

Good Tidings



Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sundays at
10:30 AM

Rev. Wally Johnson

December 2

Names of the Messiah:

Part I

Hebrews 9:1-6

December 9

Bethlehem's Child:

Christmas Cantata

December 16

Names of the Messiah:

Part II

Hebrews 9:1-6

December 23

Names of the Messiah:

Part III

Hebrews 9:1-6

December 24

Monday at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Nativity,

Communion, &

Candlelighting

December 30

Guest Speaker

John Frazee

REJOICE!



We begin the year by waiting for the coming of the Messiah into our world. The coming of Christ into our world, 2,000 years ago, was the reality of God breaking into the world of humankind. Advent calls us to look forward to God doing that again when Jesus returns and all is set right. Advent is a time we look back, but we also look forward.

I love this time of year. I love the decorations we put up and the transformation that takes place in our Sanctuary. We have a beautiful Sanctuary that is made even more wonderful and welcoming during this season.

Hang around after the services, enjoy the coffee and rolls, and enjoy the wonderful place we get to call home, here at NPC.

This is a busy time of the year and I always am concerned that I get so caught up in the doing that I miss the "being." So, this Advent Season, build time into the season for your soul to catch up to your body. Make joining us in corporate worship a priority. I am building my Advent sermons around the theme of "The Names of the Messiah" using the familiar text from Isaiah 9:6. Each week we will look at one of the names of the Messiah from this text.

In the "Pastor's Bible Study," during Advent, we will use a video series by Adam Hamilton entitled, "The Journey." I pray this will focus our atten-

tion, in a new way, on this ancient and blessed story of God visiting this earth, in the person of Jesus.

On January 5, Joyce and I will host a drop-in from 3:00 to 6:00, p.m. at our house, 4853 Tivoli Ln. We would be honored to have you join us. Last year many brought gifts – we truly only desire the gift of your presence. Parking is an issue. You can park on the street, but please do not park on the grass in the neighborhood.

I pray that we will all be refreshed and challenged during this Advent season, as we wait for the coming of the Christ, and as we come to understand the rightful claim he has on each of us!

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

In His Service,

Pastor Wally

Rejoice with Music!

Bethlehem's Child: Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, AT 10:30



The story of Christmas is filled with the unlikeliest of elements. God chose an unlikely setting for the story, the tiny village of Bethlehem; an unlikely couple as supporting characters, Joseph and Mary; God chose an unlikely audience through which to broadcast the news of Christ's birth, common shepherds; and he chose a new born infant as the lead character in this story of redemption, love, and grace, Jesus, the Child of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem's Child, will be brought to you through the music of our Northminster Choir and area musicians.

Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors and friends, **Sunday, December 9**, during our 10:30 AM worship service. This year there will be a reception, in the Fellowship Hall, following the Cantata service.

Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors

Northminster is happy to host The Suncoast Concert Band in their 86th season of presenting quality music to the Sarasota Community.

Come hear the Suncoast Concert Band play in our sanctuary, at 3:00 PM on **December 2 and 16**. On the second, they offer "The Fiddler and Hanukkah" and on the 16th, they celebrate Christmas with "'Tis the Season."

The Jazz Ambassadors open their season on **December 9** at 3:00, with their program "Meet the Band."



HORNS-A-PLENTY

FRENCH HORN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Imagine Christmas music with only that rich, beautiful French horn sound. Come hear it for yourself on Saturday, **December 15**, at 4:00, in NPC's Sanctuary. Horns-a-Plenty is made up of French horn players of all ages, from all over the Florida west coast. The Concert is free, though a goodwill offering will be accepted to help fund a scholarship for a French Horn player.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Sanctuary will be filled with well-loved Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve, at 5:00, as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The traditional service includes communion and closes in song and candlelight.



Rejoice with Friends!

DECK THE HALLS

The date for decorating our Sanctuary has been changed to Saturday, **December 1**. Come join the Worship Committee for a proper beginning to the Christmas season!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TROLLEY RIDE

We have reserved *three* trolleys for our **December 11** tour of local Christmas light displays. And all seats are taken! If you reserved a spot, but won't be able to make it, please call Matt Stevenson to let him know. There are people waiting to get a seat!

For those going on the excursion: arrive at the church around 5:15 for some Christmas cookies and was-sail. The trolleys will pick up everyone at the church at 6:00.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall, following the Cantata on **December 9**. We'll savor the glow of the beautiful music, and fellowship, while indulging in some holiday treats.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

NPC's Christmas Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, **December 19**, at 5:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Entertainment, for the evening, will be provided by a world-renowned Christian comedian and the harmonies of the Northminster Congregation Tabernacle Choir. And, of course, there will be a visit from a jolly old elf. If you missed our great Luau in September, you don't want to miss this!

