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# NORTHMINSTER *Life*

## YOUTH & CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS



Thank you to everyone who gave and participated in the youth Bingo lunch. The youth were able to raise \$910 from the event to be used to help cover the costs of Montreat. This annual, week-long youth retreat gives students an opportunity to experience fellowship, Biblical learning, and lots of fun together with other youth from around our Presbytery. The cost for each youth will depend on how many are in attendance, but is typically around \$550 per student/chaperone.



Mark your calendars for 11:45am, February 27th, for the annual Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale! This church-wide event will also help raise money for the youth to attend Montreat. We'll have our very own best-of-the-best auctioneer: Minor Vernon leading our bake sale again. Drop-off for bake sale donations will be open February 21st-24th from 9am-1pm, or you can bring your baked goods Sunday morning.

## 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 December, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist five different families with their rent. One of the people helped had been out of work for over a month with Covid. Her landlord is working with her and she has a stable job. Another family needed help with rent because of loss of job with a temp service but has now started a new job at Navicent.**

**Four other families needed help with their power bill. One individual works part time as a daycare worker. When she moved to a different apartment the power bill was higher. Another individual had worked as a custodian until she had a stroke 5 years ago. She has moved to a new section 8 house in Macon and her power bill is much higher than in Byron.**

Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

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## MUSIC NOTES



We wrapped up 2021 with a wonderful Christmas celebration at the church, through our annual Lessons and Carols service, and as a music ministry at our annual Christmas party. Our chancel choir singers, bell choir ringers, and special musicians are a blessing to our church. We have been blessed to have special musicians, Colony IV Brass, who brought their joyous sounds to our sanctuary over the holiday season. Thank you to each of our music ministry members. If you've been considering singing with the choir, please join us Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the choir loft. There is no need for a commitment - simply come when you can! If you're thinking about joining the bell choir, please join us for rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 5pm downstairs in the bell choir room (at the back of the building). All are welcome! We hope that 2022 holds peace, joy, and beautiful music for each of you.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE



The Northminster Neighborhood Committee is working to purchase a washer and dryer for the Rosa Taylor clothes closet. Not only do some of the students, particularly those in younger grades and special education, face special needs including an opportunity to remain in clean clothes throughout their school day. This committee has been diligently helping to make sure the clothes closet is stocked with school uniforms (purchased from local clothing banks), new socks, and new undergarments for students. With access to a washer and dryer, faculty can make sure they are getting the most out of the clothes closet. The Neighborhood Committee asks for your help in providing these much needed appliances. Our goal is to raise \$2,000. We will be collecting the money from now until March 6.

One option for giving is to use credit card points to donate gift cards. We will purchase the washer and dryer from Lowe's.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Flowers, Flowers, Everywhere!** In the gloom of winter, let's remember the joy that flowers bring! Celebrate your special occasion or loved one by placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday. Use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or call the church office.



### **Wanted: Greeters and Ushers**

We are compiling a list of individuals to serve both as greeters/ushers each Sunday. Please call Jan Hirsh at 478-952-6480 or email at [jhirsh1020@gmail.com](mailto:jhirsh1020@gmail.com) to add your name to the list.



### **Communion**

We are officially reinstating our practice of having the Lord's Supper on there first Sunday of every month. In lieu of Ralph's trip to Pennsylvania to support Deb in attendance of her mother's funeral, we will be postponing the February communion to the second Sunday. Join us on February 13.

## FEBRUARY STUDY SERIES

We are continuing our church-wide study through the month of February:

# Poems for Presbyterian Pilgrims

Led by Pastor Ralph, we invite you to gather Sundays (in-person) or Wednesdays (online). Together we are exploring a handful of poems that have stood the test of time, speaking to themes of Christian faith, and reminding us of the gift of beautiful words in such a banal time in which we live. Even if you have not yet been able to attend, you are welcome to join us any of the following times. Please note, the shift in Sunday schedules from our previous publication.

**In Person** at church  
Sunday Mornings  
9:30am

February 13  
February 20  
February 27

**Online** via Zoom  
Wednesday Evenings  
7:00pm

February 2  
February 9  
February 16  
February 23

## CARING FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AND BUILDING



Giving to your church not only helps our ministries, outreaches, staff, and worship services, but also continues to provide essential needs for our building. Recently, we suffered a break in the water main leading into the building. Damage to the carpet and a few pieces of furniture in our basement, under the sanctuary, resulted from this leak. The church insurance company and Paul Davis Restoration are working to ensure all damage is repaired. We want to thank our church members and regular givers for your donations to not only our ministry programs, but to our building and everyday bills, such as insurance and utilities. These are essential for us to continue functioning and maintaining our beautiful building and we owe the ability to pay these expenses to you. Thank you for caring for your church as a family and as a physical structure!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Feb 4 - Helene Olk  
Feb 14 - Joe Watwood  
Feb 21 - Lynn Southerland

Feb 11 - Patty Martin  
Feb 17 - Rachel Putzke

Feb 11 - Ella Cole Alderman  
Feb 17 - John Putzke

## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

There was a gentleman at a small-town church who would frequently lead prayer, each time ending his talk with God by saying, "and please keep us propped up on our leaning side." The pastor approached him one day and asked about what he meant by this phrase. The man, aged with years of working his land, said that one day he'd been out in his field and looked toward the old wooden barn, seeing it from a new angle, and he noticed it was leaning. The barn was older than he and had been built by his father with love, pride, and joy in what he'd created. The structure still served its purpose well, so the man chose not to tear it down, and instead used large posts to prop up the side that leaned so that it would not continue shifting farther. He realized, through that work, that we are like the barn, tired from the storms of life and sometimes struggling to stay upright. But when we are not yet done fulfilling our earthly purpose, we need something strong to lean against so we won't fall. We need to ask God to prop us up on our leaning side.