



DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME 26

NUMBER 12

# NORTHMINSTER

## *Life*

### ANNUAL LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 4th, we are excited to welcome back the Generation Fusion string quartet and other wonderful musicians for our annual service of lessons and carols, directed by our new music minister, Gunner Chancey. Join us at 10:30<sup>AM</sup> for what is sure to be a beautiful service.

### ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The annual Alternative Christmas Fair is a unique way to give a gift that "gives" twice. By giving a donation in any amount to any or all of the supported ministries, you will be given a card to gift to a friend or family member, letting them know you have given a donation in their honor.

Join us immediately following the service on Sunday, December 4th for this wonderful event. You may also give by mail or online.

**Thornwell, Antioch Partners,  
Heifer International,  
Habitat for Humanity**

### SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH AT 5PM

The Christmas Season can host a world of joy and wonder, but also reminders of hurt and heartbreak. Whether the holidays are a difficult reminder of loved ones lost or struggles current, we all need to be reminded that there is blessing and hope in the season. Northminster is holding a Blue Christmas worship service Sunday, December 4th at 5pm in our sanctuary. Beautiful in its simplicity, this service is designed for all of those who struggle to find peace and hope this time of year. Everyone is welcome.

**Blue Christmas**  
A simple service of music and readings for those who find the holiday season challenging

### IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2: 2023 directory; December events and announcements; Birthdays; October Financials

Page 3: Youth Announcements; Christmas Joy offering; Good Sam

Page 4: January events; Member thanks & announcements



## 2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Throughout the Advent season, we ask all members and friends to stop in the activity room before or after worship to have your picture updated for the 2023 church directory. All contact information will also be reviewed, so even if you prefer we use your 2019 photo, we will still need you to verify your name spelling, address, phone number, and email. Thank you!

### NEW MEMBERS—DECEMBER 11

Our session will be meeting Sunday morning, December 11 at 9:30am in the church library to welcome a group of new members to our congregation. Anyone else interested in joining Northminster this time, speak to elder Jinny McDuffie (478-731-1943) or Jennifer in our office (478-318-7911).

### MEN'S HOLIDAY BREAKFAST—DECEMBER 18

Attention Men! Come to worship early on December 18 at 9am and share in some holiday breakfast. Our three current undergraduate men—Josh Denny, Austin Emener, and Ben Shuford—will all be home from college and we want to fellowship with them. Bring your empty stomach and some good cheer.

### MUSIC HOLIDAY PARTY—DECEMBER 18

Hark the herald angels sing... eat, drink & be merry! All choir members and musicians (and their spouses) are invited to bring your holiday cheer and a dish to share for this year's music holiday party—Sunday, December 18th at 5:30<sup>PM</sup> at the home of Catherine Woody. Contact Judy Hill at 478-731-7941 to RSVP or with questions.

### CHRISTMAS DAY—DECEMBER 25

Because we will worship robustly on Christmas Eve, we will not hold a worship service on Sunday morning, December 25. However, Pastor Ralph and fiancé Deb are hosting a brunch at 10am Christmas morning, at the church, for anyone who would like to join them. They especially want anyone without family in town or otherwise alone that morning to come and fellowship. There is nothing for anyone to bring except themselves! They only ask that you RSVP so they have a happy headcount. Let Ralph or Jennifer know if you would like to attend!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 5—Gail Walker  
Dec 13—Abby Smith  
Dec 18—Jeanne Roddenberry

Dec 6—Frenchie Bowen  
Dec 15—Mary Alice Wilson  
Dec 22—Sharon Sulkers

Dec 12—Hannah Denny  
Dec 17—Roland Hill  
Dec 30—Eric Roddenberry

### October 2022 Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

- NPC has received \$348,034.66 in pledges, which is \$16,317.96 more than the \$331,716.70 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$22,327.00 from regular (no pledge) givers, which is \$2,673.00 less than the \$25,000 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$7,123.11 in loose offerings, which is \$13,710.19 less than the \$20,833.30 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$13,569.66 in offerings for unbudgeted and outreach programs.
- NPC has spent \$392,973.05 which is \$17,292.45 more than the \$375,680.60 that was planned to be spent so far this year.
- NPC has received \$391,054.43 in total income and has spent a total of \$392,973.05, which leaves us with a deficit of \$1,918.62.

## YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS & OUTREACHES



Throughout the month of November, the youth collected bottled water and donations for the same. Because of the (once again) amazing generosity of our congregation, the Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon will have almost 6,000 bottles of water to give to those in need! Thank you so much for stepping up to fill this need.



Sunday, December 18th is youth ugly-sweater day! Youth are invited to come to worship in your tackiest Christmas sweater and enjoy fellowship and lunch after worship.

## 2022 CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their

communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



## 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 October, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist six different families with their power bill. One client needed help with his high bill. Due to difficulties adjusting to his age; relocating to low-income housing; and stretching his disability check, caused him to need help. He was incredibly grateful for the help.**

**Another client was receiving assistance from her son but he was shot and killed a couple of weeks ago. She is struggling with her grief and less income to pay her bills.**

**Another client's apartment was flooded and she couldn't stay in the apartment due to mold and uninhabitable circumstances. The landlord supplied very little assistance and she has many more bills due and had to get small loans to pay for hotel for her and her 4 grandchildren.**

**Also, we continue to help clients at Loaves & Fishes with transportation issues by purchasing bus passes.**

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

## JANUARY HAPPENINGS

**January Communion**—We will share in communion together for January on the 15th.

**Installation of New Elders**—Sunday, January 22, our worship service will include the installation of our 2023-24 elders: Jeff Denny, Nita McCord, and Donna Shuford. During the first part of January, all former elders should receive an invitation to the installation breakfast being held before the January 22 worship service.

**Congregational Meeting**—Sunday, January 29th, immediately following the worship service, we will hold a congregational meeting to review and vote on pastor Ralph's 2023 Terms of Call.

**Church-wide BINGO!** - The youth will host the annual BINGO! Games in the month of January. Keep an eye on your bulletin and weekly emails for details on the date and time.

## THANK YOU, NORTHMINSITER FAMILY

No words can adequately express the struggle of leaving my church after almost 50 years of membership. My moving to Statesboro was necessary, but was brought on with regret and sadness of leaving this church, friends, and the growth of my faith. It is difficult to say goodbye to the various ministries offered through Northminster, and especially those in which I participated. I thank our God who has helped and blessed me in making probably the most difficult decision I will ever have to make again.

I was graciously honored on Sunday, November 13, with such kind words for my time at Northminster, the gift of the NIV "Woman's Study Bible", and a wonderful reception with many well wishes, and delicious treats. My heart will always be a part of Northminster and I will look forward to worshipping with you "AGAIN AND AGAIN" when I am visiting Macon.

With abundant love and heartfelt thanks, Lynn Davis

## WELCOME BABY AIELLO!

Members, Dave and Abby Aiello welcomed baby number three November 29th. Join us in wishing them a sincere congratulations!



## LOAVES & FISHES RAISE THE ROOF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 23rd, our congregation gathered under the very roof that they helped fund at Loaves and Fishes of Macon. This new covered pavilion is providing an outdoor space, safe from the elements, for meal and grocery pick-up, Bible studies, and more. We are thankful to be part of this wonderful project and pray that it serves its purpose well for many years to come.

