (admin@northminstermacon.org) to sign up as a helper.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN CLASSES

Our pastor is one of three persons from the community invited by Vineville UMC to lead a Lenten study on Wednesday evenings. Ralph will teach a Faith and Photography session, while Ed Grisamore will teach writing and Linda Padgett & Tommy Martin will teach pottery. Northminster members are encouraged to attend! Please RSVP to Jennifer in our office.

VINEVILLE CONNECT

ARTIST SERIES

March 4-April 1
6:30pm

Register with Grace:
gguyton@vinevillemethodist.org
Deadline: February 28

THE JOY OF THE WRITING LIFE

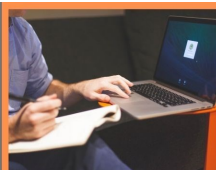
Ed Grisamore
Bring pen & paper or laptop
Library

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Rev. Ralph Hawkins
Bring phone or camera
Dining Room

POTTERY CLASS

Linda Padgett & Tommy Martin
Clay & supplies provided
\$25 Supply Fee
CLC



MUSIC NOTES

Rehearsals will soon be underway for our Palm Sunday and Easter anthems. If you would like to sing with the choir for these special worship services, it's not too late to join us. Just come to the choir room at 7 pm on Wednesday night, and we will get you fixed right up with everything you may need.



Looking ahead, we will once again ask all men to join us on Sunday, May 10th, as we celebrate Mothers' Day. No rehearsal necessary, just come to the choir loft at 10:00 that morning to rehearse a simple anthem to sing in the morning service. Mark your calendars now, and plan to sing and honor all the special women in your life. All Ages are welcome!

Also, our Family and Friends choir will be returning to the loft beginning in May. This is a perfect time for all of you who cannot commit to regular weekly rehearsals to sing and lead our congregation in worship together.

We enjoyed hearing our bell choir play for us a couple of Sundays ago, and you may have noticed some new faces! We are so happy to have some new bell members join us each week as we prepare pieces to help lead in worship each month. If you are interested, please join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings.

O sing unto the Lord a New Song!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

HOPE: A VISION FOR 2020 - HYMN FESTIVAL



Northminster thanks members Tom Granum and Doris Granum for leading us in a wonderful hymn festival. Sunday, February 2, we had the pleasure of partnering with Mulberry Street UMC and host Hope: A Vision for 2020, hymn festival. Thanks also to the community choir, the musicians, and everyone who

together contributed over \$600 to the Souper Bowl of Caring. This festival was a glorious event!



FOUNDING AND CURRENT PASTORS

February 11th, our pastor visited with Rev. Charlie Hasty in his home in Alpharetta. Charlie was the founding pastor of the Northminster congregation starting in 1964 and serving in ministry here for 9 years. His labors and friendship are fondly remembered by many in our congregation.

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 25th, we gathered to celebrate Mardi Gras with a breakfast feast. Our men's discipleship group prepared a wonderful meal while some of our ladies provided decorations and casseroles. Thank you to all who gave, assisted, and attended. It was a wonderful evening of delicious food and the greatest of company. We love celebrating the abundance of God's gifts and preparing for the Lenten season of fasting with this annual event.



NPC YOUTH MINISTRY

In February, we continued the discussion of various religions. The final Sunday in February, the youth had a discussion of finances lead by Amy Maley. That Sunday night they also prepped the ingredients for assembling their own pizzas. One of the highlights of February was enjoying the Super Bowl party at the home of Dan and Amy Maley. Thanks for hosting again for the second year in a row!



We are looking forward to the Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction, March 8th at 5:30pm. I hope everyone will come and contribute to this fund raiser for the youth trips to Montreat and Thornwell this summer. You can bring a crockpot of Chili (meat or veggie) or Brunswick Stew for the opportunity of winning the 1st place prize in either category. You can also bring a dessert for the auction! Many of us have our favorite dessert and will bid the price up in order to secure that particular cake or pie! Bring your open wallet or checkbook so Minor Vernon won't scold you! Also in March, the youth will meet for dinner and a lesson Sundays, March 15th and 22nd. March 29th, we will enjoy fellowship with the church as a whole at the 5th Sunday Lunch.

