

Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church † Sarasota, FL December 2019

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sundays at
10:30 AM

Rev. Wally Johnson

December 1

*It's a Wonderful Life-
Endure in Hope*
Luke 21:25-36

December 8

*It's a Wonderful Life-
Walk in Hope*
Luke 3:1-6

December 15

Christmas Cantata
Behold, A Savior!

December 22

*It's a Wonderful Life-
Rejoice in It*
Isaiah 35:1-10;
Luke 1:47-55

December 24

Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

December 29

Guest Preacher,
John Frazee

Pastor's Corner: *Hope for Today*

You know by now that Advent and Christmas are some of my favorite times of the year. 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.

We finish the old liturgical year with Christ the King Sunday and begin the new liturgical year with Advent.

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 when we look back, but we also look forward.

This is a busy time of the year. My prayer is that we will not miss the wonder of the incarnation in all that is going around us. We need to make time for our souls, in this

season, and spend time in prayer and wonderment as we lose ourselves in the amazing love of our God.

My Advent sermons will be centered around the idea of Hope for today. You see, the promise of the Hope of the Messiah is as fresh and real for us today as it was 2,000 years ago.

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



Behold, A Savior!

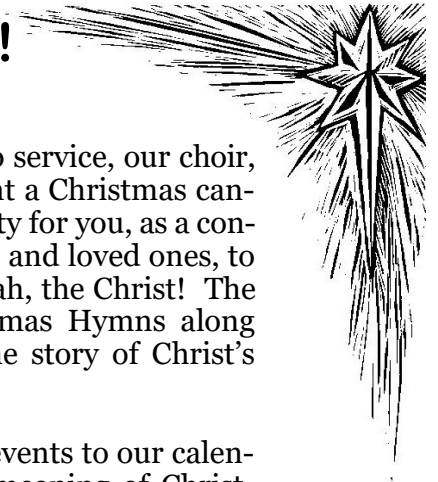
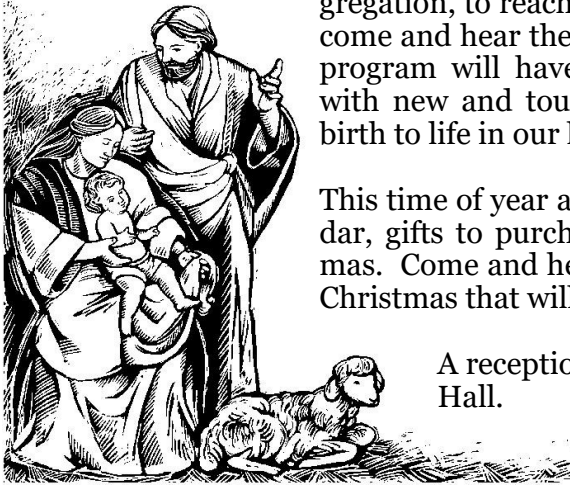
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On **Sunday, December 15**, during the worship service, our choir, along with a small chamber orchestra, will present a Christmas cantata, "**Behold, A Savior!**" This is an opportunity for you, as a congregation, to reach out to your friends, neighbors, and loved ones, to come and hear the story of the birth of the Messiah, the Christ! The program will have a number of familiar Christmas Hymns along with new and touching works that will bring the story of Christ's birth to life in our hearts.

This time of year always adds stress to our lives, events to our calendar, gifts to purchase, and often loses the true meaning of Christmas. Come and hear the how the scripture tells the true meaning of Christmas that will touch your heart today and forever more!

A reception will be held, after the Cantata, in the Fellowship Hall.

Ed Stiles



Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors

Northminster is happy to host The Suncoast Concert Band in their 87th 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 1 and 15**. On the first, they offer "Pearl Harbor Remembered" and on the 16th, they celebrate Christmas with "Happy Holidays."

The Jazz Ambassadors open their season on Sunday, **December 8**, at 3:00, with their program "Jammin' for the Holidays."

Horns-A-Plenty

FRENCH HORN CONCERT

Imagine Christmas music with only that rich, beautiful French horn sound. Come hear it for yourself on Saturday, **December 21**, 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.



Midday Program

The Midday Program begins its fifth season on January 10, 2020. Four concert alternate with four history lectures **on Fridays from January 10-February 29**.

- January 10 - Orfeo Trio
- January 17 - Prof. John Behlolavek, "Andrew Jackson: A New Perspective on Old Hickory"
- January 24 - Rollins College Choir
- January 31 - Justice Doenecke, "The U.S. and World War I - A New View"
- February 7 - Marco Jimenez, pianist
- February 14 - Bob Barylski, "What's Putin Up To?"
- February 21 - The Tijuana Taxi: Tribute to Herb Alpert
- February 28 - Alfred Eckes, "Trade Wars, Past & Present"

All Midday events are free and open to the public. Grab your 2020 calendar and mark these dates.

Christmas Fellowship

MESSAGE FROM MATT

There's nothing left to do but enjoy the final celebration of this wonderful year. The celebration is of the Gift God gave to us. The Fellowship Committee is organizing a Christmas Potluck on Wednesday, December 11 and a reception after the Christmas Cantata on December 15. See details for these, and other Christmas activities, on this page.

2020. 2020. 2020.

Bar-B-Que and Bingo is on **January 22**. WOW BAR-B-QUE AND BINGO TOGETHER. This Fellowship committee has come up with some crazy, wild, fun activities. I think we all need to get a 2020 calendar just for Northminster activities.

If anyone has a crazy, wild, fun idea for the Fellowship to put on, don't be shy. Tell it to a committee member. You never know what we will do.

