



OCTOBER 2019

VOLUME 23

NUMBER 10

# NORTHMINSTER

## Life

**Church-wide  
Picnic  
Sunday,  
October 20, 2019  
at Amerson  
River Park**

### EVERYONE'S INVITED!

Come to church in casual clothing Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and plan to head over to Amerson River Park's playground pavilion after the service to enjoy lunch and fellowship with your whole church family. Our fellowship committee will be providing the paper products and fried chicken. Please sign up on your blue response sheet to let us know if you'll be bringing a side, dessert, and/or drinks.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 FROM 7-9PM

Wild Alaska Night is a fundraising dinner for the Mercer UKirk Ministry. Tickets are limited...only 80 will be sold! Tickets may be purchased after the worship services on October 6th, 13th, and 20th in the Church Narthex or by calling Emory Whitaker at 474-2106.

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall

\$35.00 per person

Menu:

Classic Tossed Salad  
Wild Alaska Salmon, Halibut, and Black Sea Bass  
Smoked Rice; Gourmet Green Beans  
Black Bean and Corn Salad  
Rolls; Cake and Cookie Bar



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## RISE AGAINST HUNGER - OCTOBER 6

October 6 is not only World-wide Communion, it is also the date of our Presbytery's annual Rise Against Hunger Mission Event. Everyone able to volunteer is invited to join us, along with others within our presbytery, at our sister church: Westminster Presbyterian in Warner Robins (303 Mary Lane) at 2:00 to help pack meals for the hungry across the globe.



## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

On Sunday, October 6 we will be receiving gifts for the Peace & Global Offering.

A gift to this offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations retain 25% to connect with the global witness of Christ Peace. Mid council retains 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for peace and justices in cultures of violence. A special envelope will be provided for your gift.

## LOAVES & FISHES



Presented By  
Alex's  
PC solutions

**FOODIE FUNDRAISER.org** November 7, 2019  
**EAT OUT TO FIGHT POVERTY**

ROBINS financial GEICO OBGYN Specialists iHeart MEDIA BURGESS RAYMOND JAMES

We have a lot going on at Loaves and Fishes these days! Our new awning and sign look great and that is just the beginning. We have obtained a grant for new refrigerators that will allow us to move toward having healthier fresh foods in our grocery bags. Our ID and Prescription programs are expanding with grant

funding and our inclusion in the list of agencies that can give vouchers for reduced price GA State ID's.

We have hired a new Administrator! Sierra Martin started on September 30. She is smart and enthusiastic and will be a great addition to the team!

And Please Save the Date for Our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foodie Fundraiser on Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>**. Participating Restaurants will donate 10% of your bill to Loaves and Fishes. Go to [Foodiefundraiser.org](http://Foodiefundraiser.org) for a list of participating restaurants and sponsors.

As always we are so thankful for the Support of Northminster. We could not do what we do without your generosity! If you are interested in volunteering at Loaves and Fishes contact Jeanne Roddenberry.

## 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 August, Centenary used some of our contributions to help an individual with backpay she owes on her rent. She had been out of the country taking care of her father which caused her to get behind. Our contributions also helped another person with her rent; another person with her storage fee and another person with their light bill.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

## OCTOBER 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, October 1st at Outback Steakhouse at 12:00.

## MEN ON A MISSION

The Northminster Men's ministry requests the help of all those able to assist with cleaning up our church playground to join us on Saturday, October 5th. We will meet at the church at 9:00am and end when our work has been completed. Even if you can only be here for a couple of hours, we would greatly appreciate your help. If you are unable to work on the playground but would like to provide water, food, tools, etc, please contact Sam Alderman at [sgaiii@bellsouth.net](mailto:sgaiii@bellsouth.net) to coordinate.

## MEN'S LUNCH - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT NOON



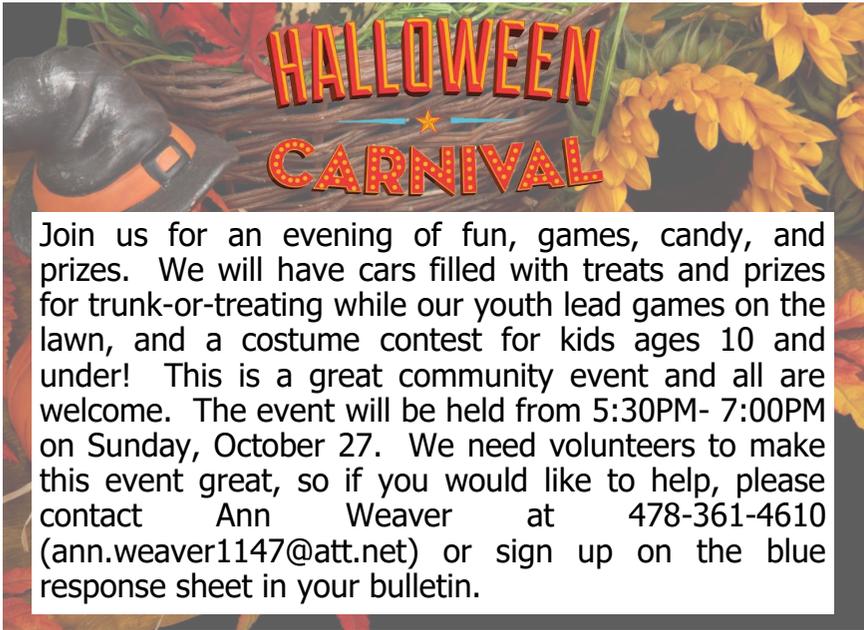
### MEN'S MINISTRY LUNCH



The Men's Ministry Lunch is a monthly opportunity for men to fellowship and support local missions. This month's location is still to be determined, so be sure to keep an eye on your bulletin and weekly email.

