

Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church ✠ Sarasota, FL

March 2019

MARCH SERVICES

**Sundays at
10:30 AM**

Rev. Wally Johnson

March 3

*Does God Exist and
Why Are We Here?*
Genesis 2

March 6, Wednesday

*5:30 Ash Wednesday
Communion Service*

March 10

Roping the Wind
Ecclesiastics 2

March 17

Gifts of Women Sunday
Rev. Kathy Dain,
guest minister

March 24

What is Eternal Life?
John 17:3
Philippians 2:11

March 31

Living with a Purpose
1 Peter 2:12
John 17:13-19

Pastor's Corner

Lent is upon us and that means that Holy Week is right around the corner. Lent is a season, in the church, that is not mentioned in the Bible. Some would say that we should not observe it because of that. For me, and others, it is a wonderful time to remember and reflect on the suffering of our Lord and the call to take up our cross and follow him.

On Ash Wednesday, we will have a Soup Dinner and Communion Service at 5:30. The imposition of the ashes is a sobering reminder that we are to live all of life under the shadow of the cross. In this season, the shadow of the cross looms large.

During Lent, beginning on March 13, we will have a Wednesday Soup Lunch and Bible Study. We will start at noon and finish by 1:00. We will be using a video series entitled "Embracing Forgiveness," by Barbara Crafton. I think you will enjoy it. To make the schedule work we will *not* have Tuesday Bible Study from March 5, until after Easter.

During Lent, it is a common practice to give something up. Often, this becomes a source of spiritual pride in and of itself. The practice of giving something up is to serve the larger practice of adding something good to our daily practices. Perhaps that is a spiritual discipline or a good deed that we feel called to. The giving up is best done as a means to give ourselves to something else.



The basin and the towel is a powerful image, for me. It represents the call of Christ to servanthood. The call is to community! We have many opportunities to listen to the call of God as it comes to each of us! May we listen to that call!

In His Service,

Pastor Wally

DOES YOUR LIFE MATTER- WHY ARE WE HERE?

Each Sunday in March,
I will take up the big idea -

Welcome to the Planet.
- *Why are we here?*

Invite your unchurched friends to join us for this series. Take them to lunch after the service. You never know what God will use in the life of another!

Pastor Wally

Welcome to the Planet



Every Sunday worship service in March, **beginning March 3**, will be dedicated to those who are seeking God or are seeking to know him better. Pastor Wally will be preaching on sermons that relate to “Why we exist, who God is, reasons to believe in Jesus Christ, and how Christianity can change lives now and forever more.”

This is an excellent time to invite your unchurched friends. God commands all Christians to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Our community is exploding in growth with new retirees from the “boomer” age. Many of them may soon realize that something is missing in their lives. God can fill those voids. We owe it to them and to God to bring them together. God has blessed us with a church that is well prepared to serve their needs.

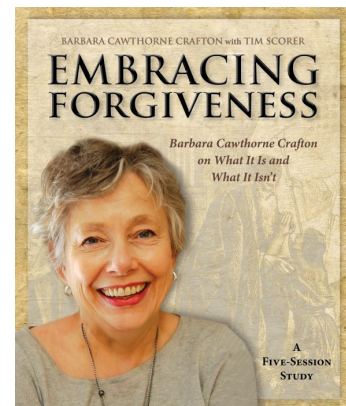
We are not asking congregational members to go out and evangelize. We are asking those who know someone who doesn’t go to church to invite them. Invitational evangelism works best when you say a quick prayer, take a deep breath, open your mouth, and let it rip. If you do not know anyone who is unchurched, then please pray daily for those who do. Pray that God will prepare their hearts to respond favorably to the invitation. And stay alert that God may put someone in your path that he wants you to invite.

Look for our ads in “Ticket” magazine in the Herald Tribune, every Thursday in March. Announcement postcards are available, in the Narthex or office, for you to hand out to prospective guests.

Embracing Forgiveness

Starting on **Wednesday, March 6**, this five-week class will explore the topic of Forgiveness. The video series, by author Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, shares stories and insights on forgiveness, what it is and isn’t, why it’s so badly needed, and how employing simple, concrete practices can integrate forgiveness into our lives.

The classes are from noon-1:00 and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. “Soups that you love” will be served, by the Fellowship Committee, at the beginning of each session. Look for the sign-up clipboard on Sundays in the Narthex or, during the week, in the church office.



Connections Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, or in just 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 three-part class will be held in the Library on **Sundays, March 3, 10, and 17, at 9:00**. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office, if you are interested.

Meet Our New Members

ERICH AND INGRID LIPPERT

Erich and Ingrid share a common heritage. Erich arrived in America from Germany as a teenager, with his parents and sister, in 1956. Ingrid moved from Germany in 1969, after she and Erich were married.

