

Good Tidings



Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sundays at
10:30 AM

**Dr. Christopher
Carlson, Pastor**

December 4

*The God Who Loves
Surprises*
John 1:1-18

December 11

Christmas Cantata:
The Morning Star

December 18

Five Amazing Words!
John 1:1-18

December 24

*A Visit from
a Wiseman*
Matthew 2:1-18

December 25

The Other Wiseman

The Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of hope!

Most people I know love Christmas. There is something about the music, the get-togethers, and the giving and receiving of presents that touches a deep part of all of us. Somehow, all the things that we do at Christmas soothes our lonely and longing hearts, at least for a while.

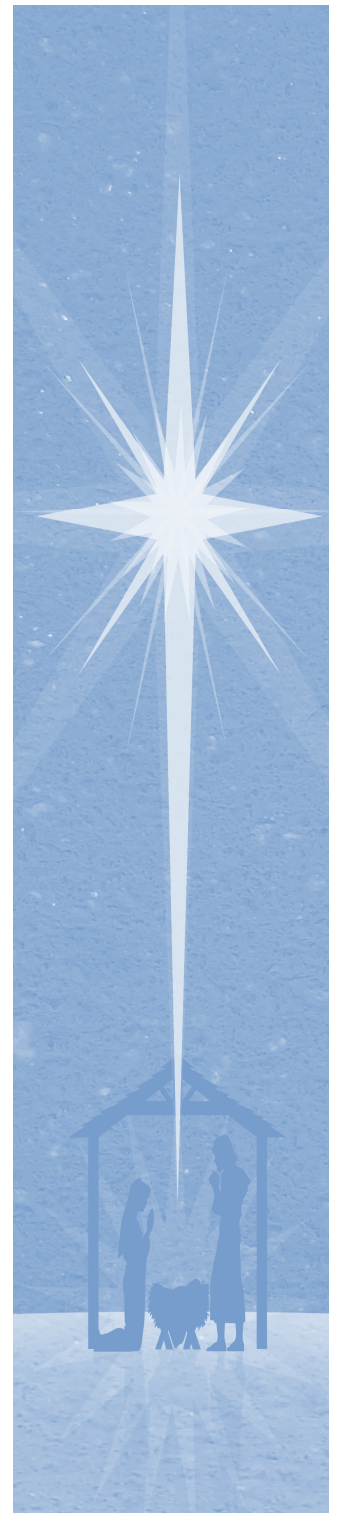
But there is something beyond the activities of Christmas; beyond the temporary good feelings. That is the good news of the message of Christmas. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find rest in you." The good news of Christmas is that, in our restlessness and need and waiting, we do not have to despair. In Jesus Christ, God has come to us. Yes, we still wait, but no longer in hopelessness.

Indeed, Christmas reminds us of the unending hope we have in our Lord. It is a reminder that God has acted decisively in the world. He has shown how great his love is for this world, and for his creatures, by living in it.

Sometimes, when we look around at all the world's troubles, we wonder if God still cares and if he will finally come to redeem it. The Lord's birth is a resounding "yes" to both those questions. Why would he bother to enter the world if he did not care about it? His birth is also a reminder that he is still acting in this world. People still look at that child in the manger and the man he became, and become reborn themselves. When this happens, it is the greatest proof of God's work in the world.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

In His Grip,
Pastor Chris



Christmas Cantata: *The Morning Star*



The Northminster Choir, with orchestral accompaniment, presents its Christmas Cantata on Sunday, **December 4**, during the 10:30 Worship Service.

Enslaved in Egyptian bondage, God's chosen people, Israel, awaited the promised Messiah. They held the faint glimmer of hope that, one day, their Savior would come and release them from captivity. And so, in God's perfect timing, he did come: Jesus, the light of the world. The Morning Star did rise, a star that still shines in the darkest of nights.

