

Good Tidings



Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL

March SERVICES
Sundays at
10:30 AM

Dr. Christopher Carlson, Pastor

Ash Wednesday,
March 1 at 5:00

Soup Supper and Communion Service
in the Fellowship Hall

March 5

Who Can Make Things Right?
John 11:17-36

March 12

Jesus Goes to a Party
John 2:1-12

*** Daylight Saving Time Begins ***

March 19

The First Christian
John 20:1-18

March 26

The Courage God Requires
Luke 1:26-45

Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends,

What are you giving up for Lent?

Lent is the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday (or for some, Easter Eve) and recalls the forty days of fasting and prayer Jesus spent in the desert, preparing for the beginning of his ministry. Traditionally, Lent is a time of preparation for the believer - through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial, for the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent is partly misunderstood by many because of the distortions about it abundant in the non-believing world around us. Just as Santa Claus has become a substitute for Jesus at Christmas, and the search for eggs and candy has become a substitute for the celebration of the Resurrection at Easter, so Lent has become parodied as a time of giving up things, preceded by as much "sin" (Mardi Gras) as you can get in before the deprivation begins.

Lent is a serious time when we think about our sinfulness and our need for continual repentance. We remember our Lord's death and the lengths to which he went for our salvation. Prayer and self-denial are appropriate activities during this time. However, in doing these things, we must always remember what God really wants from us. In short, God wants us and a relation-

ship with us. The practices of "giving up" our time, things, or pleasures have no value in themselves, if we fail to surrender ourselves to God and his will. Therefore, Lent is not about giving things up. It is about giving ourselves up. It is a time of recommitment and renewal of our relationship with God. God wants us, not our things. If you want to give up something for Lent, begin with giving up the stubborn desire to live your life your way and surrender to his. Give up your sense of ownership of your life and recognize the real owner, who is none other than the Lord himself. Also, though Lent is a serious time of remembering what God has done for us through Jesus and to refocus our lives on him, we should remember, too, that Lent is a time that moves toward celebration. In the midst of repentance, there is always the promise of restoration. In the midst of the pain and sorrow of a journey to the cross, there is always hope and joy of the resurrection.

So, what are you giving up for Lent? Start with yourself and then let the celebration begin.

In His Grip,

Pastor Chris

The annual Ash Wednesday Soup and Communion Service will be held on **March 1** at 5:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to join us for our traditional soup dinner, followed by communion and a beautiful Ash Wednesday service, led by Pastor Chris.



After the Palm Sunday Service on **April 9**, Boy Scout Troop #78 will serve brunch in the Fellowship Hall. This is a fundraiser for the boys, with all proceeds going toward payment of Summer Camp fees and additional equipment. Advance tickets will be available, for \$5, a couple of weeks in advance, or you can pay at the brunch.

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

The Living Last Supper will be performed in our Sanctuary at 7:00 on **Maundy Thursday, April 13**. This service is inspired by the famous painting by Leonardo Da Vinci of the Last Supper, depicting the very instant when Jesus told his disciples that one of them would betray him. In this script, the author imagines the inner thoughts of each disciple, who expresses the turmoil in his heart and mind, in reaction to Jesus' dramatic statement.



Music performed by the choir, and hymns are interspersed with the monologues. The service concludes with communion served by the "disciples" themselves. Please plan to attend this inspiring service in preparation for Easter.

THE LIVING EASTER STORY



For the first time, Northminster will present an Easter dramatization during the Easter morning service, **April 16** at 10:30. Surrounded by the music of Northminster's Choir, six of Jesus' closest followers: Mary, Mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Nicodemus, a Pharisee; Mary of Bethany, sister of Lazarus; Thomas, the doubting disciple; and Simon Peter, will recount what Jesus and his resurrection meant to them. Pastor Chris will share what Jesus and his resurrection means to us now!

