



NORTHMINSTER *Life*

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YOUTH & 2023 GRADUATES



Join us **Sunday, May 7**, as we celebrate our 2023 seniors. Six of our youth will be graduating from high school this year, and we will honor them that day with a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. Please plan to come and help us celebrate the accomplishments of **Ella Cole Alderman, Kendall Emener, Ella Hawkins, Andy Preyna, David Preyna, and Ella Smith**.



When we baptize small children as Presbyterians, we take vows to support them and their parents in the lifelong work of Christian formation. Even seniors in high school benefit from those sacred promises. Recently members Amy Maley and Jeff Denny led a class for our graduating seniors on financial management in college and navigating undergraduate academics. Amy is a professional financial advisor and Jeff is one of the academic deans at Mercer University. We thank them for loving on our seniors and sharing their good wisdom! Thanks, too, to Donna Shuford (our Youth Discipleship elder) for setting up this event.



A wonderful group of Northminster members recently attended **Rebecca Layfield's senior voice recital** at Wesleyan College. Rebecca has been our musical intern in worship for several years now during her studies at the college. We are proud of her accomplishments and pray God's blessings on her post-undergraduate endeavors!

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MISSION HOME RUN FOR DOMINICAN YOUTH



Our pastor has been involved in a Presbyterian mission partnership in the Dominican Republic for many years. In March, a young Dominican pastor he knows reached out to ask if Northminster could help him and his congregation start a local baseball club so the church could minister to boys who have nothing to do and need to stay out of trouble. With the session's blessing and with elder Kari Alderman's leadership (Kari is our Outreach elder), the Preyna family in our church was recruited to spearhead the efforts. All of the Preyna young men live and breathe baseball! Thanks to your generosity, we have collected a great deal of used equipment and raised over \$2000 to 1. purchase some new equipment and 2. pay for shipping of

the items to the Dominican Republic. We look forward to hearing more from our new friends in the Caribbean. Thank you, Northminster, for always responding to the nudges of the Holy Spirit among us.



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. Financial hardships are abounding in our community for people who have spent their lives taking one step forward and two steps back, and people who have experienced unforeseen hardships. **This month, we are especially thankful that through our Good Samaritan fund, we are able to help a member of sister church, Wayside Presbyterian, with funds to assist a special situation. A member has adopted two children within their family to prevent their going into foster care, but the member is on a very fixed income. We pray that our assistance, along with additional gifts from other churches within our Flint River Presbytery, will be a blessing to this family.**

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE



From May 15–31, pastor Ralph will be on vacation. In celebration of Ella's graduation from high school, they will be road-tripping around the state of Colorado — enjoying creation's great western beauty and, of course, riding a great many historic trains! If during that time you have need of a pastoral presence, please reach out to Jennifer in our office or elder Genny Whitaker (478-731-5248). They will have access to pastors in our presbytery cluster, such as Rev. Curtis White at St. Andrews church and our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Deb Tregaskis. Ralph's time away includes the Sundays of May 21 and 28. We are excited to have Rev. Fairy Caroland preach on May 21. Fairy is a retired PCUSA minister who recently moved to Macon and who worships with us from time to time. On

May 28, Pentecost Sunday, our EP Deb Tregaskis will bring the preaching for us.

NORTHMINSTER T-SHIRTS



T-shirts featuring the late Gene Kelly's sketch of Northminster are available for pre-order! See your blue response sheet for the order form or email Jennifer at admin@northminstermacon.org. Shirts are \$20 each and any proceeds will go to our youth ministry.

MUSICAL BLESSINGS



Recently members Tom and Doris Granum were back in Macon (they live in Athens) as Tom was invited by St. Joseph's Catholic Church downtown to play for their weekly spring organ program. A group of members gathered in that beautiful space to enjoy hymns and arrangements shared through Tom's beautiful playing. Currently Tom is organist at a Cooperative Baptist church in Athens.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 5 - Boyd Ellison
May 11 - Martha Hopkins
May 14 - Ella Smith
May 23 - Rex Tidwell
May 31 - Martha Thomas

May 10 - Harvey Roddenberry
May 11 - Ken Mayhew
May 15 - Virginia Cowsert
May 26 - Sarah Morrow

May 11 - Betty Lamb
May 14 - Melissa McDougald
May 19 - Amanda Smith
May 29 - Al Fatkin

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - MARCH 2023

As of March 31, NPC has:

- Received \$100,705.91 in pledges
- Received \$8,685 from regular (no pledge) givers
- Received \$5,941.71 in loose offerings
- Received \$3,672.99 for outreach programs
- Spent \$121,911.74 on budgeted and outreach expenses

*Summary: NPC has received \$119,005.61 in total income and has spent a total of \$121,911.74 which leaves us with a deficit of \$2,906.13

PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure. Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends. As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence. Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation. Amen.
-Marquette University