



DECEMBER 2019

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NORTHMINSTER

Life

ADVENT SEASON AT NPC



Sunday, December 8th, we will worship through song and scripture at our annual Lessons & Carols service. Join us at 10:30AM and bring family and friends. We will hear from our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, string quartet, youth vocalists, and other instrumentalists. This is a wonderful time to bring family and friends.



Sunday, December 8th at 11:30am

Helping others is what makes Northminster so incredible! You can continue giving gifts to both your loved ones and those in need in our community and beyond. From providing necessities for Loaves and Fishes, and Habitat for Humanity, or giving children hope and love in South Carolina, to providing items to make daily living more stable internationally – the NPC Alternative Christmas Fair will make your Christmas giving more impactful.

When you donate to any of these ministries, you will pick up a card to give to a loved one letting them know that a gift was given in their honor this holiday season.

Join your church family at the
**Alternative
Christmas Fair**
Immediately following the
service on
December 8th!

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MUSIC NOTES

Lots of beautiful music is coming our way at Northminster during the month of December! Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss a thing!



Our Lesson and Carols service is almost here! Please mark your calendars for December 8th at 10:30 am, and plan now to join us for this worshipful service to start your holiday season on the right note. Please bring a friend, or several, with you. It's a great way to share Northminster with the community.

The Brass ensemble will be playing for the service on December 15th, and Pat McCall will be playing on December 22nd.

Calista Koch, Macon Harpist, will once again be playing for our Christmas Eve service. Her beautiful prelude music will begin at 5:30 pm prior to the 6:00 pm service. Please come and bring friends and family with you. You will be blessed!

Important Rehearsal Dates:

- Dec 4th Dress rehearsal in the sanctuary
- Dec 18th, 25th, Jan 1, No Bell or Choir Rehearsals
- Dec 22nd and Dec 29th: Open invitation to all those who like to sing, but cannot attend regular weekly rehearsals. We need singers to lead the hymns for the worship service. Please come to the choir loft at 10:20; no robes required!

The Morning Music Club of Macon cordially invites you to their annual Christmas Chorale program to be held on Thursday, December 12th, at 10:30 am in Pierce Chapel on the Wesleyan campus. Free and open to the public.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION



Our Christmas Eve's Candlelight Communion Service will begin at 5:30_{PM} on December 24th with a beautiful 30-minute harp prelude by Calista Koch. The worship service will begin at 6:00_{PM}. Be sure to invite your family and friends as we celebrate together, the birth of our incredible Savior.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING



On Sunday, December 22 we will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Your gift will provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian schools and colleges.



Out on the (Holy) Periphery

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them ... -- Luke 2

Who doesn't enjoy the Christmastime tale of the sheepherders abiding in the fields, and who hasn't dressed up a child in a bathrobe and towel for herding in a pageant full of cardboard sheep? The shepherds of Luke 2

are a holiday staple. Hearing their story again brings a sense that all is right-side-up with the world.

Yet God is turning the world upside down.

It must be so, if we are to believe Luke's account that it is to *shepherds*, of all people, that the messengers of heaven make their explosive appearance. "God's chosen fellow has come!" the Divine Singing Telegram shouts. Only, let us observe that this choral anthem is delivered, not from the choir loft of the downtown temple, or from the steps of the royal city hall, or on the stage of the popular amphitheater. The song rings out in the outskirts of town, out in the fields, on the periphery of the world's typical attention. The first hearers of God's gospel: third-shift sheep-tenders whose names we are never even told. Not preachers, not priests, not theologians. *Shepherds. Sideliners.*

It could be that one of the body's finer attributes is the eye's peripheral vision—the ability to notice the sidelines, what's afoot off center. "Who's that coming up behind me? Is that my turn there? Watch out ... here comes a fast ball out of nowhere!" There is a lot happening on the margins of our existence, and, similarly, it is the account of Luke more than any other gospel that summons us to imagine God busily at work in the *margins* of the world.

Consider Luke's cast of characters. Father Joe: a first-century Jewish everyman. Mother Mary: an otherwise unknown teenager from the lower ranks of society. She herself gets the joke inherent in God visiting *her*, of all people (Luke 1:48). Fisherman. Tax collectors. Hemorrhaging women and leprous men. In this tale, old women get pregnant (1:18) and even dependent children are welcomed in to the fellowship of those of follow God's unlikely messiah (18:16). Luke presents us with a shepherd willing to risk the safety of the centered hoard to secure the protection of one stuck in the margins (15:4). This is God, out on the holy periphery.

So then, insists Luke, Christmas is a time for clearing our tangential vision. Rub your eyes and pay attention all-around, because if God is whimsical enough to dispatch a sky-splitting singing telegram to a band of third-shift animal wrestlers out on the edges of reality, then this God is just as likely to be up to something marvelous and life-altering out along the margins of your life, too.

Some stranger speaks truth. Some coincidence smells of providence. Some impossible dream will not go away. Some forgotten piece of your story jostles for attention. Some summons to serve keeps popping up in the oddest of places. Some hint of resurrection tickles your imagination. Each could be dismissed as the ordinary weirdness of the world; each could be embraced as the movement of God. Meanwhile, all the Bible knows how to do is to demand that you your seatbelts are fastened and your tray tables are locked, because one is never quite sure what improbable, peripheral means God might use to invade and heal the world, and your life in it (1 Corinthians 1:28).