Fellowship Activities

THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR

What did we learn from the Reagan years? Find out at the Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, **March 18th** at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Our own **Al Eckes** served as Chairman of the US International Trade Commission under President Reagan. He'll recount some historical (and maybe some hysterical) memories of his time there. All this and a yummy home-cooked breakfast. You won't want to miss this one! A donation of \$5 is suggested. Please sign up in the Narthex.

PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT

Our next PEO dinner will be held at **Rolling Green Golf Club**, 4501 N. Tuttle, on Friday, **March 24, at 5:00**. Friday is their famous Fish Fry night; but, of course, you can order off their menu instead. Contact **Rich Rhodes**, if you have any questions. Please sign up in the Narthex and indicate whether you'll be ordering the Fish Fry or off the menu.

ATTN: PINOCHLE PLAYERS

Do you enjoy a fun game of pinochle? Come join us on the **second and fourth Wednesdays**, in the Fellowship Hall, for a casual game.

FRIDAY LINE DANCING

Join us **every Friday**, at 2:00, for a Line Dancing Class in the Fellowship Hall. It is a fun way to exercise and stay active! There's no cost ... just show up!

ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP Every Wednesday

In February 2008, a couple of artists found that working with a group of friends was a lot more fun than sitting at home alone. They started meeting once a week, and the painters critiqued and helped each other when needed. In 2013, the group expanded to include all with a favorite craft hobby. They meet now every **Wednesday in the Education Building, from 10:30 to 200-ish**.

Most participants bring a sack lunch, but those who cannot stay the whole time, are welcome to come for as long as they can. Presently the group includes knitters, jewelry makers, and several artists. Anyone with an art or craft hobby is invited to join the group. It seems that meeting with others keeps the creative juices flowing. Do you have questions? Call or see **Carol Tibbets or Barbara Clark**.

FREE TECH HELP

If you wish you knew how to use your iPhone, computer, or tablet, and don't know who to ask, this individual training is for you!

Just bring your device to the Fellowship Hall **at 1:00 on Monday afternoons** and **David Stoltie** will be glad to help you.

SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and refreshments are served outside, in front of the sanctuary, after the Worship Service. Stay for a while, enjoy a cup of coffee, and connect with your fellow worshippers.



Arts & Crafts
Workshop
Every Wednesday



Welcome New Members...



Albert Gorham is transferring his membership from St. James United Methodist. He moved here from Maryland where he retired as a welder. He met his wife, Pat, here in Florida where they have lived for the past seven years. Pat now lives at Springwood Nursing Home at Northgate in Sarasota, and Al spends much of his time with her. At 92 years of age, he is still active and is looking forward to serving in any way that he is able and hopes that we will call him to usher.



Barbara Hughes is a native Floridian, born in Lakeland. She graduated of Eckerd College with a B.A. in Human Development. She is a retired social worker who worked with assisted and independent living and nursing home residents. Barb enjoys gardening and is an avid reader. She has a daughter and three sons, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Rebecca Proctor was born in Charleston, WV, with six brothers and sisters. She is an active member of our community as an attorney, in her own practice. Becca has two children and three grandchildren. Some of her interests are Toys for Tots and assisting in Women's Needs. As a working mother, her time is limited, but she is interested in helping with evening projects.



Stephen Thompson moved to Florida from New York, where he was a police officer for 26 years. Upon his arrival, he spent some time working in security on Longboat Key. Steve has a love for cars. He also likes to rebuild and remodel, which he is doing now at his home. He looks forward to serving our church by ushering and helping with security issues.

And Affiliate Members!



Manfred and Aurea Siebert are familiar faces at Northminster (though Aurea was not available for this photo). They are Canadian residents and are now joining us as affiliate members. Manfred is a retired businessman and served as a deacon in his home church. Aurea was formerly a nurse. While they are in Sarasota, Manfred sings in the choir and Aurea serves as an usher.



