



# NORTHMINSTER *Life*

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## CHILI COOKOFF & BAKE SALE

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

Get those crock pots and ovens ready! You don't want to miss this annual even hosted by our youth. Bring your favorite chili or Brunswick stew to enter in the competition. Don't forget the desserts! We'll be auctioning off your donated goodies - these funds allow our youth to attend their annual trip to the Montreat Youth Conference.



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

It's almost that time again! Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday, and we'll join together for the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday February 13 at 6:00 PM. It's also known as Fat Tuesday so there'll be lots more than just pancakes - eggs, grits, bacon, sausage and fruit. Sounds good, doesn't it. Elder Jeff Denny will lead us in a short devotional. Sign up on the blue sheet included in your bulletin. Cost is \$7.00 per person with a \$20 limit per family.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

## SUNDAY STUDIES



We have begun the first of three 6-week sessions of multi-generational Sunday studies! These sessions will be led by some of the amazing faculty of Mercer's Department of Religion. The first, Christian Ethics as faithful Innovation, is being led by Paul Lewis. The second series, Lent for Everyone, will be led by Brian Whitfield. The third series, Do Pharaohs Still Exist, will be led by Janell Johnson. We hope you will plan to come. We'll be gathering at 9:00 with a light continental breakfast. Childcare will be provided for our youngest members, and we're hard at work on more plans for children and youth.

# *Lent:* Learning the Lord's Prayer and the Language of Love

You know well how we Presbyterian Preachers like our alliterations. So I'm pleased to report: Brother Bailey is Back! And then I'll add this: In Lent we are Learning the Lord's Prayer and the Language of Love!

Back in Advent, we welcomed the teaching of the late Dr. Kenneth Bailey through his video series: A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus.

Ken was a huge hit. So we thought, let's enjoy Ken again! I'm pleased to report that we will offer a Lenten series featuring his videos, two times each Wednesday in Lent. At 10am in the morning, Jeanne Roddenberry will show Ken's 30 minute video and then lead in discussion. This is our traditional Wednesday morning women's study slot. At 7pm each Wednesday evening, anyone and everyone is welcome to join me on the Zoom platform to view Ken's work and then share in discussion with me. Same content, two different spaces; in person in the morning and online in the evening.

We'll do four weeks with Ken's series on the Lord's Prayer, unpacking Jesus' teaching about praying in Matthew chapter 6. Then we'll spend three weeks with Ken's short series on 1 Corinthians 13, Paul's famous chapter outlining the shape of Christian love.

Both of these passages — the Lord's Prayer and the Love chapter — are so well known already. But that's where Dr. Bailey shines. He often said to audiences, "Our job is to rescue the truths of scripture from the clutches of familiarity." We all enjoyed his rescue of the birth stories of Jesus, so now we let him do this good work with prayer and love.

Many of you have heard me report how I came to be Ken's friend and even pastor during his retirement years in western Pennsylvania and my tenure as the pastor to Shenango Presbytery, of which he was a minister member. He's truly one of the better teachers of scripture I have known, and I learned a great deal from him regarding both content and its communication.

Ken spent more than 40 years teaching Protestant seminary students in the Middle East, a tenure that granted him personal access to both ancient and contemporary Palestinian culture. He steadily applied those cultural and linguistic insights to the texts of our Bibles, helping us in the West appreciate Jesus, Paul, and the rest of our teachers in their original context and tongue. When travel for him became too difficult, I was honored to represent Dr. Bailey in a ceremony in Cairo, Egypt, in 2014, celebrating the anniversary of an Arabic translation of scripture by the Egyptian Bible Society. Ken died at age 85 in 2016, and I was again honored to play a part in his memorial service. These days, I sit on the board of FoMENTS: the Foundation for Middle Eastern New Testament Studies, a group Ken set up in retirement to continue his scholarly aims after his death. I have built their website, which you can review at [www.kennethbailey.net](http://www.kennethbailey.net).

So, again I say: Brother Bailey is Back, for Lent! Come join us. **We start February 21.**

RWH

*Women*

Wednesday mornings @ **10am**  
in the Community Room  
discussion led by Jeanne Roddenberry

*Everyone!*

Wednesday evenings @ **7pm**  
online via Zoom  
discussion led by Ralph Hawkins



## CHOIR

### Wednesdays at 7pm

The Northminster choir is an excellent opportunity to lead and lift our prayers and praises to God through music every Sunday morning. Practices are held every Wednesday night at 7pm in the choir room downstairs (enter through the rear door near the playground) and warm-ups begin Sunday mornings at 10am before worship. We can't wait to see you there!

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Each of our 10 church committees will be gathering Sunday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>** after worship for their first of five meetings this year. Location of each meeting within the church building is to be determined. If you would like to join one of the following committees, or simply sit in on a meeting to see what it's all about, please contact the corresponding Elder. Contact the church office for their email or phone number.

- Adult Discipleship & Fellowship – Nita McCord
- Children & Youth Discipleship – Donna Shuford
- Congregational Care – Gail Walker
- Finance – Minor Vernon
- Membership Engagement – Barbara Fatkin
- Neighborhood – Amanda Smith
- Outreach & Mission – Kari Alderman
- Personnel – Michael Napier
- Property – Mark Brown
- Worship – Jeff Denny



St. Peter Claver Catholic Church can use some extra help in their food pantry. Opportunities are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and Wednesdays every month any time between 9am-noon. Please see Minor Vernon for details.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Feb 6 - Barbara Fatkin  
Feb 11 - Ella Cole Alderman  
Feb 17 - Rachel Putzke  
Feb 17 - John Putzke

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 2023

As of December 31, NPC has:

- Received \$372,940.16 in pledges; Received \$67,639.01 from regular (no pledge) givers
- Received \$17,090.48 in loose offerings; Received \$24,201.42 for outreach programs
- Spent \$480,532.37 on budgeted and outreach expenses

Summary: NPC has received \$481,871.07 in total income and has spent a total of \$480,532.37.

At our annual January congregational meeting, your session asked our members to consider increasing 2024 pledges or making a one-time financial gift. Our hope is to balance our 2024 ministry budget, now that we are feeling the loss of some of our generous saints who have gone on before us and who supported our congregation so faithfully. Those losses, plus the challenges of inflation and the costs associated with post-tornado repairs to our building, have put a strain on this years budget. **Please bring your Pledge Card to worship this Sunday, February 4**