



AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 25

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# NORTHMINSTER *Life*



## NPC YOUTH

Our youth had a wonderful time together at their day on the lake, hosted by Al & Barbara Fatkin. We are so thankful for our students and ask that you join us in prayer for a safe, successful, and stress-free return to school this month. Once the group is settled back into their school routines, we will begin plans for school-year gatherings. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the youth contact list for more group-specific updates, please let Melissa McDougald know - [juragal@gmail.com](mailto:juragal@gmail.com).

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOOK



The neighborhood committee thanks you for your continued generosity supporting the Rosa Taylor Backpack ministry. Your gifts to the annual Christmas in July offering totaled \$3,860. These donations will help to provide backpacks, classroom supplies, and weekly food bags for students and teachers. This ministry provides throughout the entire school year. We invite you to consider continuing to give regularly, whether through monetary gifts or donating your time to help deliver food items 1-2 times a month. If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact Suzann Smith at 478-718-1021 or [rcsws4850@gmail.com](mailto:rcsws4850@gmail.com).

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## WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

A wise mentor of mine once observed, "I don't think we really learn much from our experiences. We learn — we become wiser — only by reflecting on our experiences." His distinction might seem too subtle at first, but I think he has it right. Reflection is the path to growth. Hindsight might just be one of the better gifts God has given us in making us human, bearing God's image in the world.

So it is that your session set aside its normal docket at our July meeting to reflect on our experiences of that last 18 months: the period of COVID 19 lockdown and social distancing. Here is a sampling of some of the wisdom gathered up through conversation:

-- We have learned the value of FLEXIBILITY, of adapting to circumstances beyond our control. We have learned from one another the virtues of patience, forbearance, and mutual support. What will it look like for traditional congregations to practice flexibility going forward?

-- We have learned that a difficult season can also be a time for great CREATIVITY. Not being able to worship together in our sanctuary was at first only a negative; but as time went on our isolation also fostered great creativity in preaching, liturgy, music, and arts. What other challenges we are facing — the ones that present mostly as negatives — might also be spaces for welcoming God's creative work in our lives?

-- Many have come to a fresh appreciation on the use of TECHNOLOGY in study, fellowship, and worship, particularly as it augments rather than dissolves what is important to us about worship as Presbyterians. Rather than seeing technology as always a threat to "traditional" worship, this year has shown that it can be a needed tool for connecting across space and making meaning. What are other ways technology might work for us and our faithfulness, rather than only against us, in the coming seasons?

-- We learned to SLOW DOWN and better APPRECIATE the little blessings in daily living and in our weekly worship. Is too fast a pace, too much busyness, perhaps the greatest enemy of all spiritual maturation?

-- Abstaining from gathered worship for many months, and fasting from the sacraments for a year and half created in many of us a greater APPRECIATION for the physicality of the communion meal and the blessings of communal gathering. There, it turns out, some things that cannot be mediated across the wires. What else might we fast from, intentionally, in order to grow in our appreciation of its blessing in our lives?

What are your deeper reflections on the previous year and half, especially as they relate to following Jesus?

Next month, I'll share with you some of our elder-discernment about the 18 months now before us.

You are loved. Be well. RWH

## MUSIC NOTES

We were truly blessed by some wonderful music in July, and August will be equally wonderful! Our brass ensemble will be playing the next 2 Sundays, August 1st and 8th, followed by Pat McCall, and then, Calista Koch, harpist, will be back on the 29th to close out the month.

I want to give a special word of thanks to **Josh Denny**, who will be leaving us in a few weeks to go to college in Kentucky. We've been so blessed by his trombone playing for the past several years in our brass group, and he will be sorely missed! However, our prayers and best wishes go with him as he begins this new chapter of his life! Come back and play with us any time, Josh!

Bell choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 18th, at 5:00 pm in the bell room. If you have never played a bell, but would like to try, we welcome you. Just show up and we will get you started.

Sunday choir will also resume on August 15th. Come to the choir loft at 10:15 to get the hymns for the day's worship service. You do not have to be a regular chorister....all are welcome!

It's only August, but our annual Lessons/Carols service is already on the books: Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 5th at 10:30 am. Plan to come and bring a friend!

I leave you with a thought from the hymn "When in Our Music, God Is Glorified" "Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let All rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to Sing Always: Alleluia! Alleluia!"

## GOOD SAMARITAN



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 June, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist a family with their utilities (past due amount); another family with their water bill (water turned on) and 2 families with their rent.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

## LUNCH BUNCH



Prior to the pandemic, Northminster members and friends would gather on a monthly basis to enjoy lunch together. Before scheduling a day and place to return to this activity, we would like to see if there is enough interest to do so. If you would like to participate on a regular basis in the Northminster Lunch Bunch group, please let Bonnie Diboll know. 478-318-3443 or home368@cox.net

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

As our newsletters included pre-covid, we have begun including our member's and friend's birthday in our monthly editions once again. Please let Jennifer, in the church office, know if you have a birthday this month that is not listed.

