

Good Tidings



Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL

APRIL SERVICES

Sundays at 10:30 AM

Dr. Christopher Carlson, Pastor

April 2

Pastor Wally Johnson
Guest Minister

April 9

The Obedient Master
Mark 14:32-41

April 16

Why I Believe in the Resurrection
John 20:1-30

April 23

The First Christian
John 20:1-18

April 30

The Right Hand of the Father
Acts 1:1-11

Pastor's Corner

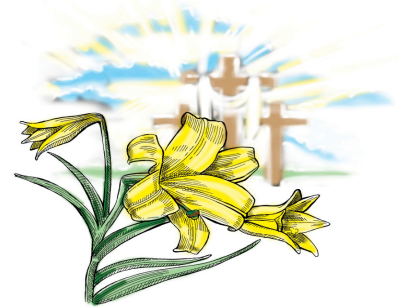
Dear Friends,

It seems to happen every Easter. Stories like the *The Da Vinci Code* a few years ago claimed Jesus had married Mary Magdalene. Others go farther. Some “entertaining” types say that Jesus had not only married her but they claim to have found his and her bones and that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a son. Sounds like a soap opera, and that is indeed what it is

These things are nothing new. People have attacked the historicity of Jesus’ resurrection for years. The Mary Magdalene connection is popular now because the story does have a soap opera quality, and it is very “sexy.”

There are many reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. One is the nature of God Himself. Every day we learn more and more about the wonder of life and creation. We are told in the Bible that God created it all from nothing. If God is such a God, he can certainly raise the dead. The resurrection also fits with His character. God is a God of forgiveness and life. God’s power and character are two very powerful reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus in particular, and the resurrection of the dead in general.

Another is the evidence contained in the story. It seems quite improbable that anyone could steal Jesus’ body given the nature of the circumstances of his burial. There is the empty tomb itself, guarded by Roman soldiers who would have been put to death if they so much had fallen asleep. Then, there



is the huge stone rolled away, and the witnesses and testimony of the women and others later. One of the most intriguing parts of the story is the wrappings around Jesus’ body. We are told in the Gospel of John (19:38-42) that Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus’ body with the spices in strips of linen according to Jewish burial customs after he died. Later when John and Peter came to the empty tomb, John saw the linen strips and “believed” (20:8). What did he see that convinced him so completely in that moment? John saw that the strips were like a chrysalis with the butterfly gone, still intact just as though they were still around the body, but the body was no longer there!

Still another reason is the change in the disciples. Before Jesus’ resurrection, they just don’t get him and what he is up to. During the whole drama of the crucifixion, they denied him and ran away like rabbits. They are full of doubts and the story pulls no punches about their lack of faith. But after the resurrection, you see very different people. Instead of fearful, cowering men, you see men willing to stand up to the powers with courage to face very painful deaths. In fact, history tells that all of them, except John, were eventually martyred. Only the resurrection can account for such radical change.



Pastor's Corner-continued

Last, but not least, is the change in my own life. I have met Jesus myself. I not only know him, but I belong to him. No, I have not had a vision of him, nor have I heard an audible voice, but ever since that night over 40 years ago when I said yes to him, he changed me and continues to change me. Ever since that day, I have known him and there has not been a day when I am not aware of him. I know this last reason is subjective and all I can do is witness to it. But it is true and, for me, nails down the whole thing.

We will all have doubts from time to time. There will always be people out there who will attack the story and our faith. But there are many great reasons to believe--historical, logical, and personal. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

In His Grip,
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



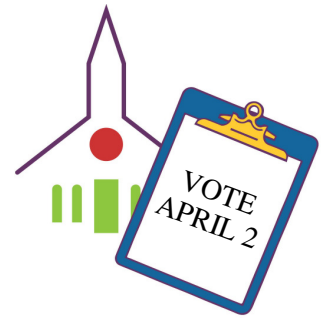
For the first time, Northminster will present an Easter dramatization during the Easter morning service, **April 16** at 10:30. Surrounded by the music of Northminster's Choir, six of Jesus' closest followers: Mary, Mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Nicodemus, a Pharisee; Mary of Bethany, sister of Lazarus; 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 mean to us now!

New Pastor Update!

On March 14, the Committee on Ministry of the Peace River Presbytery approved the "terms of call" for **Rev. Walter (Wally) Johnson** of Sapulpa, OK, as the Pastor nominee chosen by our Pastor Nominating Committee.

Come hear Rev. Johnson preach, as a guest minister, on **Sunday, April 2.**

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** immediately after the service on April 2, for the purpose of voting on the acceptance of Rev. Johnson as our solo Pastor. He will replace Rev. Christopher Carlson, who is retiring at the end of May.



Saying Goodbye to Chris & Cyndi

*So long, farewell,
auf Weidersehen, adieu...
Chris and Cyndi,
we surely will miss you!*

It has been six years, as of April 1, since Pastor Chris started his ministry here at Northminster. Soon he will be leaving us to hit the road to retirement.