Erich worked for Citibank, which kept the couple moving internationally for many years. They share interests in traveling, going on cruises, and beach walking. They have two daughters and one granddaughter.

Welcome to Northminster, Ingrid and Erich,



RON & BOBBI MESSENGER

Ron was born and raised in Sarasota. He and his wife, Bobbi, have been married for 43 years. He is a barber and she is a hairdresser. Bobbi also has been an Alzheimer technician for five years and enjoys providing care to the elderly. At her last church, Bobbi was engaged in Evangelical work. Ron has been supportive of her various church endeavors. The Messengers like to travel and appreciate fine dining.

We are delighted to welcome Bobbi and Ron as members of NPC.



ROSE HARKNESS

Rose was born and raised in Taiwan and moved to the U.S. in 1970. She settled in New York City and, in 1990, arrived in Sarasota.

Rose and her late husband enjoyed traveling. Now, she says, she leads a simple life, finding pleasure in reading and cooking. She also enjoys vegetable gardening and tending to her fruit tree. You may also find her dancing in the Friday Line Dancing Group.

We are pleased to welcome Rose to the Northminster family.



How to Join

Whether or not your church background is Presbyterian, we welcome you to our congregation!

God calls us to worship him, to be in regular fellowship with one another, and to serve. You do not need to be a member of our church in order to do any of these but many have found that formally uniting with a local church body is a commitment that brings to them a sense of belonging, the challenge to grow in their faith, and an opportunity to use their talents and experience in the service of God.

If you're interested in becoming a member of Northminster, **simply contact Pastor Wally, Val Wilde, or the church office.** It's exciting to be a part of something so much bigger than we are!

Presbyterians Eating Out *Lunchtime Edition!*

“Soak up the spirit of the Scots” at MacAllister's Grill & Tavern, 8110 Lakewood Main Street, Lakewood Ranch. **On March 15**, we'll meet at 11:30 to enjoy lunch at the Scottish style restaurant. You can order Scottish specialties like Bangers & Mash, Haggis, and Lamb Burger or burgers, sandwiches, and salads with a more local flavor.

Please sign up to join the crowd for lunch at this Scottish Golf-themed Grill.

From the Church Library

It's Spring Cleaning Time! Is your bookcase overflowing? Do you still need to unpack boxes of books from your last move? Don't forget the church library is happy to accept suitable Christian books in good condition. There's a book cart on the far wall in the library just waiting for new donations. We're especially short on Christian Fiction, but I'm happy to report that we now have the entire Mitford series by Jan Karon. Thank you for all the recent donations ... keep 'em coming!

Bonnie Kiger

Library Hours:

Monday afternoons, 1-3

Friday mornings, 10-12



Presbyterian Women



PW Coordinating Team: Monday March 4, at 10:30, in Library

Esther Circle: No meeting in March. Jane Clark, Leader

Ruth Circle: Monday, March 18, at 10:00. Val Wilde, Leader

Mary Circle: Wednesday, March 27, at 10:00. Debbie Latimer, Leader

Gifts of Women Sunday: On Sunday, March 17, the Worship Service will be led by women of the church. Rev. Kathleen Dain of the Beth-El Farmworkers Mission will be the guest speaker.

Mission Ministry

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKUK, IRAQ

Approximately 40 Syrian refugees are still housed in the Kirkuk Presbyterian church, where classrooms and offices have become small apartments. The Kirkuk Church has managed to not only minister to these refugees, but also to refugees in churches and camps elsewhere in northern Iraq. The Church still continues its regular programs, including a Kindergarten and Child Care Center.

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, and more. They'd like donations of unisex shampoos and soap—no other toiletries, at this time.

SAFE PLACE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER

SPARCC is the only state-certified center for domestic violence and sexual assault services for Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. They provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, and multiple services for survivors of abuse. In addition, SPARCC is actively engaged, through community education programs, in addressing and changing social norms that support violence against women. We collect used cell phones, phone chargers, and accessories to be refurbished and programmed to serve as 911 phones for those in crisis.



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER MEAL-PACKING EVENT

We will be working with Kids Against Hunger for a meal-packing event, following worship service on **March 3**. This is the second Meal Packing for us; our first was in May 2018. If you participated or talked to anyone who participated last year, you will know how easy and fun this project is! You can even do it sitting down! You will love doing this project together and feel good about making a difference!

BLESSING BOX

Last year a notable addition was made to Northminster's local mission effort. The Blessing Box, standing prominently in front of the sanctuary, next to the bus-stop, provides food, sometimes toiletries, and Bible Mission USA's Gospel of John, to people who pass by our church every day.

