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NORTHMINSTER *Life*

RETURNING TO THE TABLE - SHARING COMMUNION JUNE 6



The Session is pleased this Sunday, June 6, to end our year-long fast from the communion meal because of concerns related to COVID 19. We will be sharing the communion meal in a way we believe will minimize shared contact but also honor the sanctity of the table. **If you know you will be live streaming the worship service this Sunday from home, and you would like to share in the communion meal from there, please call or email Jennifer in the office and let her know.** We will deliver some bread and juice to your home before Sunday you can share in the "one loaf" of the Lord's meal.

WELCOME, BRANDON DAVIS



This summer, we welcome intern pastor, Brandon Davis, to Northminster. Brandon is a third-year Master of Divinity student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Brandon is originally from Goldsboro, NC but spent the last 10 years in the western NC mountains. He received a BA in Religious Studies from Appalachian State in 2014. After graduating, he worked for a Presbyterian Church as a youth pastor from 2015 until 2020 in Banner Elk, NC. During his free time, Brandon enjoys playing disc golf, watching the New Orleans Saints and UNC basketball, and reading outside. He is really excited for the opportunity to join Northminster and Wayside for this summer internship! If you would like to send Brandon a welcome message or note of encouragement, please contact the church office at 478-477-6646 for his personal contact information.



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 May, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist 2 different families with their utilities. One of these families had issues because of loss of job and the other had problems because SSI on her daughter was cut off.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

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LETTER FROM YOUR PASTOR



Someone once remarked that "all Christians are amateurs." I very much believe this. The word "disciple" simply and only means "student, learner." So to follow Jesus as a disciple is to admit (and celebrate) that we are all learners, still and always growing in our understanding and practice. In this sense, no one can be a professional Christian, not even professional pastors. Yes, of course, we expect our pastors to act in professional ways. But a pastor can be no more and no less what author C.S. Lewis once called a "mere Christian" — a fellow seeker, learner, student of the one Teacher, Jesus. How can one teach a Jesus-shaped way of life that he himself knows nothing about when the preaching robe comes off and the office hours are over?

In this way, let pastors be professional amateurs. Let the practice of pastoral ministry always and only be in service of Christian ministry: the work of "equipping the saints for the work of Jesus' ministry" (see Ephesians 4). Pastoral leadership is therefore more of an art than a science. Sure, one can train in diction, communication, administration, budgeting, and the like. And well we should. But one cannot institutionally educate or credential a living faith, hope, and love. These must be learned among the very persons also called to practice them, learned in the lived life of the church. A lecture on a systematic way to understand Christian theology is, at best, the bones ... on which soon must be placed the muscle and skin of Christian community. Science might teach one describe the faith, but it is an art to learn to live the faith with and among the faithful.

This is why seminary internships are irreplaceable. I myself years ago benefitted immeasurably from two summer stints as a youth pastor and a 2-year internship as a student pastor. There is simply no substitute for the living, breathing church of God. As such, your session recently voted a unanimous "yes" when the presbytery approached Northminster about hosting a seminary internship this summer. Northminster has a history with interns, but it is also a distant memory now; Brandon Davis will be our first in some time. Sometimes the best gifts are the ones you don't see coming from afar.

We welcome Brandon for 10 weeks this summer. His work among us is neither to be my assistant nor to take over our youth ministry — two common misconceptions about internships. His work among us is simply to practice the art of 1. being a "mere Christian" who happens to preach, teach, and pastor, and 2. to "equip the saints" to be the church of Jesus Christ. In this respect, each of you are just as much his mentor and supervisor as I will be privileged to be these 10 weeks. Your worship, your fellowship, your involvement in Jesus' way and work beyond our walls: these will be just as much his classroom as any lecture hall at Columbia Seminary in Decatur. I am delighted that Northminster will be a part of his journey toward ordination. I cannot imagine a better congregation in which interns might practice God's art and science as fellow amateurs.