Thanks to all of you for signing up to prepare a supper for the youth. This is very important as we continue to develop the wonderful intergenerational activity in our congregation. A person who is not cooking any longer asked me if they could just give some money for a youth fund instead and, of course, I said that would be very welcome.

Stay tuned for information about the Community Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Check the weekly bulletin and also use the blue sheet to let us know how you will help. We had such a great response for the Halloween Carnival and we are looking forward to hosting this event.

GOOD SAM



The scripture tells us to "love your neighbor as yourself." What better way could you love your neighbor than helping them in times of need. The Good Samaritan Offering does this for the needs in our community and for the needs of our congregation. **In the month of January and February, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist 12 different families with their utility bills; 3 families with their rent and one family with their meds.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY "FAITH BUILD"



February 18th, our pastor represented our congregation at the dedication ceremony for a new Habitat for Humanity house being constructed this spring. This next project is a "Faith Build," built entirely from funds and by volunteers from 10 congregations in Macon, including Northminster! The dedication was held at Vineville United Methodist Church.

JOINING NORTHMINSTER

Interested in Joining Northminster? The Membership Engagement Committee is looking forward to welcoming a wonderful group of people who are becoming active members of Northminster March 1st! If you have any questions about joining our church, please see Pastor Ralph or Emily Brown (478-320-7659; ebrown@mountdesales.net).



SPECIAL MEMORIES AND THANKS

I had the good fortune to have Lavenia Kimball as my fourth and fifth grade teacher. I was convinced she moved up to fifth grade just to teach me again. One of her gifts was to make each child feel special. Of course, Cochran is a small town so everybody knows everybody and everything. Miss Lavenia's father was a local businessman and could be a little gruff, but he was balanced by her mother, the essence of kindness, sweetness, and godliness, as was Miss Lavenia.

When I was in the fourth grade, someone in the class stole another student's lunch money. Well, this was a big deal! I vividly remember Miss Lavenia, with tears in her eyes, going to each desk trying to discover who the culprit was. When the money was found, nothing was said and no one ever knew who the guilty party was. She had thought of the impact on that student and would not embarrass him (or her) in front of the class. That told me a lot about her heart.

I say goodbye to a person who profoundly influenced my life.

Rest in peace Miss Lavenia.

-Steve Southerland

Dear Northminster family,

Thank you for your loving expressions of sympathy at the passing of my mother, Lavenia Kimbell. It was comforting to see Northminster faces at Mom's service at her home church in Cochran. Ralph's eulogy was truly the most beautiful I've ever heard.

Thank you also for your kindness to my mother throughout her years in Macon. Your memorial gifts, cards and messages exemplify the Christian love our church embraces and extends.

Blessings,
Jan Hirsh

Dear Northminster Church Congregation,

The family of Dr. Sherwood Ebey would like to thank you for the love and kindness you showed him during his illness and hospitalizations. Frequent visits by Pastor Hawkins, prayers, kind words and cards all lifted his spirit.

When Sherwood went to meet his Lord on December 23, his church family surrounded us with love, provided a beautiful space for his Celebration of Life, Sandy Smith provided meaningful melodies, Pastor Hawkins led us in a healing service, someone did an audio recording (which family and friends who could not be present, have been blessed by), many of you participated and then a committee provided a Reception after the service. The Reception provided the space and time for family members and friends to connect, visit and reminisce while enjoying delicious refreshments.

Finally, we'd like to thank you for welcoming our parents, Sherwood and Jane Ebey, into the Northminster Church family when they relocated to Macon four years ago. Love of the Lord and belonging to a vibrant church congregation was vital to both of them. The monthly Communion at Carlyle Place is an outreach of love and connectivity.

Peace!
from the family of Sherwood Ebey

A heartfelt "thank you for praying for me" during my recent hospitalization and continuing recuperation. I look forward to returning to church and Sunday School soon. I miss everything about my Northminster family and the service and sermons we share on Sundays. Thanks be to God for all of you.