Food items and bottled water are needed on a continuing basis to support this ministry to our neighbors. Donations can be left in the red tub in the Narthex.

A NOTE ABOUT BETH-EL DONATIONS

Beth-El has been inundated by donations of household items and all types of clothing. They cannot process all that they have.

At this time they are accepting only the following clothing, in small and medium sizes: white t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, jeans, new underwear, socks, work shoes or boots, and baseball caps.

Financial Update

Operating Fund January 2019

Income	\$37,574.75
Expenses	\$24,049.32
Net Income	\$13,525.43

Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$146,185.24
PILP Money Market	\$ 22,800.87
	\$168,986.11

Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Scott Trade	\$ 100.14
PILP Money Market	\$37,524.06
	\$37,624.20

Cornerstone

Charles Schwab	\$38,523.37
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Mortgage Balance as of 1/31/19

	\$225,446.74
Required Monthly Payment	\$ 2,184.74
Breakdown: Principal	\$ 1,367.16
Interest	\$ 817.58
Revised Payment Estimate	\$ 2,184.74
Interest Rate: 3.9720	

Bob Silver, Treasurer



News from the Deacons

New Deacons are coming! Soon we will be saying, “good-bye,” to some of the deacons who have served us so well, and, “welcome!” to new deacons, who are eager to serve our congregation. That means *your* deacon may change. But, not to worry, *all* of our deacons are able and willing to serve your spiritual needs. May God bless them in all they do.

Do you have bud vases? The flower committee is looking for vases that only hold 2-4 flowers, so we can make smaller arrangements out of our altar flowers to take to our shut-ins. If you have any vases that you have received church flowers in, or if you would just like to donate some small vases, please leave them in the narthex or take them to the church office.

Office Notes

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30 and Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

DEADLINES:

- **Announcements for the Sunday bulletin** are due in the office by noon on the Wednesday before.
- **Session Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, March 13**, for the meeting on **March 20**.
- **Good Tidings deadline:** Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the April newsletter by **Friday, March 15**, to office@npcsarasota.org.



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

Isabel Oake, Office Administrator

MARCH

Northminster Presbyterian Church 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* The Spanish-speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor , meets Sunday mornings & Thursday evenings in the Education Building.			Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library S= Sanctuary		1 2 Line Dance-FH	2 11 Handbells Rehearsal (S) 3 Iglesia (FH)
3 9 Bible Study-FH 9 Connections Class-L 9:15 Handbells-S 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Communion 11:30 Meal Packing Event-FH	4 9:30 Band-S 10 LR Falls-EB 10:30 PW Coordinating Team-L 5:30 Fellowship Com.-L 6 AIAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	5 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 2 LR Falls-EB 4 Bible Study-FH 6 AIAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10 Tai Chi 10:30 Artists-EB 5:30 Ash Wednesday Service-FH	7 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 Finance-L 6 AI-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir-S 7:30 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	8 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH 2 LR Falls-EB	9
10 9 Bible Study-FH 9 Connections-L 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3Suncoast Band Concert-S	11 3:30 Bells-FH 6 AIAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	12 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons 6 AIAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	13 10 Tai Chi 10:30 Artists-EB 12 Forgiveness Program & Soup 1:30 Mission -L Session Reports Due	14 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 10 LR Falls-EB 1 Orioles Game 2 LRFalls-EB 6 AI-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir 7 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	15 11:30 Pres. Eating Out 2 Line Dance-FH 2 LR Falls-EB Good Tidings Deadline	16
17 9 Bible Study-FH 9Connections Class-L 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3 Jazz Concert-S	18 9:30 Band-S 10 Ruth Cir-L 2 LR Falls-EB 3:30 Bells-FH 6 AIAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	19 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 6 AIAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	20 10 Tai Chi 10:30 Artists-EB 12 Forgiveness Program & Soup 3 Seekers Sq-L 7 Session -L	21 10 Bible Study-FH 11:30 O&M -L 6 AI-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir 7 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	22 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH	23 11 Bells-S
24 9 Bible Study-FH 9:15 Handbells-S 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship	25 10 Band Recital 3:30 Bells-FH 6 AIAnon-EB 7 Scouts-FH/EB	26 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 6 AIAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	27 10 Tai Chi 10:30 Artists-EB 12 Forgiveness Program & Soup	28 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 6 AI-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir 7 Iglesia Bible Study-EB	29 2 Line Dance-FH	30
31 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship						



The Church with the Red Roof

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

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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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music@npcsarasota.org
Gail Ofterdinger-Ledgister, Organist

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.

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