

Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church ✠ Sarasota, FL

November 2019

NOVEMBER SERVICES

**Sundays at
10:30 AM**

Rev. Wally Johnson

Fall back!

Daylight Saving Time
ends Nov. 3!



November 3

A Puzzled Prophet
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

November 10

*Former Glory-
Future Glory*
Haggai 1:15b-2:9

November 17

*Redemption
Draws Near*
Isaiah 65:17-25
and Luke 21:5-19

November 24

A Splintered Throne
Luke 23:33-43

Pastor's Corner

With November comes some great family times, with Thanksgiving and then Christmas right around the corner.

Thanksgiving is always a great reminder of the fact that all we have comes from the hands of our God. On November 17th there is an Inter-faith Service at First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. I spoke at the event last year and will attend this year, as well. The focus is on gratitude in our different faith traditions.

On Thanksgiving Day, we will have a Thanksgiving dinner here at Northminster. For all who do not have previous plans, come join us as we break bread together and lift our voices in thanks to God!

On December 1, we get to share Advent, which is a time of great joy for me, and attempt to understand more fully the entrance of God into our world, in human form. What an amazing gift to us from the heart of God's love.



Our Christmas Cantata, on December 15, will be performed during the morning worship service. The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:30. It will conclude with lighting candles in front of the church to remind us that we are the light of the world!

This year we will do something different in our service. We will take an offering. This offering will be used, in its entirety, for Mission. I am excited that your generosity and our budget cuts have put us on stable footing once again and we want to celebrate that by focusing on Mission!

Thanks be to God for the wonder of the Seasons!

In His Service,
Pastor Wally



Thank You Volunteers!

At this season of Thanksgiving, we recognize and thank those who tirelessly perform the many “behind the scenes” tasks around the church. Thanks to all these volunteers and to those who remain anonymous, with apologies to anyone we missed.

Bulletin Collators: Helen and Richard Healy and Don Swanson

Good Tidings Collators: Mary Ann Colter and Debbie Latimer (Coordinators), Bonnie Kiger, Jack Kirby, Tom Latimer, Betty Miller, Bob and Diane Price, Diane and Ken Ray, Matthew Stevenson, and Harry and Valerie Wilde

Good Tidings Proofreaders: Carole Glidden and Jack and Sally Kirby



THANKS

FOR

STEPPING

UP

Website Team: Sally Kirby and Dee Sosnowski

Office Angels: Jackie Conner, Jan Gubrud, Joyce Johnson, Sally Kirby, Mary Lou Lefferson, Pat Patterson, Robin Sutcliffe, and Valerie Wilde

Memorial Receptions: Debbie Latimer, Betty Miller, Caroline Pinson, and Robin Sutcliffe

Prayer Chain: Jeanne Peters

Offering Counters: Carole Glidden, Bob Gubrud, Jim Harman, Sandy Heslin, Norm Jatho, Joyce Johnson, Bob Price, Bob Silver, and Dee Sosnowski

Property Maintenance and Repair: Jim Christie, Larry Brown, Larry Barnhart, Mark Goslin, Ron Handwork, Rose Harkness, Wally Johnson, Isabel Oake, Matt Stevenson, Robin Sutcliffe, and Steve Thompson.

Sanctuary Care: Richard and Helen Healy (pews), Joyce Johnson (banners & paraments), Norm Jatho (candles)

Flower Coordinators:
Sundays - Dee Sosnowski,
Easter Lilies & Poinsettias-Helen and Richard Healy

Communion Preparation: Diane and Bob Price and Diane Ray

Communion Servers Coordinator: Steve Thompson

Worship Audio/Visual: Richard Dahlem, Eric Guth

Usher Coordinator: Jodie Shay

Head Usher: Ron Myers

Golf Cart Coordinator: Ken Ray

Fellowship Committee: Matt Stevenson, (chair), Wayne Austin, Donna Bagnall, Larry Barnhart, Mary Ann Colter, Mark Goslin, Bob Gubrud, Joyce Johnson, Bobbi Messenger, Dave Messenger, Pat Patterson, Jo Ann Paul, Phil Paul, Ellen Roth, Jerry Roth, Shirley Samson, Colette Stevenson, and Robin Sutcliffe

Bible Study & Worship

FRESH FROM THE NEWS

Karl Barth wrote, "Take your Bible and take your newspaper and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible."

