



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

...making disciples, growing in faith together and serving others in Christ

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

10:30AM

Chimes

Welcome

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Bell Prelude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Frederick Charles Maker

Opening Prayer

Bell Introit

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Attributed to Martin Herbst

Call to Worship – based on Hymn 166

As you, dear Jesus, contended
and did the victory win,
**O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.**
And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
**yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.**

Hymn No. 166 (standing)

Lord Who throughout These Forty Days

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Gracious God,
you despise nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that, truly repenting of our sins
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
[over]**

**full pardon and forgiveness,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Hear our prayers ...

[silent prayer]

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – Deuteronomy 6:16-21

Response No. 175, verse 1 (seated) *Seek Ye First*
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Remembering the Law of Love – based on Matthew 22:37-40

What is the great and first commandment?

**Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.**

What is the second commandment like it?

Love your neighbor as yourself.

What does this mean?

Love is the fulfilling of God's law.

To what does this call us?

To a life of faith working through love.

Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher; arr. Bill Ingram

Doxology No. 606

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession, Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn No. 837 (seated)

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Scripture – Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon – Lent: In the wilderness with Jesus – Part Three: Do not test Lord your God

Hymn No. 839 (standing)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Charge and Benediction

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Response

NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

John Wyeth, arr. Robert Lau



Information & Announcements

Welcome Friends and Guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information in the red book located in the pew so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship.

Prayer Concerns

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Jane Prentice; Evelyn Clark; Rex & Nita Tidwell; Joan Walker; Mary Alice Wilson; Annette Hutto; Sarah Morrow; Larry Smallwood - *Current Friends and Family Concerns:* Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Karen Kuebel (Betty Lamb's niece, sodium deficiency); Christopher Oxford (Isabel Davis's grandson); Rhonda Weaver; Suzann Smith's sister-in-law (severe vision problems); Kimberly Lewis (Frenchie Bowen's niece); Louise Sallstrom; Kyra Osmus; Lucile Hawkins; Barbara Barczak (Bernadette Preyna's sister); Barbara Hayes (Friend of Bernadette Preyna) – *Military Personnel Prayer List:* Austin Riley (David & Liz Riley's son); Joshua Sulkers (Sharon Sulkers' son); James Watwood; Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson); James Barefoot, Austin Jones, and James Hawkins (family friends of Jennifer Whitehead)

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the weekly flower arrangements, whether in celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the board in the foyer. Arrangements are \$65 (payable to Northminster) and can be taken home with you or gifted to one of our homebound or sick members.

2026 Easter Lilies

Every year, Northminster congregants help fill our sanctuary with potted Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday. These flowers represent beautiful memories of loved ones with celebration for their life. Please see your blue sheet for information about having a lily for your loved one(s). After worship on Easter morning, lilies can be taken home or taken to someone you know who could appreciate their beauty. Cost is \$15 each; checks can be made payable to the church with "lilies" in the memo line.

Men's Breakfast – March 11th

All men are invited to breakfast at H&H Restaurant, 807 Forsyth Street, this Wednesday, March 11th at 7AM. This is a dutch treat event.

Small Groups

Our small groups have begun and everyone is having a wonderful time of fellowship, fun, and food together! There's still time to get involved in small groups, so please let Natalie Vernon (478-957-4550) know if you're interested in joining one.

Youth Meet March 15th

All youth are invited to a St. Patrick's Day Party Sunday, March 15th from noon-2pm. We'll have food, drinks and fun, so invite your friends too!

BINGO! and 5th Sunday Lunch – March 29th

Join us for 5th Sunday lunch (provided by our finance and outreach committees) after worship Sunday, March 29th, in the fellowship hall and purchase your BINGO! cards on your way in. Our annual youth-sponsored BINGO! fundraiser will be combined with this month's lunch to create an afternoon full of fun and fellowship. Get 12 BINGO cards for \$15 or 24 cards for \$25. All proceeds will go to help the youth attend both Middle School and High School Montreat conferences this summer.

Adult & Children's Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets in the community room Sunday mornings at 9AM. Children's Sunday School, for all in 5th grade and under, are invited to join us at 9:30AM in the Kidventure room upstairs near the fellowship hall. Childcare begins at 9AM for parents wanting to attend Sunday School.

Choir Rehearsal Schedules

Bell Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Vocal choir meets every Wednesday from 7:00-8:15 p.m. All are invited to join in!

Flint River Presbytery - Disaster Relief Mission Trip in Western North Carolina

A joint mission trip with Savannah Presbytery has been scheduled to provide Hurricane Helene related relief in and around Canton, North Carolina. Up to 20 volunteers are needed to perform a variety of services, from group support and transportation to clean-up, repairs and new construction under local guidance. Donations to assist with trip expenses can be made at on our online giving link at www.flintriverpresbytery.org. Please note that your donation is for disaster relief and note in the memo that this is for the April NC mission trip.

All things property

If you have a concern or question about our building and property, please speak to or contact elder Brad Miles, so he and the property committee can address it. His information can be found on the 2026 Elder Contact bulletin insert.

Contact Pastor Ralph

Ralph welcomes any and all forms of contact at any time: phone, text, email, in-person. Do reach out if conversation, prayer, and/or a visit would be a blessing to you. A normal work week includes working from home on Mondays; office time, meetings, and visitation on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and normally Fridays as a day off. Weekends often include congregational and presbytery activities.
cell: 478-250-3355 email: pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News; SESSION of Ruling Elders: Scott Emener; Amy Maley; Nita McCord;

Brad Miles; Renae Preyna; Gregg Reed; Jeanne Roddenberry; Amanda Smith; Sharon Sulkers; Natalie Vernon

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder DAVID KENNEY, SR., Music Director PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

SAM ALDERMAN, III, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00-1:00; Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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