Please join us on Saturday, **May 6th**, for a **Farewell to the Carlsons Brunch**. We'll be hosting a "pot luck brunch" at 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall.

Come, take this opportunity to say goodbye and wish them well, as they enter the next chapter of their lives. We'll share memories and hear all about their plans for the future.

We're asking everyone to bring a dish to share; your favorite main dish, side, or dessert. Be sure to stop by the Welcome Desk, in the Narthex, to sign up and tell us what you'll bring.



Fellowship Activities

PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT

Our April PEO will be held at the new Duffy's Sports Grill at 3005 University Parkway (between Lockwood Ridge and the Publix Plaza), Dine with us on **April 18** at 5:00. Order from their extensive menu of burgers and sandwiches, or steak or chicken plates. Separate bills will be provided. We will have an area reserved for our group (no high-top tables). *Please sign up by Sunday, April 16.*

R.O.M.E.O. GROUP

Retired Old Men Eating Out will meet for breakfast on Fridays, **April 7 and April 21** at 8:30. The designated hang-out is the First Watch restaurant on the corner of Lockwood Ridge Rd and SR 70. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet today. Contact **J.B. Donaldson**, if you have any questions.



Bible Mission USA

A Ministry of Caring



A friend, who helps us deliver our *Gospels of John* to organizations working among the homeless, recently told about a small group of sadly sidelined souls who get together, now and then, trying hard to keep each other's spirits up.

One of them was reading her own copy of *John* and showed the others a couple of verses that had helped her. She learned that God's Spirit has been given, not only to others, but to her personally. She then claimed the promise of Jesus: *I will never abandon you like orphans. I myself will come to be with you always.* (John 14:17-18 BMV)

This is all the story I know. But it is enough to confirm that the needy among us are finding hope in our pocket-size *Gospel of John*. And it reinforced the message that the promise of Jesus' presence is absolutely vital for those who live lonely and isolated lives. This is why Christians treasure Christ's promise, "You are never alone!"

Because of your support, BIBLE MISSION USA becomes your hand, reaching out and touching the lives of the needy and lonely all around us.

Paul T. Eckel, *President*
BIBLE MISSION USA

The Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, Iraq



Syrian children picking up their families' bread allotment

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/Sarasota, 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	



CROP Walk 2017

On March 5, Northminster was represented at the annual CROP Walk by the team of **Mark Goslin, Jim Harman, Eileen McKenzie, Bess Mitchell, and Robin Sutcliffe.** Thanks to the support and generosity of the con-

gregation, our team raised \$1271.00 for Church World Services. These funds will help people all over the world fight hunger. Twenty-five percent of the total will go directly to Sarasota's All Faiths Food Bank.

Other Mission Collections

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.

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.

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.



From the Deacons' Bench



But the fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

There are nine kinds of fruit on the Holy Spirit's fruit tree. Each of these is a characteristic of the Holy Spirit's active presence in our daily activities. I will attempt to address these glorious Christian attributes over the next nine months.

LOVE

This word for love doesn't refer to warm feelings, but to a deliberate attitude of good will and

devotion to others. Love gives freely without looking at whether the other person deserves it, and it gives without expecting anything in return. Love is the greatest gift God can give. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love never fails. God's children are the conduits of his love, as they are empowered by his Holy Spirit.

Your Deacons are available to be of service to you. Call your Deacon.

In His Spirit,
J.B. Donaldson
Deacon Board Moderator



Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors

April is your last chance to hear the Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors play this season. Their concerts are held in Northminster's Sanctuary. All performances are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons and tickets cost \$5.00.

The Suncoast Concert Band will play on **April 2 and 23.**

The Jazz Ambassadors will play on **April 9.**

AMICCO Thanks NPC

The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra (AMICCO) enjoyed, and very much appreciated, the opportunity to rehearse and perform its Sarasota County concert at Northminster in February. The Church was so welcoming and the Sanctuary was perfect acoustically for the soloists, chorus, and orchestra.

Presbyterian Women

SPRING LUNCHEON

Our last General Meeting for this spring will be our annual luncheon at der Dutchman Restaurant on Monday, April 10 at 11:30. Our own Jerry Landis will entertain us after the meal. We must have at least 20 people signed up in order to use their private room—so, please sign up in the Narthex, as early as possible. Your lunch will cost \$16 and a PW member will be in the Narthex to accept your payment when you sign up. *Make your check out to Northminster PW or have the correct amount in cash.*

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 to the right. No special invitation is necessary.

PWCT MEETING

The next meeting of the PW Coordinating Team will be on **Monday, April 3**, at 10:30, in the library. Any interested woman of our church, whether a member of a Circle or not, is welcome.

