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# NORTHMINSTER *Life*

## MUSIC NOTES—HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING?



Although our chancel and bell choirs continue to wait out the days until we can gather again in what I'm sure will be joyous songs of praise, we celebrate none-the-less. We celebrate together with music written in our hearts - prayerful songs of faith that our God is bigger than any of our current circumstances.

Like many people these days, I am also working from home. I am blessed to have both a piano and organ in my home which I use regularly even when there is no threat of Coronavirus.

I am praying for each and every one of you and your families that we will stay safe and healthy and find our refuge in God as we abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1-2.

The words of the hymn "How can I keep from Singing" have been echoing thru my heart and mind a lot over the past several days, and I find them to be particularly applicable:

"No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of Heaven and earth, How can I keep from Singing?"

Be safe, Be well and May the Peace of the Lord Christ go with you, until we meet again!

## WAYS TO GIVE

Although the way we worship on Sundays has undergone a temporarily drastic change, our church continues to be blessed with the strength and love of its members, that which truly makes up the church itself. We are encouraged by your acts of giving. You give of your time and talents by making phone calls, picking up extra groceries for those who cannot leave home, and praying for those in need of God's peace and strength. Thank you for continuing to be the church outside of our building's walls. As you prayerfully continue financial gifts, we want to make sure you're aware of all available methods of giving. You can always mail your gift to the church at 565 Wimbish Rd. Macon, GA 31210. You may also give online through the NPC website at [northminstermacon.org](http://northminstermacon.org), through the Give+ App, or by scanning this QR code with your phone.



Again, we thank you for your incredible outpouring of love during these strange times. You, the church, rise to the challenge of giving your time, talents, and finances even in times of trials! Blessings upon you.

## IN THIS ISSUE

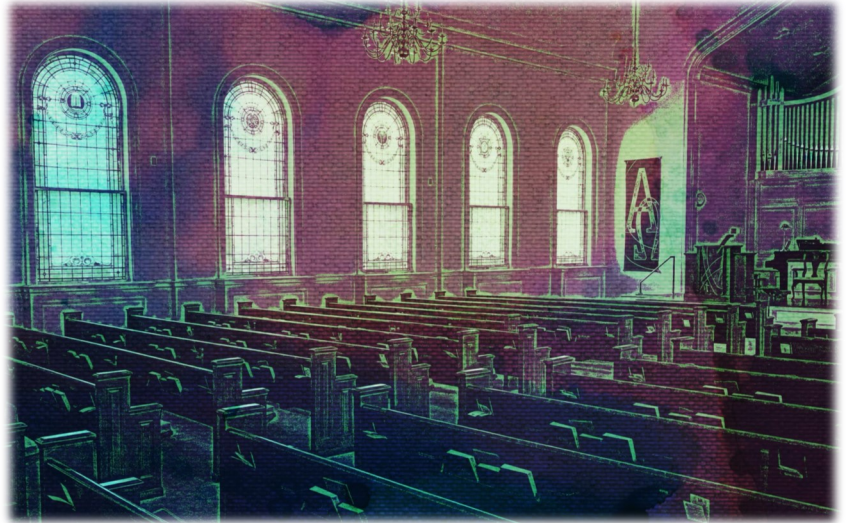
Page 2: You are missed - by Pastor Ralph Hawkins

Page 3: Socially Distanced Selfies, how congregants are handling quarantine

Page 4: Current cancellations; PCUSA special offering; Session highlights

You are missed

Alone for now  
Quiet these weeks  
The sunlight still beams  
through my morning panes  
purples and blues  
and browns and greens  
but your faces are not here now  
to beam back illumination  
I've seen that shine  
all these years  
I miss it



I miss your voices  
your singing great or glad  
I miss bells and brass and bulletins  
I miss Riley's entrance  
and Rex's handshakes  
Rhonda's good mornings  
Ryden's amens from his back corner  
I miss the sound of water  
The silence of your remembering  
And the chatter of your bustling peace  
I miss you hugging  
and happy

I miss your blessing  
each other  
and me  
in that song I like

May He guide you  
through the wilderness  
Protect you through the storm

I hope you are well  
I hope your own four walls  
are as glad to hear your praises  
as I have become every seventh day

Make sure your living room  
has some sunlight  
Turn up your speaker  
so the organ sounds like mine  
Pour some water and pass some bread  
and shake your hands  
Like you do when you are here with me  
Like you do when you do what you do

In that way  
I am willing to share you  
with your own houses  
as I wait for you to  
come back here to God's

My Presbyterians  
You are missed  
You are loved

May He bring you home  
rejoicing  
once again  
into my doors

— your Sanctuary on Wimbish Road

## BEING STILL

Although our halls are currently filled with the stillness of restful silence, we will be returning to a schedule of normalcy as soon as we are able. Below is a listing of current cancellations that we plan to resume at a time that is yet to be determined:

|                    |              |               |                      |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Sunday Worship     | Bell Choir   | Chancel Choir | Communion at Carlyle |
| Sunday Connections | Lunch Bunch  | Men's Lunch   | Women's Bible Study  |
| Youth Gatherings   | Prayer Group |               |                      |

We will continue to keep you updated as to the schedule of activities via the monthly newsletter and weekly emails. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be added to our email list, please contact Jennifer at 478-477-6646 or [admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org).



