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FAMILIAR FACES!

Thanks be to God, we are adjusting beautifully to an upgraded way to reach out to each other and our community. For those who are able, seeing each other's smiling eyes in person at Sunday worship has been a blessing. For those who have needed to remain at home, we are thankful for our new live-stream capabilities that allow you to see familiar church families and still be with us in a digital world. From weekly Wednesday Bible studies via Zoom, to small group gatherings, we're finding ways to make sure we can still fellowship and grow together.



We will continue to have various opportunities to come together, whether online or in-person as the year continues. We are thankful for our wonderful musicians and choir members who have been able to share their talents in our worship services. We are blessed to be able to continue seeing and hearing life-giving sermons. We are grateful to have our church family during this time!



MUSIC NOTES



"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the House of the Lord." This verse from the Psalms expresses our joy at being able to come together again in person to worship together. And for those of you worshipping via live stream, I know you also feel the joy of being connected as we worship.

We have some wonderful instrumentalists playing for us this month: Our own Rachel Putzke will be playing a piano piece for us, and our bell choir will be playing again also. Pat McCall will be blessing us again with her musical gift, and Calista Koch, harpist, will be playing for us on Nov 29th. Calista will also be back again for our Christmas eve service, a tradition we have all come to love and enjoy.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Lesson and Carols service which will be resented on December 6th. This will be a mostly instrumental service with a few congregational carols thrown in for good measure. Invite someone to join you, either in person or via live stream, as we celebrate the Season of our Savior's birth. And since it is already November (where has this year gone?) Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!!

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Stewardship 2021

Here, There, and *Everywhere*

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Here. There. Everywhere.

Those are the watchwords for our 2021 Stewardship season, which begins on the first Sunday of this month. Those words come to us from Jesus' commission of the apostles in the first chapter of the book of Acts: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus lifts up three zones, three concentric circles of life, into which he sends his church. Jerusalem: here. Judea and Samaria, immediate neighbors: there. "The ends of the earth:" everywhere. Of course, actual geographical Jerusalem is not the center of our lives, but Jesus' threefold sending of his church remains for us a compelling vision of the spheres of his ministry in and around our lives. Where are the places we are called to be stewards of God's blessings and witnesses to God's grace? Here. There. Everywhere. Each zone matters, yet each zone is different.

When your session of elders started this 2020 year, we were excited about dozens of ministry plans and activities for our church in this season. Encouraged by new members and energized by a fresh vision for ministry, we welcomed the new year and looked forward to providing many ways for Northminster's people to be involved in God's good work.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 has prevented nearly all of those plans from bearing much fruit. Alas.

Yet not every branch of our ministry has been lopped off by the virus and its isolations. Obviously our weekly worship has carried on. But I am proud to say that the two other areas of our ministry together that have continued to bloom and grow during this pandemic are our blessing efforts in our Wimbish neighborhood and our regional and global outreach support. As such, our stewardship season this month grounds our witness for 2021 in Jesus' concentric circles of sending.

Our stewardship challenge? To come together in 2021 with our time, talents, and treasure, doing what we can to support our congregation's life together (our Jerusalem), to bless our neighborhood in particular and Macon in general (our Judea and Samaria), and to stay connected to at least a few aspects of what Jesus' church is doing in other parts of the world (our "ends of the earth"). We have much to report to you this month about what we believe God is calling us to in those spheres of influence. And we have a new way for you to indicate your sense of call to our ministries and your financial pledge for next year: both in a revamped and online Time and Talent survey.

Given all this, I'm actually excited about this year's Stewardship Season. Why? Because beyond budgets and buildings, pledges and payments, we get to dream together about the ways God is calling us be witnesses to God's love and mercy in every arena of our lives, individually and collectively. That's the good stuff of "stewardship," the why and the where behind our giving as stewards of God's gifts. Here. There. Everywhere.

I remain honored and energized to be your pastor and friend. RWH

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas shopping has never been so easy!

Due to health concerns, the annual Alternative Christmas Fair will be an online event this year.

Later this month, you will receive simple details about how to give.

These donations make perfect Christmas presents in honor of friends and family who appreciate **the gift of helping those in need!**

MEALS FOR UKIRK



In the past we have requested that the congregation furnish meals for UKirk, our PCUSA Mercer Campus Ministry.

This year the UKirk group is meeting physically, but the Mercer has said that all meals have to be supplied by approved vendors. For this reason UKirk needs our money instead of our food.

The UKirk Board is asking each church in our Northeast Cluster to contribute \$480 for the 2000-2001 academic year. We already have received some contributions from Northminster members, but we still need more. Some of you in the past have said you couldn't physically provide a meal, but you would be glad to contribute financially.

Now is your chance. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Please make your check out to "The Table," and send it to Sam McDuffie, 661 Walton Way, Macon, GA 31204.