With a warm and loving heart,
Shelby Duffy

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ralph welcomes and encourages opportunities to share in fellowship, pastoral conversation, and spiritual discernment. He keeps office hours most mornings at the church, but is always available by appointment. You are always welcome to call or text at 478-250-3355 or to reach out by email: pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org

LOVE OFFERING OPPORTUNITY

Personnel Committee and Session are offering members of Northminster the opportunity to participate in a Love Offering to enable our beloved Ministry Assistant, Jennifer, in sending her 17-year-old son, Ryan, to Talisman Summer Camp in Zirconia, N.C. This camp offers a special 13-day life skills training program for autistic youth. Due to an unanticipated financial hardship, she and her husband are not able to provide this need and we want to support that effort.

Donations may be made by check, cash or on-line (see reverse). If by check, make it payable to Northminster and designate your gift by putting "CAMP" on the description line of your check. Special "CAMP" offering envelopes are provided in the pews. If giving cash, please use these envelopes and include your name. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or given to the front office or to me personally.

We will utilize our Good Samaritan account for all donations and distributions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (478)718-1019 or rcsjr327@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ricky Smith Moderator, NPC Personnel Committee



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

We rejoice that a group of 12 Brothers and Sisters in Christ will become members of Northminster on March 1st!

The **Neighborhood** Committee met with Rosa Taylor Elementary administrators to discuss ways in which Northminster can further assist the students and teachers. NPC's Backpack Ministry has provided food and school supplies for the students since 2013.

Adult Discipleship has planned the adult Sunday School schedule through the summer. They are planning a day trip on May 9 to the monastery in Conyers. Also a Women's Retreat is being planned for 2021.

Our pastor has been busy connecting with our community. He has delivered the invocation at two Bibb County Council meetings as well as praying at the 'Beloved Community' gathering. Ralph is also involved with the Habitat for Humanity '2020 Faith Build' house.

This Spring Natalie and Minor Vernon, along with Ella and Ralph Hawkins will join other Presbyterians on a trip to the Dominican Republic where they will provide medical assistance, help with building projects, and assist with Bible School.

The **Property** Committee is busy prioritizing the physical needs of NPC, and they are eager to begin this good work.

Looking Ahead

March 1 – Receive new members into our congregation

March 8 – Youth Chili Cookoff to benefit their Montreat trip

March 29 – Fifth Sunday Lunch

April 5 – Palm Sunday

April 9 – Maundy Thursday Service

April 11 – NPC/Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

April 12 - Easter

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!

Giving to Northminster just got more convenient. You may now give online or through an App on your phone. Choose one of these methods to get started:

Option 1: Northminster Website

Go to Northminstermacon.org and go to the Giving tab at the top of the page or click on the Give Now button at the bottom of the page.



Option 2: Give + App

Go to the apple App store or Google Play and download the **Give+ Church** App. Open the app and create an account or give as a guest. Click Give Now and search for Northminster. Click on Northminster Presbyterian Church Macon, GA. Then click the + in the top right corner to add a donation.



Option 3: Phone

Scan the QR code you see here and on the Giving Cards located in the pews.





March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1) Elder Breakfast with new members 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship - Communion	2)	3) 12:00 Lunch Bunch @ Bone Fish Grill	4) 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	5)	6)	7)
8) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga 5:30 Youth Chili Cookoff & Bake Sale	9)	10)	11) 10:00 Macon Service League 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	12)	13)	14)
15) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship - Pulpit Supply Amy Hunt 4:00 Yoga 5:30 - Youth Dinner & Lesson	16)	17) 7:00 Fore (In)Sight Meeting	18) 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	19) 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch (location TBD)	20)	21) 1:30 Communion at Carlyle
22) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship - Bell Choir Playing 4:00 Yoga 5:30 Youth Dinner & Lesson	23) 6:30 Session Meeting	24) Primary Elections	25) 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	26)	27)	28)
29) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 5th Sunday Lunch 4:00 Yoga	30)	31)	March Birthdays 1) Betty Faulkner; 3) Mike Hopkins; 7) Ray Mosley; 9) Nita Tidwell, Brenda Felts; 11) Nita Mitchell; 12) Bonnese Thomas; 14) Shea Smith; 18) Lynn Denny; 19) Joan Walker; 21) Natalie Vernon; 23) Nikki Gleaton; 26) Amy Maley; 27) Ann Dunwody			