The Christmas message of light is not limited to a chosen nation of people in the Old Testament, or a small band of disciples who followed a teacher from Nazareth. This is a message for each of us, at any stage of life's journey. Each of us has experienced our own days, perhaps extended seasons, of darkness. But Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Plan to attend this seasonal service, with a friend, to hear the wonderful message of the meaning of Christ's birth!

A VISIT FROM A WISE MAN Christmas Eve — 5:00 Communion and Candlelight Service



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

From the Deacons' Bench

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

He came from the Highest
to redeem the lowest.
He was born as man
to bring man to God.
He gave grace
so that man sees God's face.
He gives gifts to those
who can't give in return.
He is the Way for those lost,
the Truth to those confused,
and Life to dead souls.
Thank you, Lord Jesus,
and Happy Birthday.

BE A COOKIE ELF!

Each year The Deacons and Parish Life Committee package up gift bags of homemade Christmas goodies and deliver them to our homebound members, to help brighten their holiday season.

You can help by providing Christmas cookies or candies for packaging. Please bring your items to the Fellowship Hall kitchen, clearly marked "cookie baskets" on **December 7 or 8**, between 9:00-3:30.



Christmas Card Exchange To Help Our Missions

Save postage and donate the savings to a Christmas charity. Use the Christmas card "mailbox" on a table under the portico, before and after the Worship Service on Sundays in December. Bring the Christmas cards you'd like to send to your Northminster family and place them in the box, alphabetically.

The postage saved and donated to a Christmas charity is the reason for the "mailboxes." Remember to check the box for the cards that have been "sent" to you.

Please put *only* the cards for those who are in town and currently attend services at NPC.



Flowers for the Sanctuary

Starting in December, you can sign up to donate flowers to decorate the chancel, on Sunday mornings, in 2017.

Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, remember a loved one, or commemorate any special date with flowers.

Look for the Flowers Clipboard at the Welcome Center. An ar-

rangement costs only \$25.00 and you can pay for it by putting your check or envelope, marked "flowers" in the offering plate.

Donna Bagnall will contact you, the month before your donation is scheduled, to remind you and get your dedication for the bulletin.



Christmas Joy Offering



With Christ at the center of this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Board of Pensions' Assistance Program to provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the PC (USA) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students, built on a foundation of Christian values.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, **December 18** and during our **Christmas Eve** service. May our gifts bear joyful witness to God's uncontainable love.

Resurrection House



Resurrection House

Resurrection House is a forward thinking, faith-based resource center committed to transitioning at-risk individuals to a path of self-sufficiency. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, it serves as a day resource center to the homeless of Sarasota County. Their services include showers, restrooms, laundry, counseling, medical treatment, food, clothing, veteran's assistance, post office, phone, and more.

We collect hotel-size toiletries for their use. They also have a great need for men's and women's shoes of all sizes. Homeless people spend a lot of time walking, and shoes don't last long.

Resurrection House, is the designated recipient for our Local Mission gifts for the last quarter of 2016. To make your donation, please check the Local Mission box on your offering envelope or use the special Mission Envelope in your Sunday Bulletin.

The Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, Iraq



Tens of thousands of Christians fled – by car, by bus, on foot – seeking shelter wherever they could find it.

In 2014, ISIS took the city of Mosul and pressed into the nearby Nineveh Plain. Ahead of them fled tens of thousands of Christians, seeking shelter wherever they could find it. More than 70 of them ended up living in the **Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk**, where every classroom and office became a small apartment. They are all still there and, with the help of other Christians all over the world, the church continues to help them, as best they can.

Although the tragic events in Iraq from the summer of 2014 have mostly faded from our daily news cycles, the past is very much present for Rev. Haitham Jazrawi and his congregation at the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk.

Though we cannot be there in person, our donations will help this church and, through them, the people to whom they minister. To support this mission, please write "Kirkuk" on your offering envelope, or on the memo line of your check.

Fellowship Activities

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

You're all invited to our annual Christmas pot luck on **Wednesday, December 7**, at 5:30. After dinner, laugh with NPC's own "Rodney Dangerfield," **Bill Peterson**, followed by the musical duo, **The Dunn Deal**. Bring friends, family, and your favorite holiday dish to share for this festive evening of food, fellowship, and good times. Please be sure to sign up in the Narthex!

RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT

The ROMEO Group meets for breakfast, every other Saturday, at the Country Pancake House, 8205 Natures Way, Lakewood Ranch. Retired Old Men are invited to come at 9:00 on **December 2, 16, and 30**.

WHAT WAS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM?

Was it a comet, a supernova, or something else entirely? Join us at the Bishop Planetarium, on **Wednesday, December 21**, at 5:00, as we explore that question with Howard Hochhalter, one of South Florida Museum's staff astronomers. Using the Planetarium's ability to travel back through time and space, he will lead us on a journey to Jerusalem, some 2,000 years ago, to see the same night skies that the magi saw. Our reduced price tickets are only \$8. Please sign up and pay for tickets by **December 4**. Make your check out to "NPC" and give to **Robin Sutcliffe or Mark Goslin**.



Presbyterian Women

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

The Presbyterian Women's "Birthday Party for Jesus" will be held on **December 12**, at 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Jerry Landis will entertain with Christmas carols and lunch will be provided by Ruth Circle.

Envelopes will be available for the Birthday Offering. The PW national organization has chosen four projects to receive the money collected by all the PW groups across the country. The national goal for 2016 is \$500,000. Projects selected to receive these funds are:

- a girls' school in South Sudan
- core values/life skills training for at-risk youth in Overland Park, KS
- Habitat for Humanity's repair of mobile homes in California
- Closing Off the School-to-Prison Pipeline Program

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Circles started meeting in September, but it is never too late to join. This year, our Bible study books are entitled "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes." If you want a study book, ask one of the Circle leaders for your copy. As usual, they cost \$9.

All women are invited to join one of our three Circles to share Bible study and fellowship. Being a member of a Circle can provide friendship and support in your faith journey. You are welcome to attend any of the dates and times listed to the right. No special invitation is necessary.



DECEMBER PW MEETINGS

All meetings in the Library

PWCT: Monday, Dec. 5, 10:30

Esther Circle:
Thursday,
Dec. 1, 12:00
Leader: **Joan Melnick**
and **Jane Clark**

Ruth Circle: Monday,
Dec. 19, 10:00
Leader: **Valerie Wilde**

Mary Circle:
Wednesday,
Dec. 28, 10:00
Leader: **Debbie Latimer**

Welcome New Members!



WAYNE AND BARBARA AUSTIN were married in 1981, here, in Florida. Barbara was born in Wisconsin and moved to Florida in 1979. She retired from a career in nursing, as well as being an instructor. Her hobbies are card-making and scrapbooking. Wayne was born in Maine and moved to Florida in 1965. He has retired from the plumbing business, after 51 years. Wayne's hobbies are model sailboat racing and leathercraft. They are joining Northminster by Reaffirmation of Faith.

JUDY EGAN: Rochester, NY was Judy's first home. She came to Sarasota in 1987 and has spent 30 years in the marketing and advertising field. She has also been involved with non-profit development. She is an avid singer and sings with the Key Chorale. Last May she toured Scotland and Ireland with St. Joseph's Music Makers. Judy lives with her six-year-old cat, Mr. Lucky. Ask her to tell you why her cat is named "Mr. Lucky," as you welcome her as an Affiliate Member of NPC.



MIRIAM (Mim) HOLLOWELL is joining NPC as an Affiliate Member. Mim is a native Floridian, having been born in Jacksonville. She has lived in Sarasota since 1955. Until retirement, Mim worked as an office manager and medical assistant to a local neurologist. Mim credits her joining Northminster to a neighbor who invited her to attend our church. And she's happy she did.