Brandon's duties will be to lead in worship, to preach and teach, to sit with and learn from the session, to visit church members in times of joy and need, to visit and learn from the outreach partners of our congregation (Macon Recovers, Loaves and Fishes, etc.), and to engage with me in regular reflection on all of these functions and what they have to do his own "mere Christianity." It all begins Sunday, June 6. I know you will join me in welcoming Brandon into our fellowship this summer.

Honored to be an Amateur right alongside you, I remain, your Friend and Pastor,
RWH

MUSIC NOTES

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. -Colossians 3:16 (GNT)

As we ease back into normalcy after such an unexpected year, we look back with gratitude. We may not have been able to safely have our choir loft filled with all of our wonderful Northminster voices, but our sanctuary remained filled with beautiful hymns and songs of instrumental praise and soloists. Because of your support of our church's music ministry, we have been and will continue to share the wisdom of our Lord through psalms, hymns, and sacred songs. Thank you for praying for, participating in, and contributing to this ministry.



NPC YOUTH

Many of the Northminster youth will be attending Montreat this year the week of June 13-19. We will resume youth activities with the church at the end of June, as follows:

Sun, June 27, after church - Ladies' outing with Melissa McDougald & Helen Olk
Guys outing with Pastor Ralph & Steve Olk (activities TBD)

Sun, July 17, time TBD - Lake day at Al & Barbara Fatkin's home

Sun, July 31, time TBD - Floating down Amerson River

Sun, Aug. 8, time TBD - Ladies' arts night with Melissa & Helene at the Olk's house
Guys' outing with Pastor Ralph & Steve (activity TBD)

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the youth email list for further details on events and activities, please contact Melissa McDougald at juralag@gmail.com.

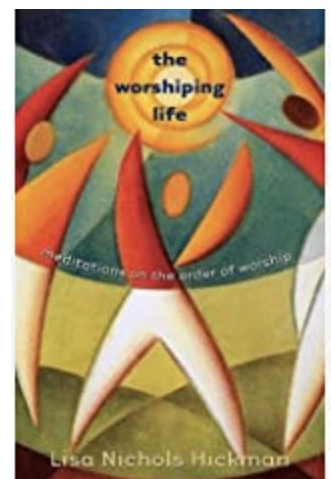
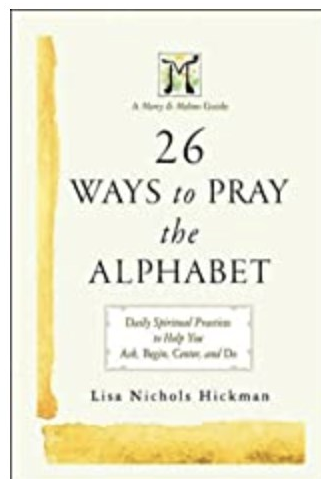
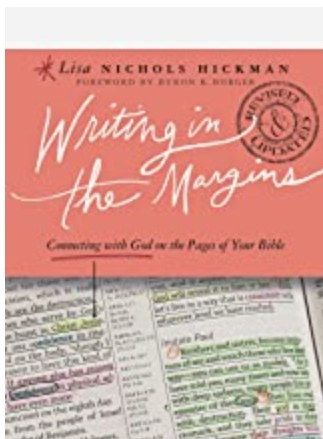
ALL ABOARD NORTHMINSTER!



Save this date: Saturday, October 9. Join Pastor Ralph, Ella Hawkins, and Charlotte Nolan (active elder) as we head south to Nashville, Georgia, to ride the Azalea Sprinter tourist train. A bus will leave Northminster in the morning and return us late afternoon. It will be a great day of fun and fellowship to celebrate our arrival on the other side of COVID. See <http://hawkinsrails.net/preservation/azalea/azalea.html> for pictures of the Sprinter. More details this summer!

WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH DR. LISA NICHOLS HICKMAN

Our Adult Discipleship elder Charlotte Nolan and Ella Cole Alderman invite all women of all ages to mark November 12-13 on your calendars for Northminster's fall women's event. Lisa Hickman is a Presbyterian pastor in Charlotte, NC, a referent retreat speaker, and the author of several books on the Christian life. She is also a dear friend of Ralph and Ella Hawkins. She will be with us Friday evening and Saturday to lead our women's retreat at the church. Meals will be provided. Women: plan to bring your daughters and granddaughters, or your moms and grandmothers, and friends. We will also be inviting women from our sister Presbyterian churches here in Macon and Warner Robbins. More information this summer!



VBS AT WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN



Wayside Presbyterian church in Gray is hosting VBS this summer on June 21 through 25 from 5:30-7pm. We have several youth signed up to help with this wonderful event with our sister church. If you would like to join them to help with this event any or all of these dates, please let Ralph, Melissa McDougald, or Helene Olk know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

As our newsletters included pre-covid, we have begun including our member's and friend's birthday in our monthly editions once again. Please let Jennifer, in the church office, know if you have a birthday this month that is not listed.

June 1 - Austin Emener
June 9 - Jack Gleaton
June 17 - Pat McCall
June 23 - Harry Bowen

June 7 - Sam McDuffie
June 11 - Hamilton Hirsh
June 20 - Haley Hirsh
June 25 - Emory Whitaker

June 7 - Ann Putzke
June 14 - Isabel Davis
June 20 - Emma Brown
June 28 - Cam Stringfellow

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Finance- Elder Minor Vernon

Church finances are in good shape.

Property- Elder Beau Kitchens

Exploring ideas to upgrade the playground and the outer areas around the church property. Each Committee chair was asked for to submit their suggestions to Beau.

Personnel- Elder Roland Hill

Approved. Brandon Davis has been selected to serve as our Summer Intern. He is enrolled in the Master of Divinity Program at Columbia Seminary. Brandon will be with us for 10 weeks (6/21/21-8/14/21). He will preach at NPC for five Sundays and five weeks at Wayside Presbyterian Church in Gray.

Congregational Care- Elder Sandra Ridgeway

Updates on a few of our members with health care challenges.

Worship- Elder Jan Hirsh

Monthly communion will resume June 6, 2021 (with the exception of July).

MASK: Following the CDC's guideline, **NO MASK** will be required **IF** you have been fully vaccinated. **If you have not been vaccinated**, you are encouraged to get your shot(s) and continue wearing a mask.

Volunteers have been selected to assist with Weekly Live Streaming. They are Anna Riley, Shea Smith (as needed) and Michael Napier.

Youth Discipleship – Elder Melissa McDougald

Youths have assisted with service projects in support of clients at Macon Recovers. Nine of our youth will go to Montreat in June. Kari Alderman will serve as Chef.

Adult Discipleship- Elder Charlotte Nolan

Sunday School with end May 23, 2021. Stay tuned for the new schedule. A road trip is being scheduled this fall to Azalea Sprinter in Nashville, GA. Plans are in the works for Women-Daughter Retreat (11/13/21- 11/14/21 at NPC) including our sister cluster of churches.

Outreach - Elder Kari Alderman

Approved. UKIRK Campus Ministry will host a fundraiser event at NPC, October 1, 2021. Dinner will be served and Boyd Ellison will serve as Chief. Funds from Good Sam were given to Centenary Community Ministries, Inc. to help a client with housing. Exploring Big Ideas about blasting out of the pandemic/ NMPC Drive to benefit Loaves and Fishes. Stay tuned for more details.

Neighbor- Elder Lynn Denny

Exploring ideas for Teacher Appreciation for Rosa Taylor's staff. A volunteer has offered to launder clothes for students in need. Weekly, 20 food bags are delivered to the school for students in need. Monthly, 10 gift bags will be delivered to Macon Recovers. 'These Days' devotionals will be included. Exploring purchasing 5 PCUSA devotional based on Psalms for the library at Macon Recovers.