In his class, "Fresh From the News" Pastor Wally will take an item that has been in the news and the class will examine it from a Biblical Perspective. The goal is to relate current events to Scripture passages and encourage us to apply God's Word to everyday life.

The Pastor's Bible Study is held **every Tuesday at 10:00.**

EXODUS

Dick Murphy teaches a weekly Bible study, in the Fellowship Hall, on the Book of Exodus, **every Sunday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.**

The Book of Exodus contains the two greatest periods in the history of the Jewish people. The first was when God rescued his chosen people out of the land of Egypt. The second was when God gave them the Ten Commandments.

This study will be presented from both Christian and Jewish perspectives.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Ruth Circle meets on the third Monday of the month, at 10:00. The chairperson is **Valerie Wilde.**

Mary Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00. The chairperson is **Debbie Latimer.**

This year the women are studying the Ten Commandments. All women of the church (members and non-members) are invited to join one of these friendly study groups.

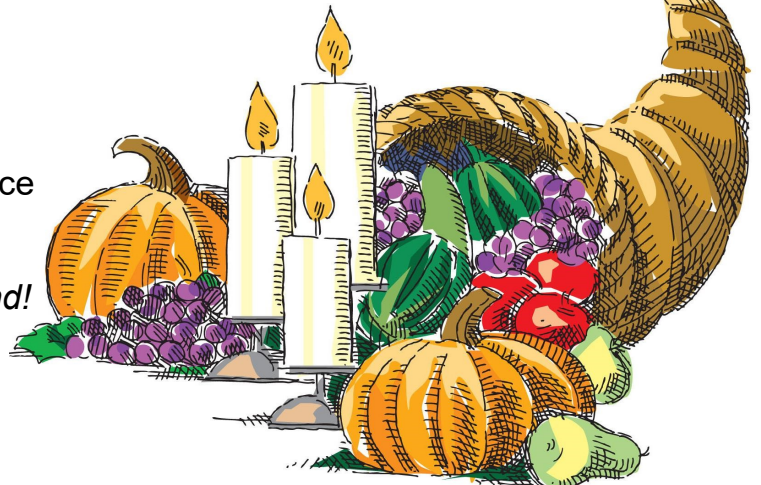
Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 17 at 5:30 PM

Music • Prayers • Reflections
• Special reception following the service

*All are welcome -
from any faith, tradition, or background!*

First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street, Sarasota



Mission Ministry

THE BLESSING BOX

We never know what someone needs at any particular moment. 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!

BETH-EL FARMWORKERS MINISTRY

Beth-El helps farm workers achieve self-sufficiency through its open opportunities to worship, its extensive education programs, and the many services it provides to meet basic needs. Among its core programs are worship, a food pantry, education, meals, camps for children, and counseling. In addition to financial support, Northminster collects clothing for the workers: specifically pants, white t-shirts, underwear, work boots, socks, and baseball caps.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKUK

Approximately forty 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. Northminster helps to provide support for their relief efforts.

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

AFFB is the hub of hunger relief in Sarasota county, providing food for families with children, the elderly, the unemployed, and low-income earners. Every month a yellow barrel full of food is picked up from the Narthex. Monthly collections weigh anywhere from 120 to over 200 pounds. 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.*

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.

RESURRECTION HOUSE

Resurrection House is celebrating 30 years as a 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.



Salute to the Services

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & OPERATION SHOEBOX

Last year's Operation Shoebox and pancake breakfast was so successful because of all the love and support from our congregation. The Fellowship Committee is repeating the program this year on Saturday, **November 16**.

A breakfast of pancakes, breakfast casserole and sausage will be served at 9:00. Sign up in the Narthex. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested at the event.

Veterans in our congregation will be honored with a display of our Heroes' memorabilia. Please contact **Joyce Johnson** to reserve a space for displaying your picture, uniform, or commendations.