MARTY AND BILL MANNING are from Alabama, though they have lived all over the southeast, moving every five years. The moves were caused by Bill's position as a Boy Scout executive over a variety of Councils. Marty taught English and has worked for Texas Instruments and BAE Systems. They love living in the Garden Lakes Estates with their miniature poodle, Pepper. Though they are new members, they both have had an active role on the Fellowship Committee for quite a while. Bill helped do the annual church audit and you will frequently see him working with the AV team on Sunday mornings. They feel that NPC is a good congregation with a lot going on and that everyone should find something in which to participate.



PHILIP AND JO ANN PAUL: Jo Ann has lived in Manatee County since 1973. During her career in education, she taught middle and high school and was a School Principal. She and Phil have recently moved near our church and look forward to making new friends at their new church home. Phil was born in Miami, Florida. He taught high school music in Georgia and Florida, as well as band, orchestra and chorus. He is a Professor of Music, Emeritus, at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. His hobbies include gardening, fishing, woodworking, and reading.

WILLIAM (Bill) PETERSON was born in Quincy, MA. He has been attending Northminster for many years and joins the church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Bill spends his summers in Hingham, MA. With a resemblance to comedian Rodney "I get no respect" Dangerfield, he will be presenting his stand-up act at our Christmas Party, on December 7. Bill expresses an interest in serving Resurrection House.



MATTHEW AND COLETTE STEVENSON moved here this past August, from Maryland. Colette was born and raised in southeast Kentucky. After retirement, she became very active in the women's groups and was mission chair in their previous church. Matt was born in Westchester, NY. He drove the church van at their previous church to pick up those members who couldn't drive. He enjoys walking and has just gotten interested in tropical plants. Both he and Colette are football fans, especially the Baltimore Ravens and the Annapolis Navy team.

ALLENE SWANSON has attended NPC for several years. She was born in Jamestown, NY and has lived in Florida for 22 years. Before moving to Florida she and her husband owned a dry cleaning business. Allene has a son and daughter, who live nearby, and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She is very proud of her ten great grandchildren.



DON AND BEA SWANSON moved here from Jamestown, NY. In August, they celebrated 63 years of a happy marriage. They are the parents of four daughters. Bea has recently had to give up many years of volunteer work at Resurrection House, but continues her volunteer work as a member of Northminster's Mission Committee.

Midday Music, 2017



The second season of Midday Music, brings folk and classical music, presented by outstanding local performers, as well as others returning to Sarasota.

Folk singer **Mindy Simmons** is a favorite among Sarasota audiences and known as “Sarasota’s Songbird.” She will sing a variety of folk, pop, and spiritual songs on **January 13**, 2017.

Concert pianist **Yi-heng Yang**, who is based in New York, will return to Sarasota after an enthusiastic response to her spectacular performances in 2014. She will perform selections of the great classical masters on **February 10**, 2017.

David Davani is a professional singer from New York and has placed in several national vocal competitions, including the Artist Series of Sarasota National Vocal Competition in 2016. On **March 3**, 2017, he will be joined pianist, **Joseph Holt**, who is also director of Gloria Musicae,

All Midday Music Concerts are free and open to the public. Each concert will be followed by a Meet-the-Artist reception in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy these talented musicians.

“Searching for God” Begins in January

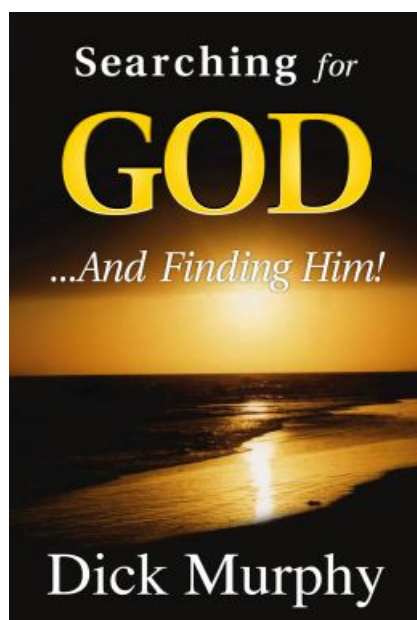
Author and Bible teacher, Dick Murphy, will lead a discussion on his book *Searching for God...and Finding Him!* beginning Sunday, **January 8**, at 9 AM, and repeated on Thursday mornings at 10 AM, starting **January 12**. All attendees will receive a free copy of the book. The course includes reading a chapter each week and coming to class to discuss its content.