The Fellowship Committee is providing a ham and a turkey –they're asking you to bring your favorite holiday side-dish or dessert. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and let us know what you'll be bringing.

CELEBRATE WITH PASTOR WALLY AND JOYCE

You're invited to come share some Christmas cheer with the Johnsons! Pastor Wally and Joyce will be hosting a not-quite-the-twelfth-day-of-Christmas drop-in, at their home, on Saturday, **January 5**, 3-6

Midday Music & History

An exciting lineup of music performances and history lectures has been scheduled for the 2019 season! Browse the events, listed below, and mark your calendars. All dates are Fridays and all events start at noon, lasting one hour. A reception, in the Fellowship Hall, follows each event.

January 11 Hein Jung, soprano, Grigorios Zamparas, piano from Tampa University

January 18: Prof. Justus Doe-neck, New College, "Reflections on Lost Peace of 1919 and the Origins of WWII"

January 25: Manasota Trombone Consort; Dan Dodds, Dave DeWitt, Greg Lecewicz, and Marty Musgrove



Rejoice through Sharing!

Salvation Army Angel Tree



Do you remember the anticipation and excitement you felt as a child on Christmas day? Sadly some underprivileged children will never get to experience that feeling of joy. But we, here at NPC, can help by participating in the Angel Tree program.

Simply take a tag from the angel tree in the sanctuary. Each tag has

a child's name and wish list on it. Once you've gone shopping, return the presents in a secure bag, along with the angel tree tag. You can place the bag under the tree during Sunday services or drop it off at the church office during the week.

The deadline for dropping off your gifts is December 2nd. Experience the joy of giving and create lasting memories for a precious child.

Christmas Cookie Baskets



Every year the Deacons deliver gift bags and baskets of holiday treats to our homebound members, before Christmas.

You can help out by contributing some of your favorite home-baked Christmas cookies, or wrapped candies. Bring them to the church

kitchen (Fellowship Hall) **December 4-6.** The Deacons will pack and deliver them on Friday, December 7.

Remember to label your donations "Cookie Basket" when you drop them off. Thank you!

Christmas Joy Offering



For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know the only perfect gift that was given was the one we received in Jesus Christ. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing, as the New Testament letter of James says, "every generous act of giving... is from above."

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, the PC(USA) supports current and retired church leaders who require financial assistance. They may be a facing

health care crisis, family emergency, or be affected by natural disasters, such as last year's hurricanes. Fifty percent of your Christmas Joy gift provides assistance to past and present church leaders.

With the other fifty percent, PC (USA) supports students of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.

Christmas Joy Offering will be received at services on December 23 and Christmas Eve.

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

Looking back at the past program year, SPARCC reports serving 219 adults and 139 children in shelter; 2,591 helpline crisis-calls; 89 24-hour hospital responses; and 319 survivors receiving legal service.

Looking ahead, they site SPARCC's Prevention Education Program: teaching healthy relationship skills, promoting positive self-esteem and respect, changing social norms about dating relationships, and providing support for at-risk students.

SPARCC is one of the local charities supported by our Mission Fund. You can designate your mission gift by writing *SPARCC*

on your envelope or the memo line of your check.

In addition to monetary support:

- We collect used **cell phones** (and chargers) to be refurbished and programmed to serve as 911 phones to help those in crisis. Leave these at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex, or bring to the church office.
- The Presbyterian Women are collecting **body/bath or hair care gift sets** for SPARCC clients. They will be collecting these at their Birthday Party for Jesus on December 10. If you are not attending, you can drop off donations in the Narthex or office.



Violence against one affects every member of the family.

Resurrection House

Resurrection House is a faith-based resource center committed to transitioning at-risk individuals to a path of self-sufficiency. It serves as a day resource center to the homeless with services that include showers, restrooms, laundry, counseling, medical treatment, food, clothing, veteran's assistance, post office, phone,

and more. We also collect hotel-size toiletries for their use.

Northminster supports Resurrection House through your gifts to the Mission Fund. Gifts can be designated specifically for this mission by writing *Resurrection House* on your envelope or the memo line of your check.

Helping the Hungry

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

AFFB is the hub of hunger relief in Sarasota County. Some of the most needed items are: rice, dried beans, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat and tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, and canned tomato sauce. *Please do not donate food in glass containers.*

THE BLESSING BOX

Providing Blessings for those passing by our church. Your donations of food and water are welcome and vital to the continuation of this ministry. Please leave your contributions in the red bin, in the Narthex. May you be blessed!