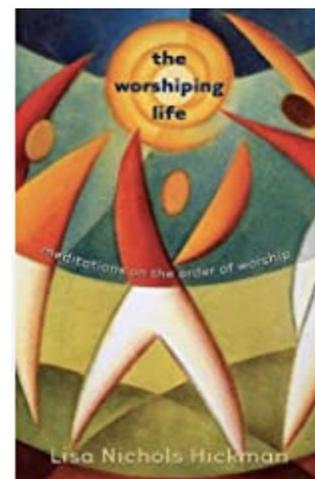
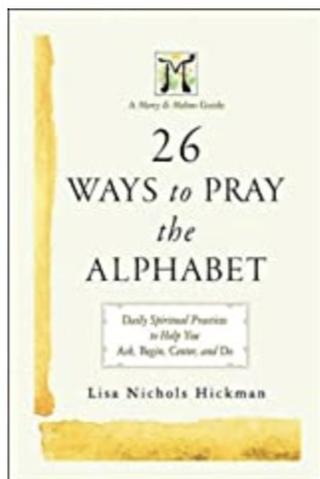
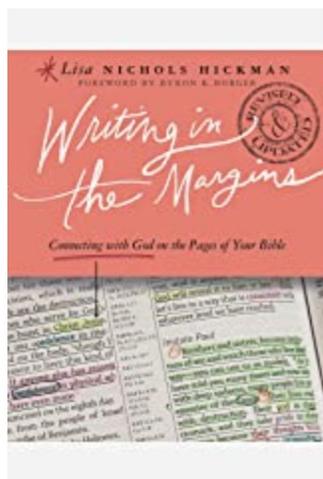
Aug 3 - Emily Brown  
Aug 12 - Ann Hall  
Aug 15 - Ed Clark  
Aug 18 - Kim Emener  
Aug 26 - Ann Bramlett

Aug 8 - Bob Brandler  
Aug 12 - Jackson Gleaton  
Aug 16 - Amy Vogt  
Aug 19 - Ken Walker  
Aug 30 - Jeff Denny

Aug 9 - Ricky Smith  
Aug 13 - Scott Emener  
Aug 18 - Bill Faulkner  
Aug 19 - Mary Beth Shuford  
Aug 31 - CJ Preyna

## WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH DR. LISA NICHOLS HICKMAN

Our Adult Discipleship elder Charlotte Nolan and Ella Cole Alderman invite all women to mark November 12-13 on your calendars for Northminster's fall women's event. Lisa Hickman will be with us Friday evening and Saturday to lead our women's retreat at the church. Meals will be provided. Women: plan to bring your daughters and granddaughters, or your moms and grandmothers, and friends. We will also be inviting women from our sister Presbyterian churches here in Macon and Warner Robins. Women ages 13 and older are encouraged to attend and bring a friend and/or family member. The cost is \$20 per person before Oct 1, \$25 after Oct 1. Registration will begin at the end of August.



## SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Here's a rundown of our Sunday mornings in the month of August:

### August 1

Benjamin Gail, our former sexton, will join us for worship, followed by a reception hosted by our Personnel committee. Additionally, the Session is inviting members who would like to bless our friend in this time of transition to contribute to a love offering, to be presented to him on August 1. Gifts can be made directly to him by way of a collection at the reception, or through the church by designating your gift for Benjamin Gail. Your elders hope these gifts will serve as tokens of our appreciation and as a means of support during this challenging time in his life.



### August 8

Our summer intern, Brandon Davis, concludes his 10-week shared internship by preaching in worship. Members of Wayside Presbyterian Church in Jones County will be joining us for worship and communion. Brandon has been a blessing to both our churches this summer, and we want to send him into his final year at Columbia Theological Seminary with God's blessings.

Also in worship on August 8 will be our new overseas mission partners, George & Jeanne Haugen, who depart for mission service in the Middle East very soon. George was with us earlier in the summer, but this will be Jeanne's first visit to Northminster.

### August 15

The session has called for this Sunday our annual congregational meeting to elect members to our Nominating committee, the group tasked with nominating Ruling Elders for the next 2 years. Elders Charlotte Nolan and Minor Vernon will co-chair the committee this time, together with those elected at this meeting.

### August 15, 22, and 29

The remaining Sundays in August will be devoted to a special mission challenge. With the unanimous approval of the Session earlier this year, our Outreach committee — Kari Alderman, chair — will be leading us through a multi-week challenge to raise \$10,000 for a much needed project at the Loaves & Fishes ministry to homeless persons, located downtown here in Macon. We have a longstanding financial and volunteer commitment to this important work in our community. As such, your elders hope this mission offering will not only bless Loaves & Fishes' ongoing work by enhancing the facility, but also serve as a way for Northminster, collectively, to offer thanksgiving to God for seeing our congregation through the worst of the pandemic months.