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

We will all rejoice when we can worship together again! Until then, let's be thankful for our ability to communicate electronically and lift each other up from a "social distance".

- **Worship** – With the help of our wonderful staff and many members, Pastor Ralph will continue to deliver the Sunday service online. Also, he will have a 'Wednesday Word' for us to ponder as we look for ways to praise God and appreciate one another. (Elder Sam Alderman)
- The Session lifted our dear friend, **Benjamin Gail**, in prayer. He continues his therapy and recovery at home, and he treasures your continued prayers and cards.
- **Neighborhood** – Although the Easter Egg Hunt has been postponed, plans are progressing to supply a clothes closet, provide school supplies, and tutoring services for struggling students at Rosa Taylor Elementary. The Backpack Ministry continues to provide nourishment for children facing food insecurity. (Elder Lynn Denny)
- **Outreach** – In addition to our monthly donations and volunteer support, Northminster continues to provide bus passes for clients at Loaves and Fishes and a vacuum cleaner for each new home owner at Habitat for Humanity. (Elder Judy Hill)
- **Adult Discipleship** – A day trip to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange is being planned for later this year. [Biblicalhistorycenter.com](http://Biblicalhistorycenter.com) (Elder Charlotte Nolan)
- **Youth Discipleship** - Pastor Ralph will have a video conference with our youth on Sunday evenings until they are able to meet in person again. (Elder Ann Weaver)
- **Congregational Care** – Monthly homebound communion services for many of our beloved members have begun. In addition, twelve members have volunteered to be "Helping Hands" for those who need assistance with home projects. (Elder Sandra Ridgeway)
- **Membership** - The New Member breakfast was well received. Several more regular visitors have expressed a desire to join our congregation. (Elder Emily Brown)
- **Property** – Committee members have prioritized tasks and are actively considering ways to 'freshen up' the Narthex, Activity Room, and pew cushions. (Elder Beau Kitchens)

## SOCIAL DISTANCING & ISOLATION

Send us your pictures! Whether you have been taking care of yourself through isolation in order to be sure you can return to your families, friends, and church building safely or whether you have been able to find ways to be out while maintaining a healthy social distance, we want to know how you've been spending this time. As a way for us to fellowship with each other from a afar, we're including photos from our congregants... some of whom are handling isolation a bit better than others! Be sure to keep phone calls going to each other too, while we excitedly await the chance to be together again.



Larry Smallwood - Practicing social distancing while chilling by the Ocmulgee River.



The good Dr. Edward Clark, after a week at the hospital, using his Saturday to help his neighbor by pulling up overgrown shrubbery!



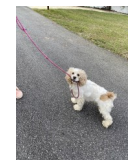
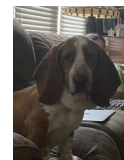
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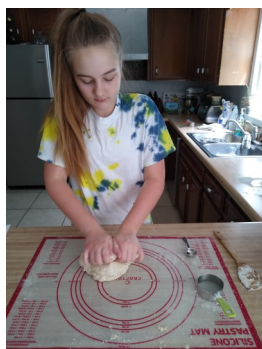
Tim & Kathy McCord keeping in touch with grandchildren Emery, Nate, Mattie, & AK.



Mary Beth passes the time with art and creativity, tie-dyeing pillow cases while the Shuford pups enjoy having their people at home!



Emily Brown trying her hand at embroidering note cards!



Molly Brown kneading dough for naan! Mom confirms—it was delicious!

Virginia Cowser participating in a "drive by, horn-blowing" celebration with her neighbors, celebrating the one year anniversary of Emory's (a neighbor and student at FPD) kidney transplant.



Melissa Odom's neighborhood golf cart parade in Warner Robins. Great fun, even from a social distance!

Deb Tregaskis celebrates her daughter, Amelia's 20th birthday!



Karen Jones isn't slowing down! Walking for a cause brings health and joy.



Mary Wain passes her time creating beautiful artwork inspired by God's creation.