So have the merriest of Christmases. He is born in Bethlehem.

Oh, and watch your flank. We serve a sneaky God. (Just ask the shepherds.)



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1) First Sunday of the month	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)

December Birthdays

1) First Sunday of Advent - Hope	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)
9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 Youth Lunch 4:30 Youth Choir		12:00 Lunch Bunch @ Greek Corner Pizza	11:00 Women's Bible Study Lunch @ Jeneane's	5:30 Camera Club Christmas Party	6:00 - Macon Mayhem Booster Meeting	
8) Second Sunday of Advent - Peace	9)	10)	11)	12)	13)	14)
9:30 Connections 10:30 Lessons & Carols 11:30 Alternative Christmas Fair 2:00 Elder Orientation 4:00 Yoga 5:00 Youth Dinner		6:00 Girl Scout Meeting	7:00 Chancel Choir			
15) Third Sunday of Advent - Love	16)	17)	18)	19)	20)	21)
9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga	6:00 Pat McCall's string group program 6:30 Session Christmas Dinner	7:00 Fore (In)Sight Meeting		10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch (location TBD)		
22) Fourth Sunday of Advent - Joy	23)	24)	25)	26)	27)	28)
9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship -Christmas Joy offering		5:30 Harp Prelude 6:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	Merry Christmas! Staff Holiday	Staff Holiday		
29)	30)	31)	January 1)	2)	3)	4)
9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 5th Sunday Lunch	Office Closed (Jennifer Off)	Office Closed (Jennifer Off)	Staff Holiday			



Happy
Birthday!

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.

All the methods allow you to designate donations as: Offerings, Good Samaritan Fund, Youth or Memorials. Continue through the prompts until your donation is complete. You will also be given a chance to enter notes where you can designate more specific donations such as for Gloves or Backpack Ministry or name of person memorialized. You can also set up recurring donations on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. When you set up an account, you can pay by credit card or bank account. There is also an option to contribute an extra 2% to offset the cost of processing.

Our systems follow Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards, and donor information is never shared with anyone except the church or ministry receiving your gifts. You may also request any donations remain anonymous by indicating so in the comments section. As always, your entire donation is tax deductible.

The form shows the Northminster Presbyterian Church logo at the top. Below it, there are sections for 'Donations' and 'Offerings'. The 'Donations' section includes fields for 'Good Samaritan Fund', 'Youth', and 'Memorials', each with a value of '0.00'. A 'Total:' field shows '\$0.00'. Below these are dropdown menus for 'Donation Frequency' (set to 'Choose One') and 'Donation Start Date' (set to '11/24/19'). At the bottom is a blue 'Continue' button.

Log In

Email address

Password

Forgot your Email Address or Password?

Log In

Create Profile

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

Offerings

Good Samaritan Fund

Youth

Memorials

Total: \$0.00

Donation Frequency Choose One

Donation Start Date 11/24/19

Continue

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 October and November, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist 3 different families with their power bill and one family with their rent. We were also able to help an individual, who stays with her mom, with her much needed medicine. Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

LOAVES & FISHES



Thank you , Thank you, Thank you to everyone who ate out on November 7th for the Loaves and Fishes Foodie Fundraiser. The day was a big success thanks to our generous sponsors, restaurants and diners like you!

There is a lot going on at the Day Life Center these days. In addition to our usual snacks, showers, laundry, groceries, Tuesday lunch, clothing, IDs, Birth Certificates and Prescription assistance, We have added Tuesday Bible Study and afternoon movie time, Halloween and Valentines day cookouts and in cooperation with the Macon Rescue Mission, we are distributing 100 afternoon meals each day Monday – Thursday at 3pm.

As always your donations of time, money, food, clothing and hygiene items are essential to our ministry! In December, donations of kid friendly snacks, soup stews, chili and holiday foods are especially needed. God Bless you and Merry Christmas from Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon.

DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

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, December 3rd at Greek Corner Pizza at 12:00.

MEN'S LUNCH - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST AT NOON



The Men's Ministry Lunch is a monthly opportunity for men to fellowship and support local missions. This month, men will meet December 19 at noon. Location 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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Karen Jones gave a report of the presbytery meeting in Columbus on Oct. 26: Worship service was led by Ralph Hawkins and Tom Granum. Recognition of retirement of Rev. Paula Hoffman and Rev. Richard Hart. Approved Merger of Morningside and All Saints Presbyterian in Columbus.
- Confirmation Lunch – The session had a lovely luncheon and examination of confirmands on Sunday November 17th. Session members commented on how nice it was to get to know the young men and women better and to see the bonds they had developed with their mentors.
- The session approved funds for Elizabeth Schorr to update the website by the end of the year.
- Finance committee is currently working on the budget for 2020. Members are reminded to turn in pledge cards if not done already.
- Lessons and Carols and Alternative Christmas fair will be December 8th. This year Northminster coffee mugs will be sold for \$10 each to raise money for youth trips and activities.
- The next fifth Sunday Lunch will be December 29th, 2019.
- Men's group continues to meet monthly for lunch with good participation.
- The session discussed the current committee structure of the church. An effort is being made to organize committees in a manner that more closely reflects the priorities of Northminster and will enhance our ability to fulfill our mission to make disciples, grow in faith together and serve others in Christ.