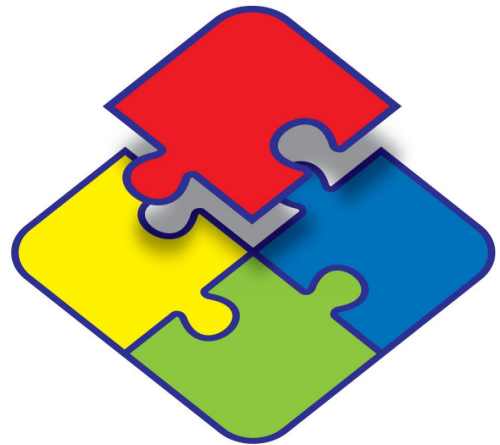
John (J. J.) and Dorothy (Dee) Sosnowski are joining Northminster as Affiliate Members. J. J. is retired from the Army after 28 years of active duty. He is a soccer and golf enthusiast and enjoys classical music and studying the Old Testament. Dee started working in the Dept. of the Army after high school and retired as an executive assistant to a Commanding General and staff. She enjoys pool-walking, cards, mahjong and travel, and assists an older friend. The Sosnowskis have three sons and ten grandchildren.

Connecting at Northminster

If you are interested in becoming a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, or in finding out more about us, this class is for you! You will find out about what Presbyterians believe and how our church government compares to other denominations. We will find out about YOU and introduce you to some of the programs here.

The Connections Class will be held on **Sunday, March 12**, in the Fellowship Hall, following the worship service. Those who wish to join the church, as either a full member or affiliate member, will be accepted into membership on **Sunday, March 26**.

A light lunch is included. Please sign up in the Narthex.



Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry



Beth-El Mission is located in Wimauma, Florida, where the agricultural industry is one of the largest employers. Seventy percent of the population is Latino and more than half of them are under the age of 30.

Some of these young people follow their parents into the fields, while others pursue an advanced education. Many feel themselves adrift between two cultures and have expressed frustration that they do not have a place of worship that provides an outlet that addresses their faith within the complexities of the world in which they live. That is why the mission believes the time is right to begin a new young adult ministry for this unique community, a ministry to nurture spiritual development and help individuals navigate life between two diverse cultures.

Beth-El continues to offer programs for worship, a food pantry, education, meals, camps for children, and counseling.

Please make your contribution by marking the "local mission" line on your offering envelope or by using a white mission envelope.

We also accept donations of clothing and household items for their thrift store.

TRIP TO BETH-EL

For those who would like to know more about the Beth-El Ministry and may want to volunteer, please watch for announcements of an upcoming "field trip" to Wimauma to learn more about this mission.

The Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, Iraq



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. With the help of other Christians all over the world, the church continues to help them, and other refugees, 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 the congregation at the

Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk.

Recently Rev. Haitham Jazrawi reported that there is still an influx of refugees, mainly women, children, seniors, and the disabled. (The able-bodied men are being forced to join ISIS.) They flee in the middle of the night, in freezing winter temperatures. The church has distributed heavy winter blankets to refugees living in the street and in UN camps.

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.

All Faiths Food Bank

All Faiths Food Bank is the hub of hunger relief in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. They pick up donated food, sort it, fill partner agency orders, deliver to 184 agencies and programs that distribute the food from Bradenton/Sarasoto, as far as Englewood and Arcadia. AFFB provides food for 51,000 residents every year, families with children, the elderly, the unemployed, and the low-income earners.

Please remember to bring donations of canned or boxed food staples and place them in the yellow barrel in the Narthex. *Please do not donate anything in glass containers.*

Most needed items include:

rice	dried beans
pasta	tomato sauce
nuts	peanut butter
canned spaghetti	
canned fruit	
canned meat & tuna	



Other Mission Collections

TOILETRIES & SHOES FOR RESURRECTION HOUSE

Resurrection House provides homeless clients with laundry services, meals, private showers, and restrooms. Save your hotel **soaps and shampoos** and other toiletry items for this ministry.

One of the items needed most by the homeless is shoes - they spend a lot of time walking. So, we will also accept good **used shoes** for them.