LOAVES & FISHES

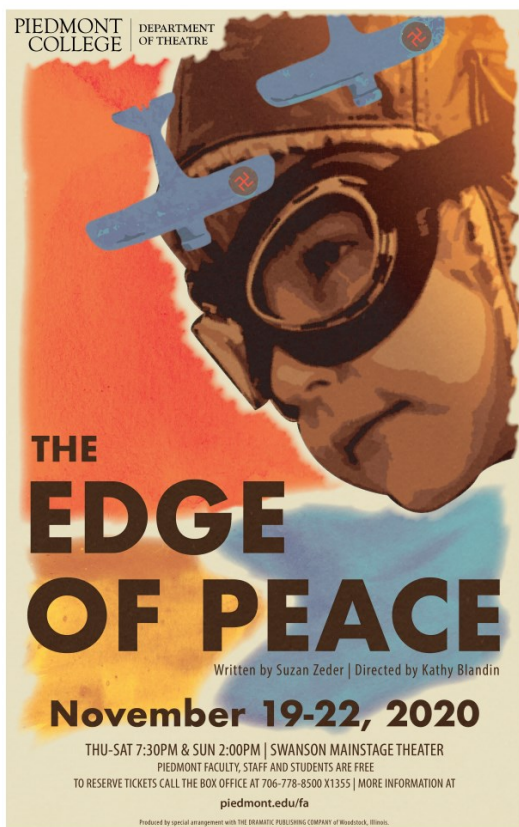


Northminster keeps protein available for Loaves and Fishes clients! Thank you for your ongoing support.

INVITATION FROM MEMBER, ROSIE MILES

PIEDMONT COLLEGE PRODUCTION

Our young member Rosie Miles, daughter of Brad and Nancy Miles, is a student at Piedmont College in Demorest, GA. She has invited us to attend a theatrical production in which she is involved. "The Edge of Peace" will be presented at the college November 19-21 at 7:30pm, and November 22 at 2pm. Social distancing will be practiced for the production. Questions? Contact Rosie Miles @ 478-919-6415.



WONDERFUL REASON TO CELEBRATE!



In these times that seem to be filled with so many negative feelings filling our world, we invite you to share with us in the joy and excitement of our church friends, the Preyna family. Did you know that Brian and Renae Preyna have an adult son, proudly serving in the US Navy? We celebrate with them because on Sunday, November 1st (All Saint's Day), their eldest son welcomed his first child, James Cole Preyna, into the world. Let's join with Brian & Renae as they celebrate being grandparents, and Bernadette as she rejoices in the new life of her first great-grandbaby!

THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you so much for your love, support and prayers during the illness & passing away of Dorothy Massey. She loved this church and felt so welcomed. Now I know why! Your kindness and love among your congregation is exceptional. Thanks also to your pastor who delivered a wonderful eulogy. She would have been so proud.

Love in Christ, Carolyn Maloy (Dorothy's cousin)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 19, 2020 Stated Meeting

Live and in person! Your distanced and masked Session found joy and inspiration in the fellowship that comes when gathering together. Please mark your calendar for a brief but important **Congregational meeting after the service on November 1.**

- **Neighborhood Committee** (Elder Lynn Denny)

The Backpack team is busy supplying weekly food bags for students at Rosa Taylor Elementary who struggle with food insecurity. Although the students are learning virtually, the parents are able to pick up the food once a week.

The Neighborhood committee continues to reach out to our next door neighbors, Macon Recovers. Gift bags with Bibles, snacks, and hygiene items are being assembled to share with clients in need

- **Outreach Committee** (Elder Judy Hill)

Great news! Your Session unanimously approved support for our new missionaries, Rev. George Haugen and his wife, Jeanne. They will be serving in the Kurdish region of Iraq beginning in 2021, as soon as Covid concerns subside. We are planning for them to share a Sunday with our congregation early next year. Because of health concerns, the Alternative Christmas Fair will be an online event. Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, and Thornwell Home for Children will benefit from this year's event.

- **Worship Committee** (Elder Sam Alderman)

The October 18th service/church picnic on the lawn was a huge success! Sandy, with the assistance of Jennifer and Ralph, compiled a CD of music we have enjoyed during this season of worshipping online. Each church family will receive this thoughtful gift.

Live streaming began on Sunday, October 25. If members are unable to attend worship in-person, the service will be streamed live and recorded for viewing anytime at northminstermacon.org

- **Adult Worship Committee** (Charlotte Nolan)

The new virtual Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 and 7:00 has been well received. To join in, just visit the northminstermacon.org website.

- **Membership and Engagement** (Elder Emily Brown)

Small group gatherings have been planned, either virtually or in-person. Please call the church office if you have not signed up.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2021 will be conducted on-line in November. You will receive additional details to explain the process. Updated 'Time and Talent' sheets will also be available.

- **Congregational Care** (Elder Sandra Ridgeway)

Please continue to hold all members in prayer during these stressful times.

Gift bags for our members who can't come to share worship in-person are being delivered. The gift of the NPC music CD will be included.

- **Property Committee** (Elder Beau Kitchens)

A sample of the new pew cushions is available to try out in the sanctuary.

Following CDC guidelines, a new air quality upgrade has been made to the sanctuary HVAC system.