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.

## HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL - OCTOBER 27TH



### HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Join us for an evening of fun, games, candy, and prizes. We will have cars filled with treats and prizes for trunk-or-treating while our youth lead games on the lawn, and a costume contest for kids ages 10 and under! This is a great community event and all are welcome. The event will be held from 5:30PM- 7:00PM on Sunday, October 27. We need volunteers to make this event great, so if you would like to help, please contact Ann Weaver at 478-361-4610 ([ann.weaver1147@att.net](mailto:ann.weaver1147@att.net)) or sign up on the blue response sheet in your bulletin.

## YOUTH - OCTOBER EVENTS

There is plenty of energy happening with the youth right now. We are looking forward to some study sessions on topics that the youth suggested at our planning meeting in September. We will also participate in the Church picnic and a sports night on October 13. Also in the plans is a church-wide, community-invited Halloween Carnival on October 27. There will be the usual Trunk and Treat giving-out candy from the back of the cars and games on the front lawn. The plans are being finished now and you will need to check the weekly email and bulletin inserts to see how you can help with this.

Thanks so much for all you do to help the youth.

## MUSIC NOTES

It is always a blessing to see our youth participate in our worship services. We enjoyed hearing Ella Cole Alderman sing in August, and we will hear Rachel Putzke play a piano prelude for us on October 6th, World Communion Sunday. We are planning to have a youth ensemble sing for us on October 20th. All youth who are interested to participate, please contact Maddy Schwab.



The choir has just started rehearsing for our annual Lessons and Carols service to be held on December 8th during our morning worship service. If you would like to sing with us, please join us in the choir room on Wednesday evenings at 7:45. You will be blessed, and so will we!

Please mark your calendar for our Lessons/Carols service, and plan to bring a friend with you. It's a great way to share Northminster with the community.

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

I still remember how I felt, standing in line at my local bank, a man in my early 30s, waiting to cash some series EE savings bonds that had reached maturity, my maternal grandparents' names in the FROM line on the envelopes in my hand.

As the youngest child by more than a decade, I have only distant memories of those grandparents. They were aged by the time I was old enough to enjoy interaction; they had departed by the time I was mature enough for conversation. In some ways, these hard facts made their prescient gift of bonds all the more meaningful.

At the time of my birth, they made an investment in my future. I knew nothing about it at the time; I could not have understood, a child. Only later, much later, did my mother pass along the bonds to me: gift envelopes faded a bit with time in safe deposit box, but their contents arrived at maturity. Precisely because I had no access to what they were like in the middle years of their lives, these pieces of paper offered me something important in the way of revelation of their character. Before I knew them, they chose a blessing for me. The envelopes said more about them as giver than about me as recipient. Earning is not an option when the gift is premeditated. It comes as grace.

I moved forward in the line, made it to the counter, presented my driver's license as confirmation of my identity as a rightful recipient, and walked out of the building with fresh liquidity in my pocket. Maranatha. Unmerited favor.

Confirmation. That's an important word in our congregation this fall. We have 8 young souls paired with 8 older adults, together each pair moving through a 6-month line of conversation about loving God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and following Jesus as a daily matter. In a sense, all eyes will be on November 24, Christ the King Sunday, when 8 plus 8 will stand before us in worship. The younger disciple in each pair will answer four traditional questions that Christians of many stripes have been using for generations as a way of confirming Jesus-shaped faith:

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
2. Who is your Lord and Savior?
2. Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
4. Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

My prayer for each of our 8 youth is that they will sense in their bones their own version of what I felt in that bank teller line: gratitude, awe, humility, possibility. Although their individual answers to the questions seem paramount, the bigger truth is that they are in fact confirming promises claimed for them at their childhood baptisms — and even more — confirming ancient promises enacted for them in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the first Christian movement. Confirmation is, all at once, both all about them and their answers, and not about them at all. God has acted; as such, they, our youth, will have something to say to us. Earning is not an option when the gift is premeditated.

Bank teller, to adult me: Please show me some identification, so that I can confirm you are who you say you are, recipient of these matured investments. Preacher, to youth: Please answer these faith questions, so that we can join you in confirming that you are who God says you are, recipients of abundant life and missionary calling in and through Jesus his Christ, your Brother. Civil society insists our kids are not mature until they reach various age thresholds: driving, voting, drinking, car renting, and the like. But in the fellowship of Christ-followers, saving bonds of grace reach maturity not with age but with awareness, when a once-baptized infant now says to the community, in her own voice: I am who you have said I am, I am who God has claimed me to be. Let a lifetime of discipleship now commence. Let me walk out of this service with a pocket-full of life abundant. Maranatha! Such unmerited favor. Such unending vocation.