Please leave your donations in the box labeled "Resurrection House," outside the church offices or, on Sundays, at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

PULL TABS FOR SHRINERS HOSPITAL

Money from recycling the pull-tabs, from drink and food cans, is used by the Shriners for their Wheelchair Repair Fund at the Tampa Shriners Hospital for Children. Collection jars for tabs are located at the Welcome Desk and outside the church offices.

CELL PHONES FOR SPARCC

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center collects used cell phones to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. They are refurbished and programmed to serve as 911 phones to help those in crisis. Phones do not have to be in working order. If possible, please include chargers and clear phones of personal information.



SPARCC distributes cell phones programmed to 911 to help those in crisis.

BOX TOPS FOR THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Northminster collects Box Tops for Education for Thornwell, a Presbyterian-affiliated home for children in Clinton, SC.

Look for Box Top coupons on General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker baking mixes, Pillsbury refrigerated biscuits, Ziploc storage bags, and more. Pick up a complete list at the Welcome Desk or the church office.

Midday Music Presents



Northminster's Midday Music Series concludes its 2017 season with a concert by **David Davani, baritone, with Joseph Holt on the piano.** The concert is on Friday, **March 3, at noon** in Northminster's Sanctuary.

David Davani is a young, rising star and winner of several national competitions. He has performed at music festivals, including the Curtis Summerfest and the Mannes School of Music's Bernstein and Mendelssohn festivals. Davani performed in the premiere of an opera by Jonathan Dawes, "Nero, and the Fall of Lehmann Brothers," in New York City. He was a finalist in the 2016 National Competition for Voice sponsored by the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota.

Dr. Joseph Holt enjoys a wide-ranging musical career as conductor, pianist, chamber music performer, arts administrator, educator and arranger. This is his eighth season as Artistic Director for Gloria Musicae, Sarasota's professional choral ensemble. He is Director of Artist Programs for the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota and Music Director at Faith Lutheran Church.

All concerts are held in Northminster's sanctuary and last one hour, beginning at noon. They are free and open to the public. A Meet-the-Artist reception, in the Fellowship Hall, will follow the performance.

Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors



The Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors make their home at Northminster from November - April. All performances are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons and tickets cost \$5.00.

The Suncoast Concert Band will play on **March 5, and April 2 & 23.**

The Jazz Ambassadors will play on **March 12, and April 9.**

Stay Connected

Northminster Communications take many forms. Did you know that...

1. Our Website averages 420 hits a month.
2. Our weekly e-letter goes out to 221 e-mail addresses.
3. So far 19 people have "liked" our Face Book page. Please go to our Website (www.npcsarasota.com) and "like" NPC on the home page and then "share" our posts with your friends.



Presbyterian Women



UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE

Our next program will be “Understanding Hospice,” on **Monday, March 13**, at 11:30. Vicki Bartz, from Tidewell Hospice, will speak to us about the different services that hospice can provide. **Esther Circle** will serve our lunch before this program.

OUR FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 12 was **Gifts of Women Sunday**, when the women of the church were celebrated. Jinny Miller, from First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, delivered an inspiring message to us. During this service we received \$900 for the Thank Offering. Our generosity will make a big difference, nationally and internationally, to women and children in need.

February PW Meetings

All meetings in the Library

PW Coordinating Team:

Tuesday, March 7, 10:30

Esther Circle:

Thursday, March 2, 12:00

Leader: **Joan Melnick**
and **Jane Clark**

Ruth Circle:

Monday, March 20, 10:00

Leader: **Valerie Wilde**

Mary Circle:

Wednesday, March 29, 10:00

Leader: **Debbie Latimer**

WOMEN’S CIRCLES

All women are invited to join one of our three Circles to share our 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 at the left. No special invitation is necessary.

PWCT MEETING

The next meeting of the PW Coordinating Team will be on **Monday, March 6**, at 10:30, in the library. Any interested woman of our church, whether a member of a Circle or not, is welcome.