After the breakfast, we'll be putting together "Care Packages" as part

of Operation Shoebox. The gift bags will be sent to *deployed* Service Members overseas.

Everyone can participate by providing the items to be sent in the gift bags. Select an "ornament" from our tree in the Sanctuary and purchase the requested items. Donations can be placed in the box in the Sanctuary, brought to the office, or to the breakfast. If you have playing cards, handheld games, or small puzzle books, laying around your house, that you can donate, please bring them! If you have questions, you can contact **Joyce Johnson**.



Thanksgiving Dinner at Church

On Thanksgiving Day, **November 28, at 2:00**, the Fellowship Committee will be serving a Thanksgiving meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Extensive research has shown that Cracker Barrel has a proven record for catering such an event. The Fellowship Committee is giving back to the congregation for all the love and support that has been given to them this past year.

The only cost to those who attend, is to bring a loving, Godly Heart. Otherwise, it's FREE.



A Trip to Israel in 2020

Pastor Wally will lead a tour of the Holy Land next fall, October 21-31, 2020.

Any-one who'd like more information about the trip is invited to attend a meeting on Sunday, **November 10**, in the Library, after the worship service.



The Sound of Music



Pianist, Gail Offerdinger-Ledgister accompanies the NPC choir on the new Steinway piano. All are rocking the new cream & blue choir robes.

INAUGURAL PIANO CONCERT

On Sunday, **November 24**, at 3 p.m., we will be treated to a concert featuring our new Steinway Piano, in the capable hands of our own Sylvia Eckes and Gail Offerdinger-Ledgister.

Sylvia is a Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University and has been knighted in Norway for her studies on Edvard Grieg, the prominent Norwegian composer of the 1800s.

Gail earned a BA in piano performance and an MA in music history. She has studied in Vienna and Rome and played the organ at the Vatican.

This is a rare treat and everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy these talented women play our new Steinway. A freewill offering will be taken to help offset the renovation costs of our "new" piano.

INTRODUCING THE STEINWAY

Northminster purchased a 1969, L model, Steinway grand piano earlier this year. It was soon given to the care of nationally-prominent piano technician, Justin Elliott, to renovate. He rebuilt the action (ask one of our music staff or Sylvia Eckes to explain that) and installed it early in October. The music staff feels fortunate to have an instrument that responds to a wide range of expression and brings a spiritual message to listeners.

SUNCOAST CONCERT BAND

The Suncoast Concert Band begins its eighth season in residence at Northminster. Their first concert of the season will be on **November 3** at 3 p.m.

Tickets for both groups are \$5.00 per person. Call their ticket line at 907-4123.

THE STORY OF THE ROBES

Our choir and congregation are so very grateful to the Bradenton First Presbyterian Church for their donation of 70 beautiful cream and royal blue choir robes. Northminster has had our burgundy robes for many years and they have served us extremely well over those years. Because the choir and bells choir numbers have grown over the years we had run out of robes for everyone, plus the old robes were heavy and hot for all. Bradenton Presbyterian received new robes from Lakewood Ranch High School, which enabled them to pass theirs on to NPC. Pastor Wally sent out a notice to our Presbytery that if there was any churches needing robes that ours were available, and very quickly North Ft. Myers Presbyterian church called and were grateful for our donation. God is Good and we are thankful for the Blessings he bestows on us.

Ed Stiles

MIDDAY PROGRAM

The Midday Program begins its fifth season on **January 10, 2020**. Four history lectures and four concerts are scheduled on alternating Fridays from January 10-February 29. Pick up a brochure, with all the dates and details, in the Narthex.

Bring your friends to these free events every Friday at noon, **from January 10 to February 28**. There are receptions immediately following the presentations in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Is Coming...

A MEMO FROM MATT

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." Ok, it's really the middle of October and 90 degrees outside, but you should know that the Fellowship Committee has begun planning for the Christmas season and we'll need your help to make it the very special time we all want it to be.

Mark your calendars for the special Christmas events listed on this page. We look forward to working with all of you to make this Christmas a memorable one for the entire congregation!

