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NORTHMINSTER *Life*

HELP NEEDED—CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY



Saturday, March 13th at 8:30am

We have several exterior jobs that we would like to make sure are completed before Palm Sunday.

These include cleaning up the playground, clean up shrubbery around the edges of the property, and pressure washing our curbs and sidewalk. We are asking all members to use this service opportunity to come together and help make our already wonderful grounds even more beautiful. If you can be here to help Saturday March 13th, beginning at 8:30am (or any time that morning) please let Jennifer in the church office know by calling 478-477-6646 or via email at admin@northminstermacon.org. If you are unable to be here, but you have any landscape tools that you would be willing to lend out for the day, please let us know.

EASTER LILIES



We prayerfully and joyously celebrate our opportunity to gather for worship this Easter after it was so strangely disrupted last year. Because we will be gathering in-person (and still online) we will have potted lilies again in our sanctuary. We ask that each member of our congregation consider purchasing a potted lily for \$12 in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or occasion. Each person who plans to attend worship in person and purchases a lily will be contacted about donating and delivering their lily to another church member who is unable to attend in-person. The deadline for ordering lilies will be Sunday, March 21. We thank you for not only using this opportunity to celebrate and memorialize the gifts for which God has blessed you, but also bringing a beautiful reminder of God's love and hope to those who are unable to physically be with us.



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 January, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist a man, son and his fiancé (who receives disability) with the deposit for a place to live. In the month of February, we were able to assist a man with his rent. He is in the process of moving to his sister's house but needed help with his rent for this week.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

IN THIS ISSUE

MUSIC NOTES

As you all know, we are in the season of Lent, a time of examining and preparing our hearts to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. But you cannot have a resurrection without death and burial. Maybe that's where some of you find yourselves; it could literally be the death of a loved family member, or a hope or dream, or lifestyle, or job. Wondering when life will ever get back to normal, when will worship start to look familiar, will congregational singing return, will choral singing return. The list of questions goes on and on. As we walk thru these 40 days of wondering and examining, keep your eyes on the glorious hope of that Resurrection Sunday when everything is made new and brought to life again. Maybe not in the way we hope or expect, but in God's perfect way and plan.

Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last He will stand upon the earth...then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

And also these words from one of the great Easter hymns:

"The Day of Resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to Life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory."



COVID VACCINE ASSISTANCE

When will we get back to church? That is a question many of us consider often, certainly every Sunday. Streaming has been good, really good!! Its just not the same as live church. It's really hard to recreate the spirituality of our sanctuary. So, when will we return to "normal?" 3 months, 6 months, a year? No one knows for certain.

If interested, the one thing that appears certain is that the Covid vaccine is our best bet to return to normal. Hand washing, distancing, and masks help, but after a year, little has really changed. Many of you are concerned about this new vaccine, and understandably so. The first concern we might hear is, "it's a new vaccine technology." That's not exactly true. This technology was first used around 1990 and fairly well perfected in 2005 during the related SARS/Covid mini epidemic in China. It was rereleased and perfected for Covid in 2020. This vaccine technology will probably be used for the flu vaccine as we move forward.

The second thing we hear, "It was brought to market much faster than any vaccine in history. It was released too fast." This speed factor is true, but it was made possible due to thousands of volunteers who bravely volunteered due to the urgency of this pandemic. Thus, it was quickly brought to market due to a process that normally takes years to decades to produce.

The third, and perhaps most difficult issue is availability. If you are having trouble finding the vaccine, be persistent and do not give up!! It can take some time. To schedule:

- 1) Call the Bibb county health department at 844-987-0099 or 749-0179. Afternoon calls, not morning, seem to work better, or you can go to their website at dph.Georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus. If computers are not your strength, get a family member to help.
- 2) Dr Ben Ho, a family practitioner on Vineville, has a website waiting list. It is a good option and they will respond to you when available.
- 3) Kroger, Publix and Ingles have online sign ins. Go on line to register or have a friend or family member assist if needed. Occasionally just going in person to one of the grocery store pharmacies and asking for a vaccine will work. They sometimes have a spare dose from an open vial.
- 4) Call the church office and our pastor and staff will be happy to help with making reservations, etc.
- 5) You can also pre-register for the vaccine by visiting myvaccinegeorgia.com

As to which vaccine to receive, get the FIRST AVAILABLE, whatever that might be. They are all quite effective. Side effects are typically mild for 12-24 hours and usually only with the second dose. The risk of Covid is SO much greater than any possible risk from the vaccine!! Above all, BE PERSISTENT!

Good luck and ask any questions of either of us. HAVE FAITH!

Drs. Lynn Denny and Minor Vernon

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Missing adult Sunday School? Pastor Ralph will lead a Sunday morning gathering at 9:30am each week on the Sunday after Easter, beginning April 11. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall so we can social distance. Topic to be announced.

EASTER AT NORTHMINSTER

We hope that this Lenten season is giving you time to refocus your life on Christ and the true desires and purpose of His calling. More information will be provided throughout March and in the April Newsletter, but as of now, we want to extend to you and others, the simple invitation to the Palm Sunday service March 28th at 10:30am when we will also be hearing our wonderful bell choir, Maundy Thursday service, April 1st at 6:00pm, and Easter Sunday, April 4th at 10:30am when we Pat McCall and her string trio fill our sanctuary with rejoicing music as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

HE IS RISEN!
Alleluia!
HAPPY EASTER



LOAVES & FISHES 2020



2020 was a year of chaos and uncertainty, leading so many important ministries working overtime to make sure they can continue their missions while keeping everyone safe. The Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon is supported monthly by our church and several others. Over the course of the year, the organization has seen a multitude of changes, and continues its mission to serve those in Macon who are in need of assistance.

Some of the services they were able to provide in 2020 include, but are not limited to: Obtaining birth certificates or Georgia ID's to help job-seekers; providing diapers, food, and hygiene kits; holding Bible study; assisting with prescriptions; and serving over 16,000 meals!

Loaves and Fishes has also been able to perform needed building maintenance and repair from additional local donors. Although Loaves & Fishes is currently not accepting clothing donations, they continue to accept hygiene supplies, diapers, non-perishable and ready-to-eat foods, and monetary donations. Your financial donations go towards current and upcoming projects like heaters & fans, the ID & Birth certificate program, a new awning, industrial-grade microwave, and so much more. Loaves & Fishes thanks you so much for your continued support!