



NORTHMINSTER *Life*

September 2026

Volume 31

Number 9

SUNDAY STUDIES FOR ADULTS & YOUTH

We've all enjoyed the teaching of Ralph and Deb as they have led us through the book of Job. Sunday, September 6, is the last day of this series.

For our upcoming series, the wonderful faculty of Mercer University will be helping us once again. Beginning September 13th, Tiffany Anderson will be leading a 7 week study on Christian Popular Culture for Youth. This will be an exciting intergenerational study so please plan to join us! In Tiffany's words, "I hope to consider these cultural products as creations of intentional adults."

Beginning November 1st, Andrew Gardner will be with us again to lead a study of the early Church. Andrew picked this topic because of the interest shown in it when he was with us before. His series will run through December 13th with a break on November 29th for Thanksgiving weekend.

Northminster is very fortunate to have our own visiting scholars from Mercer to lead our Youth and Adult Sunday school. Join us at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in the community room downstairs. There is great value in your time there!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Northminster kids are having a blast in Kidventures with Mrs. Virginia and helpers, Elizabeth & Anna! Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Bring a friend and join us for lessons, crafts, and snacks as we learn about how to care and share the way Jesus wants us to! Everyone, 5th grade and under, is welcome! Childcare begins at 9 a.m. for those wanting to attend adult Sunday school.

SMALL GROUPS

Our 2026 Small Groups continue to meet through the month of December. Leaders have been contacted, and all groups are encouraged to have at least one more gathering. Have fun thinking of a new game to play, a new restaurant to try, or perhaps a movie to attend. In January, we will form new groups with some new activities. Updates for ways you can sign up to participate in a small group will be announced soon. Keep an eye on your weekly email and bulletin for more! Enjoy your time of fellowship, and just call Natalie Vernon if you wish to join a group now. [478-957-4550](tel:478-957-4550).

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to breakfast at H&H Restaurant, 807 Forsyth Street, Wednesday, September 9th at 7AM. This is a dutch treat event.



Centenary
Community
Ministries, Inc.

re-cycle MACON

FALL BIKE CO-OP

Wednesday, September 16th from 5-7pm
Centenary UMC Fellowship Hall - 1185 Ash St.

Re-Cycle Macon is back up and running! Come share a meal with us and practice your bike tech skills on one of our donated bikes. All are welcome to fellowship with us as we work to fix bikes for our community members in need of reliable transportation.

*For more info, reach out to CCMI Executive Director
Rev. Rachel Paul Hartman at rachel@centenarymacon.org*





U...
SING...

U-SING!

Those of you who grew up watching *The Electric Company* probably get my visual humor above. For those of you scratching your head a bit, I can explain. This educational TV show featured a segment to help young people with spelling and syllables. It was called "Soft-Shoe Silhouettes". Two people were shown on-screen as silhouettes, and the first person would say the first part of the target word, and the second person would say the second part of the word. Then the two people would say the entire word in unison. For those of you saying "Huh?" or "What does this have to do with Northminster's music ministry?"...

Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great... **opportunities**, which shall be for all people! Our wonderful vocal choir has enjoyed a summer break and is back in the loft, both to lead hymns and provide beautiful anthems to support the preaching of the Word. We have so much fun making a joyful noise together, and all of us have an invitation for you.

How about "**U-SING**"? (How about I use a more complete sentence?)

How about "**U-SING**" with the choir? (Or...)

How about "**U-SING**" your voice when "**U-SING**" with the choir? (I'm here all week, folks.)

Psalm 105 (*The Message* translation) more deeply invites us, as it clearly says "**U-SING**":

Thank God! Pray to Him by name! Tell everyone you meet what He has done!
Sing Him songs, belt out hymns, translate His wonders into music!

