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# NORTHMINSTER

## Life

### OUTREACH HAS NEVER BEEN SO IMPORTANT!

This pandemic has emphasized the importance of Northminster's "heart for giving". Many organizations have had to reinvent service delivery to those who are struggling in our community – especially now. Some non-profits are seeing a decline in financial support, and many of our church members have had to temporarily cease volunteering because of CDC guidelines. Our involvement has been magnified! In addition to NPC's budgeted donations, several members are still hard at work offering assistance.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Shea Smith, NPC's liaison

The Faith Build house is almost complete. As always, we provide a new vacuum cleaner for the proud new homeowner.

**Loaves and Fishes:** Jeanne Roddenberry and Brent Gunn, NPC's liaisons and Executive Board members  
L&F is providing more food to clients, since several downtown feeding programs had to stop serving regular meals. A major blessing is that all local and state agencies and non-profits serving the needy gather online regularly to help each other identify and meet ongoing needs – a much needed effort. Several bathrooms, showers, and a wash up station have been placed at the L&F location.

**Centenary Community Ministry/NPC Good Samaritan:** Bonnie Diboll and Brent Gunn, Good Sam administrators; Nita McCord, CCMI Board of Directors

Because of your on-going contributions to the NPC Good Samaritan fund, we are able to send monthly donations to CCMI to assist the needy with basic needs – housing, electricity, water, medical. This ministry coordinates with the other non-profits to make this impact stronger.

If you are interested in assisting with any of Northminster's outreach programs, please email Judy Hill at [rolandjudy@hotmail.com](mailto:rolandjudy@hotmail.com).

### SUNDAY WORSHIP IS ONLINE THROUGH LABOR DAY

We were pleased and excited to return to worship in our sanctuary during June and July. It was so good for many of our members to see one another face to face, and we learned a great deal about how to make music and liturgy workable, not to mention recording and broadcasting, during this pandemic. However, with the current rise in COVID cases here in Macon/Bibb and given that so many of our members are choosing to worship at home this summer, the session thought it best for our sense of unity and the stewardship of our resources to return to online worship for the balance of the summer. Your elders will revisit the situation after Labor Day.

Session also agreed that during August we will secure the equipment needed to "live stream" our worship services, such that when we do return to the sanctuary, we will be able to broadcast the service online at 10:30am, concurrent with the service in the room. Doing this well, with a quality we feel worship deserves, requires equipment and subscriptions we currently do not possess — which is why we have made use of recordings thus far. But our plan is to have this ability in place by the time we come back to the sanctuary again, whenever that may turn out to be.

If you hear of anyone in the congregation struggling to make the Sunday videos work for them, please let Ralph or Sam know so we can assist where needed. We want the maximum number of our people to be able to worship each week.

We certainly appreciate the patience and flexibility of our membership during these strange days as we all learn what it means to be church in a time of social distancing. As always, we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and encouragement as we seek the common good for our flock and continue to love God and our neighbors.



## MUSIC NOTES

I hope this edition of the August 2020 newsletter finds you staying well and cool!

I wanted to share an anthem that I heard via video during the Virtual Montreat Conference this year. The choral director for the conference was Dr Eric Nelson who directs the Atlanta Master Chorale. The text just seemed so appropriate for these strange, uncertain and even fearful times we are currently living in. We all want to be praying and standing strong in our faith, but sometimes it seems like God is so far away, that He can't even hear our prayers, much less answer them. The Psalms are full of verses written by King David when he felt despairing of God hearing and answering him in any way, perhaps wondering if God even cares, but if you notice, most, if not all, of these Psalms end with verses of rejoicing in the Lord who does indeed hear and answer.

This anthem, "Even When He is Silent" addresses this dilemma in a beautiful and powerful way.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxyWgJNKZwU>

"I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not I believe in God even when He is Silent"

I know all of you will remember Maddy Schwab, our Wesleyan music intern, who sang in our choir, worked with our youth singers, and graduated this past May. She called today and was very excited to tell me that because of her experience at NPC, she was offered a job as part-time Music Director at St. John's Catholic Church which is just 5 minutes from her home. She was also offered a position teaching preschool at a sister parish, St Christopher's Catholic Church preschool, which is further away from her home. Maddy was thanking God for all of you who made her feel so welcome and loved during her time here as a Wesleyan student, and was attributing her success with these jobs to her time and experience working among us at NPC. I told her how thrilled we all were for her, and how refreshing to have some really great news during this time of Covid virus. Thanks be to God!

## UPDATE FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY June, 2020	
RESTRICTED FUNDS	744,888
OPERATING FUNDS AVAILABLE	186,897
<b>BUDGETED</b>	
YTD INCOME	
Pledges	204,158
RGNP/Loose offering	25,348
Unbudgeted discretionary income	
Interest	504
Miscellaneous	(15)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>229,995</b>
YTD EXPENSES (NET)	230,699
YTD OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(704)
<b>UNBUDGETED</b>	
YTD INCOME	
Good Samaritan	6,781
Special benevolences	
Pentecost Offering	110
One Great Hour	175
Thornwell	70
Loaves & Fishes	3,239
Habitat	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,425</b>
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	<b>240,420</b>

### 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.