Matt Stevenson

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree will be set up soon, with the names and wish lists of area children. Pick a tag and purchase some of the suggested gifts for "your" child. Bring the unwrapped gifts to church for delivery to the Salvation Army. Watch for details in your Sunday bulletins.

DECK THE HALLS

Join the Worship Committee for a proper beginning to the Christmas season as the decorations come out of storage and Northminster takes on a seasonally festive look. D- (for decorating)-Day is tentatively scheduled for **November 30**.

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Save postage and donate the savings to a 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 North-minster family* and place them in the box. The postage saved, and donated to a charity, is the reason for the "mail-boxes."

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

NPC's Christmas Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, **December 11**, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

The Fellowship Committee is providing a ham and a turkey – they're asking you to bring your favorite holiday side-dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be available this month.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

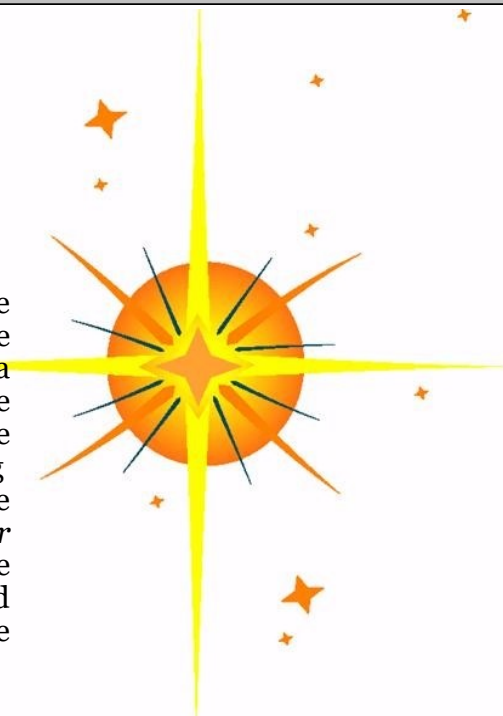
Behold, a Savior! will be performed by our Northminster Choir and area musicians on **Sunday, December 15**, during our 10:30 worship service. Invite your neighbors and friends to hear the beautiful music of the Christmas Story.

CANTATA RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall, following the Cantata on **December 15**. We'll savor the glow of the beautiful music, goodwill, and friendship, while indulging in some holiday treats.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Sanctuary will be filled with well-loved Christmas Carols on **Christmas Eve, at 5:30**, as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. This traditional Christmas Eve service includes communion, and closes with the congregation gathering outside, with lit candles, to pass on our light to the world.

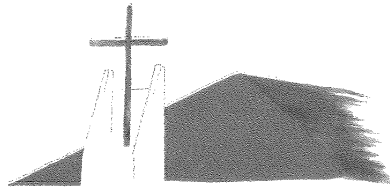




Library Hours
 Mondays: 1:00-3:00
 Fridays: 10:00-noon

Check It Out!

November seems like the perfect time to launch the new NPC Library Book Donation program as we head into the holiday season. By using the form below you can donate a book in honor or memory of someone or just as a special way to say thank you to someone for whom you're grateful. This form will be available in the Church Library, the Narthex and online. Happy Reading!



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK DONATION FORM

I / We : _____

Wish to donate a new book to the church library ... (Please check one)

() In Honor of : _____

() In Memory of : _____

Donation Amount : \$ _____ (Minimum \$25.00)

Book selection will be made by Librarian and an appropriate bookplate will be placed in book.

If desired, title or topic suggestions may be emailed to Librarian at gulfgal2@comcast.net.

Please take completed form and payment to church office. Checks should be made payable to Northminster Presbyterian Church with "book donation" written in memo line.

Coping with Grief and Loss

While the holiday season is a joyous time for most, those who have experienced the death of a loved one may be facing this time with a feeling of grief and loss.

First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Oak St., Sarasota, is offering a six-week bereavement support group. The group will meet on Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., although the exact start date has not yet been determined. Please contact **First Presbyterian Church** at **(941) 955-8119**.

Capital Campaign Report

Several years ago, the Capital Campaign Building Fund was started to raise money to build a new sanctuary. The one that we now occupy.