Presbyterian Women

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS



The PW invites you to a Birthday Party for Jesus on Monday, December 10, at 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Jerry Landis will be performing your favorite seasonal music, followed by a Christmas sing-a-long.

Please bring a wrapped gift for clients of SPARCC. Gift suggestions are bath and body or hair product gift sets, or gift cards from Target or Walmart.

The Birthday Offering will be received. The Offering will be sent to PW of the PC(USA) for three missions it supports. This year they are: a project to build tiny homes in a protective community, for very low income families, in Oregon; to help a program addressing domestic violence with a building to serve more women and children seek-

ing safety in Minnesota; and in Honduras, a retreat center to be used by Presbyterian missionaries.

Everyone, men and women, is invited to the party! If you plan to attend, please RSVP by signing up in the Narthex.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

PW Coordinating Team

Monday, December 3, 10:30

Esther Circle

Thursday, December 6, 12:00

Leader: **Jane Clark**

Ruth Circle

Will not meet in December

Leader: **Valerie Wilde**

Mary Circle

Will not meet in December

Leader: **Debbie Latimer**



News From the Church Library

On the first page of the first book (*At Home in Mitford*) of the Mitford series by Jan Karon, Father Tim, the main character, prays "Father make me a blessing to someone today, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Members of Mary Circle were a real blessing when they stayed after their meeting on October 31 to help me get books ready to be checked out. I was very surprised, however, to learn none of them have read these delightful books set in the fictional village of Mitford, North Carolina. A

place filled with quirky characters you'll love getting to know.

There are fourteen books in this series and we have eleven of them in the library, ready for you to enjoy. You, too, can be a blessing if you have a copy of any of the last three books in the series and are willing to donate them to the library.

Bonnie Kiger

Librarian

Christmas Card Exchange

Save postage and *donate the savings to a charity*. You will find the Christmas card "mailboxes" 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, alphabetically, in the box. Please use the amount you saved on postage to donate to your favorite charity.



Financial Update

<u>Operating Fund Results</u>			<u>Cornerstone</u>	
	<u>October 2018</u>	<u>Year To Date 2018</u>	Charles Schwab	\$36,982.73
Income	\$22,468.00	\$ 258,491.13		
Expenses	\$28,390.83	\$ 287,093.08		
Net Income	<\$ 5,922.83>	<\$ 28,601.95>		
<u>Operating Fund Balance</u>			<u>Mortgage Balance as of 10/31/18</u>	
Iberia Bank	\$30,631.98		Required Monthly Payment	\$ 2,184.74
PILP Money Market	\$22,766.29		Breakdown: Principal	\$ 1,367.16
	\$53,398.27		Interest	\$ 817.58
<u>Capital Campaign Fund Balance</u>			Revised Payment Estimate	\$ 2,184.74
Scott Trade	\$ 100.13		Interest Rate: 3.9720	
PILP Money Market	\$38,431.65			
	\$38,531.78			

Bob Silver, Treasurer

Matching Fund

We are asking those who are able, to make an extra gift, in addition to their pledge or regular offering, to offset an income shortfall in 2018. A generous offer was made to match all of these extra gifts, **made by December 31**, up to \$50,000. Through November 18, we have received \$13,285 toward our goal of \$50,000.



To maximize your gifts to Northminster, write "Matching Fund" on your envelope or the memo line on your check.

Security at NPC

Several individuals have expressed concern about the safety measures at Northminster, in light of the shootings that have taken place during recent months.

This is an issue we take very seriously. We try to balance two important issues. The first is the "welcome" of the gospel. We want our worship at Northminster to be welcoming and inviting.

The second issue is that of the safety of our congregants. We must take this seriously, as well.

Several members attended a session, about a year ago, with the City of Sarasota Police Department, on this issue. Following that session, we adopted reasonable protocols. Session has reviewed these and will continue to review them. Please be assured that your safety, as we gather for worship, is a top priority.

Office Notes



Merry Christmas!

2019 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.

Whether you prefer to contribute **weekly or monthly**, we have a boxed envelope set for you. If you don't see a box with your name and wish to use envelopes, please contact **Isabel** in the church office, 355-4729.



OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30

Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

Office closed December 25 for Christmas and on January 1 for New Year's Day

NOTE: EARLY DEADLINES

- **Announcements for the Dec. 23 and 30 bulletin are due on December 17.** Announcements for all other Sunday Bulletins are due in the office by noon on the Wednesday before.
- **Session Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, December 5**, for the meeting on **December 12**.
- **Good Tidings deadline:** Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the January 2019 newsletter by **Wednesday, December 12**, to office@npcsarasota.org.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Starting in December, you can sign up to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary in 2019. An arrangement costs \$35. Look for the Flowers Clipboard at the Welcome Center.

WELCOME BACK SEASONAL FRIENDS

For those who are in Sarasota only part of the year, it can be easy to overlook filing address changes with everyone. If you follow a fairly regular schedule, *you'll only have to notify us one time!* Notify the office, just once, the dates when you usually change address and our database program will automatically update your address every year!

Please call 355-4729 or email (Office@npcsarasota.org) with this information so that we can send statements, newsletters, and other correspondence to the correct address.

PICTURE DIRECTORIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

The updated 2018 Picture Directory is available to everyone whose picture appears in it. If you haven't received your copy yet, please contact the office at 941-355-4729 or office@npcsarasota.org.

Isabel Oake
Office Administrator

December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Elinor McFarlane | 23 | MimHosack |
| 10 | Ethel Boyce | 25 | Manfred Siebert |
| | Diane Price | 26 | Shirley Samson |
| 11 | Valerie Wilde | 30 | Charlie Mae Gocio |
| 14 | Aleta Blachly | | |
| 15 | Neva Low | | |



Northminster Presbyterian Church † 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 9:30 Cantata Rehearsal-S 11 Decorate Church for Christmas
<i>2</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Communion 3Suncoast Band Concert-S	<i>3</i> 10 LR Falls-EB 10:30 PW Coordinating Team-L 3:30 Bells-S 5:30 Fellowship Com.-L 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	<i>4</i> 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11Worship Com-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<i>5</i> 10 Tai Chi-FH 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Membership Com-L 2 LR Falls-EB Session Reports Due	<i>6</i> 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 PRP-EB 1:30 Finance-L 2 Bible Study at Inspired Living 6 Al-Anon SP-EB 6:45 Choir 7:30 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	<i>7</i> TBA- Cookie Packaging 10:00 Bible Study at Discovery Vlg. 2 Line Dance-FH	<i>8</i> 2-4 Cantata Dress Rehearsal
<i>9</i> 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Cantata 11:30 Christmas Reception-FH 3 Jazz Concert-S	<i>10</i> 9:30 Band-S 11:30 PW Party For Jesus-FH 3:30 Bells-S 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	<i>11</i> 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons 4 Bible Study-FH 5:15 Christmas Lights Trolley 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<i>12</i> 10 Tai Chi-FH 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission Committee-L 3 Seekers Sq-L 7 Session -L Good Tidings Deadline	<i>13</i> 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 10 LR Falls-EB 10 Bible Study at The Windsor 2 LR Falls 6 Al-Anon SP-EB 6:45 Choir 7:30 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	<i>14</i> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH 2 LR Falls-EB	<i>15</i> 4 Horns-a-Plenty Concert-S
<i>16</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3Suncoast Band Concert-S	<i>17</i> 2 LRFalls-EB 2:30 Bell-S 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	<i>18</i> 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<i>19</i> 10 Tai Chi-FH 10:30 Artists-EB 5:30 Christmas Pot Luck-FH	<i>20</i> 10 Bible Study-FH 2 Bible Study at Inspired Living 6 Al-Anon SP-EB 6:45 Choir 7:30 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	<i>21</i> 10:00 Bible Study at Discovery Vlg 2 Line Dance-FH	<i>22</i> 11 Bells-S
<i>23</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9 Bells-S 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship	<i>24</i> 4:15 Bells-S 5 Christmas Eve Service-S 6 AlAnon-EB	<i>25</i> Christmas Office closed 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<i>26</i> 10 Tai Chi-FH 10:30 Artists-EB	<i>27</i> 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon Sp-EB 6:45 Choir-S 7:30 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	<i>28</i> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship	<i>31</i> 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB		Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library S= Sanctuary		* The Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor , meets Sunday mornings & Thursday evenings in the Education Building.	



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

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Manasota, FL

"In God we trust"

CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACE LABEL HERE



Rejoice!

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

STAFF:

Rev. Wally Johnson, Pastor
pastorwally@npcsarasota.org
Isabel Oake, Office Administrator
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clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org
Edward L. Stiles, Jr., Music Director
music@npcsarasota.org
Gail Ofterdinger-Ledgister, 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 **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.