## IDEA & SUGGESTION SUBMISSIONS

We are very excited to things carefully returning to normal. As we begin preparations for the upcoming year and years ahead, we ask that you submit your ideas and suggestions for events, activities, studies, and other gatherings to the office. Your session will take joy in using these to help with future planning. We love our family and want to hear from you! Send your ideas to [admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org) or mail them in.

## THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY

*Thank  
you*

Dearest Friends at Northminster,  
I feel that I am taking a lazy way out by writing to all of you for publishing it in the newsletter to thank you sincerely for all of your many get-well cards, phone calls, visits, and most especially your prayers concerning my recent injuries and illness. You have helped cheer me up and I'm sure - shorten my illness.

In His Loving Name,  
Kathy McCord

Come take a ride on the

# NORTHMINSTER *Express!*



Saturday, October 9, 2021

## GEORGIA & FLORIDA RAILWAY.

		(Central times)			
P.M.	A.M.	lv.	arr.	P.M.	A.M.
1:35	9:00	lv. Augusta	arr.	5:30	11:45
3:30	11:20	lv. Milton	arr.	9:30	3:45
5:00	12:25	lv. Milton	arr.	3:50	9:05
5:10	12:34	lv. Harmony Junction	arr.	3:20	8:50
5:14	12:37	lv. Emmons	arr.	3:15	8:50
5:22	12:44	lv. Rutts	arr.	3:35	8:58
5:30	12:51	lv. Thrice	arr.	3:58	8:58
5:42	12:02	lv. Garfield	arr.	2:45	8:23
5:58	12:15	lv. Summit	arr.	2:34	8:07
6:02	12:19	lv. Graymont	arr.	2:22	8:03
6:12	12:27	lv. Wade	arr.	2:15	7:53
6:31	12:43	lv. Stillmore	arr.	2:35	8:43
6:45	12:54	lv. Kenfield	arr.	1:45	7:38
6:55	1:05	lv. Oak Park	arr.	1:35	7:30
7:05	1:15	lv. Penhoopoe	arr.	1:28	7:02
7:05	1:15	lv. Normantown	arr.	1:18	6:57
7:30	1:38	lv. Vidalia	arr.	1:00	6:35
8:00	1:58	lv. Petros	arr.	12:40	6:13
8:35	2:15	lv. Alaton	arr.	12:25	6:00
8:38	2:25	lv. Charlottesville	arr.	12:04	5:59
8:43	2:40	lv. Oriem	arr.	11:55	5:51
8:58	2:56	lv. Hazelhurst	arr.	11:43	5:22
8:15	3:13	lv. Hazelhurst	arr.	11:26	5:05
8:15	3:13	lv. Ruper	arr.	11:11	4:52
8:28	3:28	lv. Denton	arr.	10:56	4:44
8:42	3:59	lv. Gairn	arr.	10:36	4:33
8:55	4:07	lv. Semino	arr.	10:27	4:12
9:00	4:12	lv. Douglas	arr.	10:12	4:00
9:05	4:17	lv. Vickers	arr.	9:58	7:47
9:05	4:17	lv. Douglas	arr.	10:12	7:45
9:05	4:17	lv. O'Sherry	arr.	9:49	7:24
9:05	4:17	lv. Mora	arr.	9:45	7:18
9:05	4:17	lv. Willacoochee	arr.	9:35	7:08
9:05	4:17	lv. Willacoochee	arr.	9:34	7:06
9:05	4:17	lv. Hancock	arr.	9:22	6:58
9:05	4:17	lv. Weber	arr.	9:09	6:45
9:05	4:17	lv. Whites	arr.	8:53	6:27
9:05	4:17	lv. Nashville	arr.	8:53	6:27
9:05	4:17	lv. Nashville	arr.	8:53	6:27
9:05	4:17	lv. Alleville	arr.	8:40	6:12
9:05	4:17	lv. Kay's Mill	arr.	8:30	6:05
9:05	4:17	lv. Barrett	arr.	8:20	5:52
9:05	4:17	lv. Bennett	arr.	8:08	5:41
9:05	4:17	lv. A. C. Junction	arr.	7:50	5:22
9:05	4:17	lv. Valdosta	arr.	7:49	5:22
9:05	4:17	lv. Valdosta	arr.	7:49	5:22

### SCHEDULE

- 9:00am Boarding bus at Northminster
- 9:30am Depart Northminster station
- 11:30am Arrive Nashville depot
- 12:00pm Lunch at Nashville Farmers Market
- 1:00pm **Depart aboard Azalea Sprinter**
- 3:00pm **Return to Nashville depot**
- 3:30pm Depart Nashville on bus
- 5:30pm Return to Northminster station

Bring your own picnic lunch!  
Drinks, ice, and treats provided.



### TICKETS

- \$25 for 1 Presbyterian
- \$45 for 2 Presbyterians
- \$60 for 3 Presbyterians
- \$80 for 4 Presbyterians

Tickets include bus transportation and train ride.

Register in the church office or online at [northminstermacon.org/train](http://northminstermacon.org/train)

sponsored by Charlotte Nolan (Elder) and Ralph & Ella Hawkins (Train Lovers!)