Searching for God is a book about the very foundations of our Christian beliefs and provides reasons to believe in Jesus Christ. It explains what happened in Old Testament history that caused God to come to earth in the body of a man to die a death for the sins of the people. Most people know that he did it, but not all people know the rea-

son why he did it. What does all this talk of “shed blood” have to do with anything?

This book was written for new believers seeking the truth of God, as well as for mature Christians seeking to understand the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Is Jesus really who he claims to be? Is he really both the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament? What proof do we have that he actually lived, died, was buried, and rose from the dead? And so what if he did? How does that affect my life?

The coffee pot will be on. So sign up in the Narthex for the class of your choice. Bring a friend and get ready for a lively discussion on the purpose of life.



Two Ways to Give to Northminster

ONLINE GIVING

Have you considered using our on-line giving option to make your regular pledge payments?

Just go to Northminster’s web page at www.npcsarasota.com and click the Online Giving tab at the top of the page. There you can print easy instructions on how to sign up or go directly to the Online Giving page to register.

Online Giving helps make sure your pledge, building fund payments, and mission gifts are received regularly, on the schedule you designate. You will be able to check the status of your giving at any time, from the comfort of your home.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Boxes of offering envelopes will be available for pick up after Sunday services during the month of December. Using the numbered offering envelopes is a great help to our volunteer counters and facilitates the keeping of accurate records of your contributions.

Northminster has envelopes for both monthly and weekly contributors. You will receive monthly or weekly envelopes depending on your previous giving pattern. If you would like to change the type of envelope received, please contact **Isabel**, in the church office.



Financial Update

Thank you for your special **13th Month** effort in October! The monthly income exceeded our expenses and the year-to-date net loss has been reduced to less than \$4,000.

It is not too late to give your 13th Month Gift by contributing an extra month’s offering. With your help, we will end the year in the black.

October Operating Fund Results

	<u>Oct 2016</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$38,338	\$273,743
Expense	<u>\$29,611</u>	<u>\$277,664</u>
Net Income	\$+8,727	\$ - 3,921

Mortgage Balance, as of November 30, 2016, is \$504,686.94

Harry Wilde, Treasurer
Bob Silver, Co-Treasurer
Jack Tibbets, Business and Finance Manager



Office Notes

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30

Fri: 9:00-2:00

The office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for Christmas.



WELCOME BACK WINTER FRIENDS!

Please update your address with the office when you return to Florida. Call, e-mail, or look for the address-change clipboard in the Narthex.

LOST AND FOUND

Have you lost an umbrella, glasses, keys, or other items? Be sure to check the Lost and Found box behind the counter in the Narthex .

DEADLINES

- **Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin** are due in the office by **noon every Wednesday.**
- **Good Tidings:** The deadline for the November issue of the *Good Tidings* is **Thursday, December 15.** Submit your articles and announcements to office@npcsarasota.org.
- **Session Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, December 14,** for the **December 21** meeting.

Isabel Oake

Office Administrator

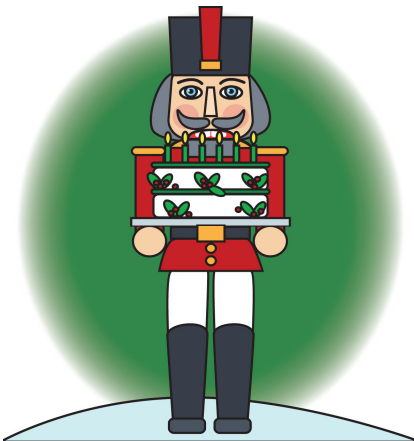


My daughter, Kathy, and I want to thank the Northminister Church family for the flowers, cards, calls, and prayers we received during my husband's illness and recent passing. The visits by Pastor Chris were also a great comfort and much appreciated.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Kiger