I know what some might be saying: "I can't commit for the long term" or "I can't make all those rehearsals". If "**U-SING**", I will meet you in the middle. I will only ask you to sing on two specific Sundays before Christmas--**October 25** and **November 29**. Also, I will provide you with copies of the music and recording links to help you learn the music at home. You may come to any Wednesday rehearsal you wish, to hear how your dulcet tones blend with the ensemble. How's that for meeting you in the middle? (And if you get hooked, be assured we have chairs and robes to share!) **ALL AGES** are welcome to help us sing God our songs, to belt out the hymns, and to translate God's wonders into music!

* On October 25, we will sing *The Peace of God*, by John Rutter, accompanied by our pipe organ and by our string quartet, Generation Fusion.

* On November 29, we will sing our annual *Lessons and Carols* service, also accompanied by Generation Fusion, along with organ and piano.

Listen to God's call to **ALL** of you today: "**You**, SING!" (Oops, I mean... "**U-SING!**")

Grace and Peace,
David

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Northminster's Good Sam Fund is alive and well thanks to the generosity of all of you. This is how Centenary Community Ministries is using our Good Sam donations to help those less fortunate.

CCMI recently paid a water bill and light bill for a family that attends their Community Breakfast. The father works full-time but mother has medical issues and cannot work. The Georgia Power portal shows this family has never received assistance and had always paid on time. Their housing situation is substandard, and by helping provide this cushion with these bills, they are able to save for a more adequate housing option.

Again, this is all possible due to the financial support of your congregation—helping someone with their tangible need in a time of crisis. Thank you for being the hands and feet of God in Macon through this support!

INFORMATION MEETING: DOMINICAN MISSION TRIP



We will have a meeting after worship, September 20th, in the library to discuss our 2027 mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Everyone who is interested in participating is invited to attend. Please see Jeanne Roddenberry if you have any questions.



THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY



On behalf of ourselves and our daughter Melissa's family, we would like to thank our friends at Northminster for all the love, prayers, cards and gifts given during Emma's 4 1/2 month cancer journey. She has finished the chemo treatments and has "rung the bell". She will still need some tests and monitoring but hopefully, going forward will be a return to the normal school routine of a 9 year old. Thank you again, Gregg and Julie



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sept 4 - Ben Shuford
Sept 9 - Suzann Smith
Sept 14 - Annette Hutto
Sept 20 - Sam Alderman
Sept 22 - David Preyna

Sept 6 - Abigail Gleaton
Sept 12 - Tim McCord
Sept 15 - Ella Hawkins
Sept 20 - Julie Reed
Sept 22 - Andrew Preyna

Sept 7 - Edward Gleaton
Sept 13 - Sambo Alderman
Sept 17 - Josh Denny
Sept 22 - Don Hendrix
Sept 27 - Doug Holt

FALL
Women's Bible Study
 — led by Pastor Ralph Hawkins —
Making Some Lists, Checking Them Twice



BLESSINGS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



DREAMS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



GOALS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

BEGINS
Wednesday,
October 7th

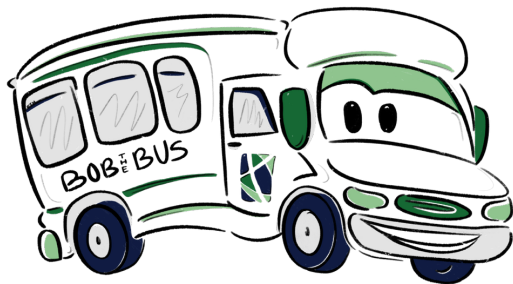
♥

10:00 AM
 or
5:30 PM

ALL WOMEN WELCOME!

Fall at Northminster means many things, including a fresh round of Wednesday Bible studies among our women. Pastor Ralph will launch a series he is calling “Making Some Lists, Checking Them Twice” — a look at the various “lists” in the scriptural collection: Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Fruits of the Spirit, Paul’s Spiritual Clothing, etc. And with each Biblical list each week, we’ll build our own lists of blessings, gratitudes, goals, and dreams. Come join us!

ADVENTURES WITH BOB OUR BUS!