As part of the Capital Campaign, Jack Tibbitts and I, served on what was called "the Bridge Team." It was our responsibility to keep the church members informed of significant events as we periodically reduced the principal balance of the mortgage.

At that time, after raising \$800,000 in pledges from the congregation, through a capital fund drive, we borrowed almost \$1,200,000., to build this \$2,000,000 church. We have been diligently reducing the principal amount, over the last six years, to a balance on the loan of less than \$197,000. Now, after applying \$50,000 from the matching funds ap-

peal at the end of last year, we owe under \$143,000!!

It is the hope and prayer of the finance committee to pay the remaining outstanding balance of the mortgage this year.

By eliminating the monthly mortgage payment, we will free the church to continue to do the work God is calling us to do in this portion of his world.

If you are willing to help us with completing this dream, please contact **Jim Christie, Bob Price, Barry Ladd or myself.** We will be very glad to help you making this dream come true.

Bob Silver



2011, the old Fellowship Hall stood where the Sanctuary is now.



April 2012, ready for our first service

Financial Update

Operating Fund

	Sept. 2019	Year-to-date
Income	\$ 23,669.79	\$ 253,307.30
Expenses	<u>\$ 27,849.50</u>	<u>\$ 247,430.21</u>
Net Income	\$ -4,179.71	\$ 5,877.09

Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$ 88,933.17
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 22,917.67</u>
	\$ 111,850.84

Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Ameritrade	\$ 100.20
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 19,849.12</u>
	\$ 19,949.32

Cornerstone Fund

Charles Schwab	\$ 41,647.66
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Mortgage Balance as of September 2019

	\$194,583.25*
Required Monthly Payment	\$ 2,184.74
Breakdown: Principal	\$ 1,535.59
Interest	\$ 649.15
Interest Rate: 3.9720	

* \$50,000 paid on principal on Aug. 27 is not yet reflected.

Bob Silver, Treasurer

Office Notes



OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30

Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

**Office closed Nov. 21 & 22
in observance of Thanksgiving**

NOVEMBER DEADLINES

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

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.

MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Isabel Oake

Updated directories will be available very soon. Pick one up, in the Narthex or church office, for the most current contact information for NPC members and friends.

November Birthdays



1	Barbara Donaldson	13	George Burgess
3	Jim Fewell	14	Wayne Austin
	Ron Handwork	17	Bob Silver
6	Caroline Pinson	18	Chuck Reeves
7	Joan Melnick	19	Penny Mulak
	Bonnie Reeves	25	Jim Harman
8	Carmen Anderson		Sally Kirby
10	Jo Ann Paul	28	Earl Fleck
11	Leslie Gillis	29	Richard Healy

NOVEMBER



Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library S= Sanctuary	The Spanish-speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor , meets Sunday mornings in the Education Building.				1 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH	2 9 Handbell Rehearsal <i>10 Memorial for Dianne Gleeson</i>
3 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Communion 3 Suncoast Band Concert-S	4 4:15 Bells-FH 5:30 Fellowship Com.-L 6 AlAnon-EB	5 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	6 10 Tai Chi 1 Bridge-FH	7 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 1:30 Finance-L 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir-S Bible Study-EB	8 2 Line Dance-FH	9
10 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship	11 9:30 Band-S 4:15 Bells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	12 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	13 10 Tai Chi 1:30 Mission -L 3 Nominating Committee-L Session Reports Due	14 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	15 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH Good Tidings Deadline	16 9 Pancake Breakfast & Operation Shoebox
17 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3Suncoast Band Concert-S	18 9:30 Band-S 10 Ruth Cir-L 4:15 Bells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	19 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	20 10 Tai Chi 10 Mary Circle 5 Session -L	21 9:30 Band-S 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	22 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 3:00 Piano Concert	25 9:30 Band-S 4:15 Bells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	26 9:30 Jazz band rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	27 10 Tai Chi	28 1 Thanksgiving Dinner	29 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET	30



The Church with the Red Roof

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:

Rev. Wally Johnson, Pastor
pastorwally@npcsarasota.org
Isabel Oake, Office Administrator
office@npcsarasota.org
Sally Kirby, Clerk of Session
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.