December Birthdays

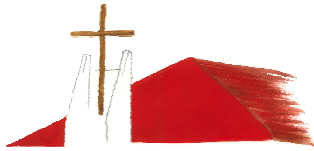
- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|
| 5 | Mary Louise Edmunds | 15 | Neva Low |
| 10 | Ethel Boyce | 18 | Lois Anderson |
| | J.B. Donaldson | 23 | Yvonne Tarrant |
| | Diane Price | 24 | Mariann Younger |
| 11 | Valerie Wilde | 26 | Shirley Samson |
| 14 | Aleta Blachly | 30 | Charlie Mae Gocio |
| | Matt Veal | | |



DECEMBER

Northminster Presbyterian Church † 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library PS = Pastor's Study S= Sanctuary</p>		<p>* The Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor, meets Sunday evenings, in the Fellowship Hall & Tuesdays in the Library.</p>		<p>1 9:30 SC Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 Finance 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p>2 9 ROMEO 2 Line Dance-FH 3:30 Stewardship-L</p>	<p>3 9:30 Anna Maria Island Chorus & Orchestra Rehearsal</p>
<p>4 Advent-2nd 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship/Communion 3 Suncoast Band 7 Iglesia*</p>	<p>5 10:30 PWCT-L 1 Tech Help-FH 5:30 Fellowship-L 7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 9 Med Ombuds 9:30 Jazz Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 3:30 Stewardship-L 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-EB</p>	<p>7 10:30 Artists-EB 3 PNC-L 5:30 Christmas Party-FH</p>	<p>8 9:30 SC Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 1 Connections-FH 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p>9 9:30 Cookie Packing-FH 10 BMUSA-L 10:30 Bible Study at Desoto Palms 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Advent-3rd 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship/Cantata 3 Jazz Concert 7 Iglesia*</p>	<p>12 9:30 SC Band-S 11:30 PW Christmas Party 1 Tech Help-FH 1:30 Discipleship Square-L 7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 9 Med Ombud 9:30 Jazz Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L</p>	<p>14 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission-L 1 Pinochle-FH 1 Bridge-FH 3 PNC-L Session Committee Reports Due</p>	<p>15 9:30 SC Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 3:30 Stewardship-L 6:45 Choir-S Good Tidings Deadline</p>	<p>16 9 ROMEO 10:30 Bible Study at Discovery VIg 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Advent-4th 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 3 Suncoast Band 7 Iglesia*</p>	<p>19 10 Ruth Cir-L 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20 9 Med Ombuds 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L</p>	<p>21 10:30 Artists-EB 3 PNC-L 5 Fellowship/Planetarium Trip 7 Session-L</p>	<p>22 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p>23 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5 Candlelight & Communion Service</p>
<p>25 <i>Christmas</i> 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 9 Med Ombuds 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L</p>	<p>28 10 Mary Cir-L 1 Pinochle-FH 3 PNC-L</p>	<p>29 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p>30 9 ROMEO 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p>31</p>



GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church
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Sarasota, FL 34243-2542

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Manasota, FL

"In God we trust"

CURRENT RESIDENT

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Northminster Presbyterian Church
"Called by Christ. Sent by Christ."

STAFF:

Dr. Christopher C. Carlson, Pastor
pastorchris@npcsarasota.org

Isabel Oake, Office Administrator
office@npcsarasota.org

Jack Tibbets, Business & Finance Manager
jack@npcsarasota.org

Sally Kirby, Clerk of Session
clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org

Edward L. Stiles, Jr., Music Director

Jay Snyder, Organist

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Monday—Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday

PHONE: 941-355-4729

FAX: 941-351-2162

E-MAIL: *office@npcsarasota.org*

WEBSITE: *www.npcsarasota.com*



Northminster Presbyterian Church Sarasota Florida

Northminster Presbyterian Church **Good Tidings** is published for members and friends of the church to promote its programs and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Please notify the office of any address, phone, or e-mail changes.