Right now our “new” bus is getting his rear Air Conditioning unit refurbished so he will be cool and comfortable. So stay tuned, because we have many “Adventures with Bob the Bus” coming to Northminster this fall! Field trips ... lunch outings ... sport and theater outings to see our church youth in action. Bob will be hitting the road and he wants you come along! More soon.

THE ALUMINUM CANS KEEP ROLLING IN!

This is a photo of the 300 pounds of cans collected by our sister congregations in Flint River Presbytery. Combined with a recent 300 pounds collected here at Northminster, we netted nearly \$500 for medicines for our Dominican Republic partnership. That’s half of our annual goal, in one load! Keep those cans coming, saints!



FORMER INTERN SIGHTING!

Our pastor poses with Mark Montgomery at a recent Flint River Presbytery meeting. Apparently it was blue shirt day! Mark begins his final year of seminary this month at Union Theological Seminary in Charlotte. Look forward to more updates on his ministry in the spring.

From the Finance Committee:

Thank you for your continued financial support of our church, its pastor and staff, and its programs.

	July 2026		2026 Year To Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Pledged & Regular Giving	\$33,152	\$38,683	\$288,493	\$270,780
25 Carry Forward	8,305	8,305	58,135	58,135
Total Income	\$42,009	\$47,988	\$359,800	\$335,915
Total Expenses	\$44,803	\$43,989	\$321,882	\$307,924
Difference	(\$2,794)	\$3,999	\$37,918	\$27,991

Notable expenditures during Jan-July:

Building Maintenance (budget line item)

- Electrical work including upgraded lighting \$10,800
- Plumbing repairs \$8,666
 - Veritas paid \$2,150 toward these repairs

Endowment Income Fund

- HVAC replacement (Dec 2025) \$13,528
- Replace 3 water fountains \$9,978
- Provide Curtain Flaps for Loaves & Fishes \$6,648
- Additional Livestream camera \$1,773
- Pastor Pedro Radney & family visit (approved up to) \$8,000
- Church bus cleaning & wrapping \$4,873
- Rise Against Hunger - Funding for add'l 5000 meals \$1,700

Memorials

- Refurbish Hand Bells \$6,800

At the August Session meeting, we approved the following expenditures.

- Bus rear AC unit repair - \$1,926 from Endowment Income Fund
- Install an Assistive Listening System - \$9,296 with \$7,000 from Donations and \$2,296 from Memorials
- Pipe Organ repairs - \$36,000 from Endowment Income Fund
- Install a Banner System near Curb - \$3,519 from Memorials
- Single Chime for Pipe Organ - \$2,000 from Donation

Look for these upgrades in the coming weeks.

Please contact Gregg Reed (gareed105@gmail.com) or any member of the finance committee if you have any questions about the budget or the church finances.

2026 SEPTEMBER



SUN 30	MON 31	TUE 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
9am Adult S.S. 9:30am Kidventures 10:30am Worship		Veritas	6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	Veritas 10:30am Line Dancing 6pm Girl Scout Volunteer Mtg	Veritas	1:30-3:00pm Girl Scout Troop Mtg
6 9am Adult S.S. 9:30am Kidventures 10:30am Worship Communion Sunday	7	8 Veritas	9 7am Men's Breakfast 10am Macon Service League Meeting 6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	10 Veritas 10:30am Line Dancing Office Closed	11 Veritas Office Closed	12
13 9am Adult S.S. 9:30am Kidventures 10:30am Worship	14 Office Closed	15 Veritas Office Closed	16 6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal Office Closed	17 Veritas 10:30am Line Dancing Office Closed	18 Veritas Office Closed	19 1:30-3:00pm Girl Scout Troop Mtg
20 9am Adult S.S. 9:30am Kidventures 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Yoga	21 6pm Stated Session Meeting	22 Veritas	23 10:30 Macon Service League Board Meeting 6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	24 Veritas 10:30am Line Dancing	25 Veritas	26
27 9am Adult S.S. 9:30am Kidventures 10:30am Worship	28	29 Veritas	30 6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	1 Veritas 10:30am Line Dancing	2 Veritas	3