One final note about the word Confirmation. Some adults in the flock have recently asked, "Why can't we adults do Confirmation? I'd like a refresher for myself!" Well, here's our chance: For the Sundays in October, one of the adult Sunday School options will be what I'm calling Adult Confirmation. We'll take a fresh spirited look at each of the four questions above. We all know what we hope for in the disciple-lives of our teenagers ... but what does that discipleship look like at midlife? in retirement? in the autumn of our years? Come join me and we'll explore it all together, one question a Sunday. If nothing else, our spiritual pumps will be primed for the Sunday in November when the youngest among us show their spiritual IDs and cash in, so to speak, on God's stunning generosity. By that God's good grace, that will be a great day for us all.

Your friend and pastor, RWH



## SMALL GROUP DINNER - HOSTS NEEDED



Last year's small group dinners were a huge success and we look forward to having them again. This is a great opportunity for us to continue getting to know each other more and connect with our church family. But first, we need hosts! If you would be happy to welcome 8-10 church members to your table, please let Jennifer know by calling 478-477-6646 or emailing her at [admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### Sunday, November 10th

The annual Thanksgiving and Stewardship lunch will be held Sunday, November 11th following the 10:00 morning worship service. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$4 per child, with a maximum of \$20 per family.



### Sunday, December 8th

Our annual Lessons and Carols service is always a favorite time of year for all. If you would like to participate in the music for this service, please let Sandy know. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

After our Lessons and Carols service, join us in the activity room for our annual Alternative Christmas Fair. We'll have some very important new missions to support.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, September 16, 2019

- Average attendance continues to rise as summer ends
- The new Northminster logo will be released on September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Sam McDuffie will serve as Chairman of the 2020 Stewardship Campaign
- Our Church Bookkeeper will be getting a new computer
- The Endowment Balance is now \$556,000 which is great and means our quarterly draw for 2020 will be increased by \$2,000
- A motion was made to increase our monthly donation to Centenary Community Ministries from \$200 to \$400. The motion passed unanimously
- Karen Jones, Clerk of Session, was elected to represent Northminster as a Commissioner at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting in Columbus
- The Men's Discipleship Group will meet at Jeanne's at 12:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month
- Mary Wain Ellison and Ella Hawkins will present the Thornwell Minute for Mission in November
- Dates for the calendar:
  - September 29<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch
  - September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Congregational Meeting to vote on slate of officers
  - October 5<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 a.m. - Men's Workday at the Church
  - October 6<sup>th</sup> - World Communion Sunday
  - October 6<sup>th</sup> - Rise Against Hunger Event 2:00 p.m. @ Westminster in Warner Robins
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> - Church Picnic at Amerson Park
  - November 10<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Luncheon and Stewardship Meal
  - November 17<sup>th</sup> - Session luncheon with Confirmands and their sponsors
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> - Alternative Christmas Fair



## October Birthdays

- 8) Sandra Lewis
- 10) Judy Hill;  
David Riley
- 15) Mark Brown
- 16) Ann Weaver;  
Alice Fincher
- 18) Anna Riley
- 20) Jan Hirsh
- 24) John Putzke
- 26) Frank Ellis
- 27) Amy Fletcher
- 30) Carolyn Gleaton
- 31) Claude Buzzzell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1) 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Outback Steakhouse	2) 10:00 Women's Morning Bible Study (week 2 of 9)	3)	4)	5) Men's work day
6) <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 Rise Against Hunger packing event at Westminster 4:00 Yoga	7) 6:30 Women's Evening Bible Study (week 2 of 9)	8)	9) 10:00 Women's Morning Bible Study (week 3 of 9) 10:00 Macon Service League 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	10) 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch 1:30 Communion at Carlyle Place	11)	12)
13) <i>National Pastor Appreciation Day</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Youth Sports Event	14) 6:30 Women's Evening Bible Study (week 3 of 9)	15)	16) 10:00 Women's Morning Bible Study (week 4 of 9) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	17) 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch 1:30 Communion at Carlyle Place	18)	19)
20) 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Church-wide Picnic @ Amerson 4:00 Yoga 6:30 Confirmand Meeting	21) 6:30 Session Meeting	22) 7:00 Fore (In)Sight Meeting	23) 10:00 Women's Morning Bible Study (week 5 of 9) 6:30 Women's Evening Bible Study (Week 4 of 9) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	24)	25) 5:30 UKirk Campus Ministry Capital Campaign Dinner	26)
27) 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga 5:30-7:00pm Halloween Carnival, sponsored by NPC Youth	28) 6:30 Women's Evening Bible Study (week 5 of 9)	29)	30) 10:00 Women's Morning Bible Study (week 6 of 9) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	31)		

Happy  
Birthday!