Our February general meeting program was **The Importance of Balance**. Two physical therapists, from Westminster Manor and Westminster Towers in Bradenton, spoke to us about physical balance. We learned that many parts of the body, such as brain, eyes, ears, and joints, affect balance. All these things work together to maintain a steady balance. Infections and low blood pressure also have effects on balance. Thank you to the **PW Coordinating Team** for the lunch they provided. Thank you to **Pat Patterson** for the lovely Valentine decorations.

Financial Update

Our year has started off strong. This is not unusual, since some of our congregation make their annual donation in January. The initial results for our Stewardship Campaign show that we are pacing last year in pledges.

January Operating Fund Results

	<u>Jan 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$41,729	\$41,729
Expense	\$27,086	\$27,086
Net Income	\$14,643	\$14,643

Mortgage Balance as of February 1, 2017 is \$497,759.

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



Office Notes



Daylight Saving Time
begins March 12th

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30
Fri: 9:00-2:00

DEADLINES

- **Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin** are due in the office by **noon every Wednesday**.
- **Good Tidings:** The deadline for the April issue of the *Good Tidings* is **Wednesday, March 15**. Please e-mail your announcements and articles to office@npcsarasota.org.
- **Session Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, March 8**, for the **March 15** meeting.

TRAINING FOR OFFICE ANGELS

I am so appreciative of the ladies and men who staff the office on days when I need to be away. It is important to have a friendly voice to answer the phone and someone in the office to greet visitors.

If you would like to join the Office Angels, please contact me to arrange a short introduction to NPC's office, at your convenience.

Isabel Oake
Office Administrator

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 .

Isabel Oake



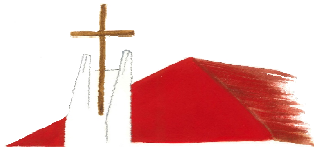
March Birthdays

4	Sue Fewell
10	Evelyn Gale
13	Ed Stiles, Jr.
18	Wayne Sheffler
19	Carole Glidden
20	Laura Burgess
22	Michelle Shirey
24	Mary Ann Colter
	Laura Shephard
26	Bev Christie



Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday 10:30 Artists-EB 5:30 Ash Wed. Soup Supper & Communion	2 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 Finance-L 6:45 Choir-S	3 12 Midday Music 2 Line Dance-	4
5 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship/ Communion 3Suncoast Band Concert-S 7 Iglesia*	6 10:30 PWCT-L 1 Tech Help-FH 5:30 Fellowship Committee -L 7 Boy Scouts	7 9 Medical Omb Ombudsman(appt) 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	8 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission-L 1 Pinochle & Bridge-FH 4 PNC-L Session Committee Reports Due	9 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 1 AIM-FH 6:45 Choir-S	10 10:30 Bible Study at Desoto Palms 2 Line Dance- FH	11 9 New Officers Training -FH
12 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Connections Class-L 3 Jazz Concert 7 Iglesia*	13 9:30 Band -S 11:30 PW Program-FH 1 Tech Help-FH 1:30Discipleship Square-L 7 Boy Scouts	14 9 Med Omb 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	15 10:30 Artists-EB 4 PNC-L 7 Session Good Tidings Deadline	16 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	17 10:30 Bible Study at Discovery Vlg 2 Line Dance- FH	18 9 Fellowship Breakfast-FH
19 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 5 New Members Reception 7 Iglesia*	20 10 Ruth Cir-L 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	21 9 Med Omb 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	22 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Pinochle-FH 4 PNC-L	23 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	24 2 Line Dance- FH 5 Presbyterians Eating Out	25
26 9 Sunday School -FH 9:30 Connections-L 9:45 Session-L 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*	27 9:30 Band 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	28 9 Med Omb 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	29 10 Mary Cir-L 10:30 Artists-EB 4 PNC-L 6 LLS Rehearsal	30 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	31 2 Line Dance- FH	



GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church
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"In God we trust"

CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACE LABEL HERE

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

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Isabel Oake, Office Administrator
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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

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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.