MARCH'S PROGRAM, UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE

Our March program, with Vicki Bartz from Tidewell Hospice, was very enlightening. We learned about the many services that hospice offers to provide comfort to end-of-life patients and their families. One little known service is free grief counseling for all ages, even if the loved one was not in hospice. Esther Circle provided a delicious salad lunch, and Pat Patterson decorated our tables in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.



April PW Meetings

All meetings in the Library

PW Coordinating Team:

Monday, April 3, 10:30

Esther Circle:

Thursday, April 6, 12:00
Leaders: **Joan Melnick**
and **Jane Clark**

Ruth Circle:

Monday, April 17, 10:00
Leader: **Valerie Wilde**

Mary Circle:

Wednesday, April 26, 10:00
Leader: **Debbie Latimer**

Financial Update

February income is on target for our 2017 budget and expenses are slightly below our budget, resulting in positive net income for both month and year.

The 2017 Stewardship campaign concluded with an increase in pledges over last year.

February Operating Fund Results

	Feb. 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$30,455	\$72,183
Expense	\$26,394	\$53,460
Net Income	\$ 4,061	\$18,723

Mortgage Balance as of March 1, 2017 is \$424,560.

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



Office Notes

DEADLINES

- **Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin** are due in the office by **noon every Wednesday**.
- **Good Tidings:** The deadline for the May issue of the *Good Tidings* is **Friday, April 14**. Please e-mail your articles and announcements to office@npcsarasota.org.
- **Session Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, April 12**, for the **April 19** meeting.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30
Fri: 9:00-2:00

OFFICE ANGELS

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who staffed the office while I was on vacation last month. Thank you Barbara Clark, Jackie Conner, Helen and Richard Healy, Mim Hollowell, Donna Lindenau, Joan Melnick, Jo Ann Paul and Pat Patterson.

Isabel Oake

Office Administrator

*A Special
Thank you!*



Dear Northminster Family and Friends,

I want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, flowers, and phone calls while I was in the hospital and rehab facility. I know the prayers helped heal me.

Thank you,
Dottie Herndon

April Birthdays

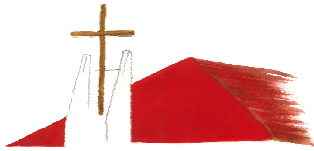


- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Lloyd Behmer
Carl Rowe | 13 | Cora Lee Cain
Sally Hough |
| 2 | Jeanne Peters
Bob Price | 14 | Joanne Brainard
Allen Williamson
Mary Winkle |
| 5 | Arianne Dahlem | 15 | Susie Smith |
| 7 | Ken Dotzour
Barry Ladd
Sandy Stiles | 17 | Chris Carlson |
| 8 | Jan Gubrud | 19 | Bob Olson
Jim Pinson |
| 9 | Earl Buell
Elaine Hart
Bess Mitchell | 21 | Steve Thompson |
| 11 | Mary Stoltie | 22 | Ed Grep
Dick Robley |
| 12 | Joyce Menk | 25 | Betsy Lange |
| | | 29 | Bob Gubrud |



Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
2 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting-S 3 Suncoast Band 7 Iglesia*	3 10 Suncoast Band Recital-S 10:30 PWCT-L 1 Tech Help-FH 5:30 Fellowship -L 7 Boy Scouts	4 9 Med Omb 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*	5 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Bridge-FH 6 LLS Rehearsal	6 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 Finance-L 6:45 Choir-S	7 8:30 ROMEO 2 Line Dance-FH	8
9 Palm Sunday 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 3 Jazz Concert 7 Iglesia*	10 9:30 Band 11:30 PW Lunch 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	11 9 Med Ombuds 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*	12 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission-L 1 Pinochle-FH 6 LLS Rehearsal Session Committee Reports Due	13 Maundy Thurs. 10 Bible Study-FH 1 AIM-FH 7 Living Last Supper-S	14 Good Friday 10:30 Bible Study at Desoto Palms 2 Line Dance-FH Good Tidings Deadline	15
16 Easter 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Brunch -FH 7 Iglesia*	17 9:30 Band 10 Ruth Cir-L 1 Tech Help-FH 1:30 Discipleship Square-L 7 Boy Scouts	18 9 Med Ombuds 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 1 Communications-L 4 Bible Study-FH 5 Presbyterians Eating Out 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Group -FH 7 Iglesia-L*	19 10:30 Artists-EB 7 Session	20 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 1 AIM-FH 6:45 Choir-S	21 8:30 ROMEO 10:30 Bible Study at Discovery Vlg 2 Line Dance-FH	22
23 9 Sunday School 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 3 Suncoast Band 7 Iglesia*	24 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	25 9 Med Ombuds 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon-EB 7 Rose Grp AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	26 10 Mary Cir-L 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Pinochle-FH	27 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	28 2 Line Dance-FH	29
30 9 Sunday School 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*						



GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church
3131 61st Street
Sarasota, FL 34243-2542

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #526
Manasota, FL

"In God we trust"

CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACE LABEL HERE

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.