Matt Stevenson

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Join us on Wednesday, **December 11** for a Christmas Potluck dinner at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee will supply turkey breast and ham. You all bring your favorite side dish to share. Don't be shy and let everyone know what it is and who made it. A Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be accompanied by bell ringers. If you have Festive attire please wear it. Please let us know what dish you can bring, when you sign up.



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.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!



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 and helpers will pack and deliver them on Friday, December 7.

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

COOKIE ELVES NEEDED

Can you help the Deacons deliver Christmas cookies to homebound individuals? Are you available on **Friday, December 13, at 11:15**? Please sign up to play "Elf" by bringing some Christmas light and love to folks who aren't able to get out and about.





Christmas Eve Service

Carols! Candles! Communion! The Northminster Sanctuary will be filled with the sounds, sights, and spirit of Christmas at **5:30, on December 24**, as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

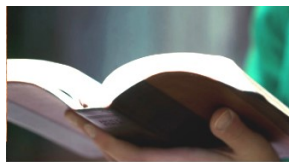
Invite your family and friends to this traditional service for a truly meaningful Christmas Eve.

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.



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!

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.*

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.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree went up last month, and almost all the Angel tags were claimed the first week! If you didn't get a bag, when you selected your child, you can pick up one in the Sanctuary or church office.

Once you've gone shopping, return the presents in the special bag. The stub from your tag goes in the bottom of the bag and the main tag needs to be securely taped to the outside. Instructions are on the back of the Angel tag. **Bring in your gifts by Sunday, December 8.** The Salvation Army will pick them up on Tuesday, December 10.

Thanks to all who help create lasting memories for a precious child.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, the PC(USA) supports current and retired church leaders who require financial assistance. They may be facing a health care crisis, family emergency, or be affected by natural disasters. 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 22** and **Christmas Eve**.



CHRISTMAS EVE MISSIONS OFFERING

We are grateful this year for your giving that has allowed us to meet our budget. We made cuts last year that have also helped make this difference.

To celebrate we will take, what we hope will be an annual offering, a special Christmas Eve offering dedicated, in its entirety, to Missions. We believe this is the heart of the church and we are excited to reach out in this way. We normally take the Joy Offering at this time, so a portion of the offering will go to this endeavor. The remainder will benefit missions here at home! Please give with extra agent generosity.

Welcome New Members



RON AND ROSEANNA CHASE

Ron and Roseanna are native New Jerseyites (or Jerseyans). They were high school sweethearts who have continued their love for each other through 45 years of marriage. The couple has three children and four grandchildren. Ron is retired from the telephone company, in Jersey and Roseanna was a real estate agent there for 26 years. They have lived in Florida for six years.

We are very happy to welcome them in to the Northminster family!

Flower Donations - Two Gifts in One

The live floral arrangements in the Sanctuary each Sunday are created by Oneco Florists and are purchased by members and friends of the church for \$35 per arrangement. Flowers can commemorate a special date or honor a loved one and the dedication is printed in the weekly bulletin.

After the worship service, the Deacons rearrange the donated flowers into small vases and deliver them, as gifts to cheer, to members who are homebound, in the hospital, or in a nursing home.

The sign-up sheets for 2020 are now available in the Narthex. Pick a date and let us know how you'd like to dedicate your flowers. Pay for the arrangement by using a Flower Envelope from the sign-up clipboard or by writing "Flowers" on the memo line of your check. Our Flower Committee will do the rest!



Angels in the Library

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10

Angels are certainly one of the more beautiful symbols of the Christmas season and the subject of many books, including several volumes in our church library. Two, by notable Christian authors, are And the Angels Were Silent by Max Lucado and Angels by Dr. David Jeremiah. Other titles available include: The Angels Within Us, Hugs From Heaven on Angel Wings, Angels Everywhere, Where Angels Walk, and Ask Your Angel.

Bonnie Kiger, Librarian

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

P.S. The Angelic Intervention Series of books by Debbie Macomber, featuring Shirley, Goodness, and Mercy, are fun reads for the holiday season. I hope to someday have some or all of the seven titles available in NPC's library. (Are you listening Santa?)

Two Ways to Give to Northminster



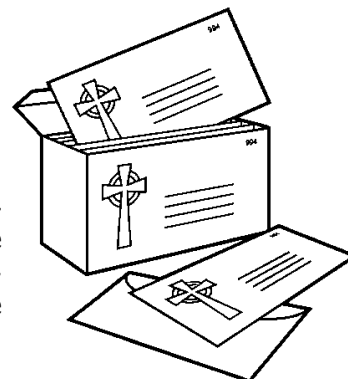
Have you considered using our on-line giving option to make your regular pledge payments?

Just go to Northminster's web page at www.npcsarasota.com and click the Online Giving tab at the top of the page. There you can print easy instructions on how to sign up or go directly to the Online Giving page to register.

Online Giving helps make sure your pledge, mission gifts and any other payment and mission gifts are received regularly, on the schedule you designate. You will be able to check the status of your giving at any time, from the comfort of your home.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

2020 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.

Northminster has envelopes for both monthly and weekly contributors. You will receive monthly or weekly envelopes depending on your previous giving pattern. If you would like to change the type of envelope received, please **contact Isabel, in the church office.**

Financial Update

Operating Fund

	Oct. 2019	Year-to-date
Income	\$ 18,947.91	\$ 272,255.21
Expenses	<u>\$ 29,335.24</u>	<u>\$ 276,765.45</u>
Net Income	\$ -10,387.33	\$ -4,510.24

Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$ 77,379.96
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 22,917.67</u>
	\$ 100,297.63

Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Ameritrade	\$ 100.20
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 20,154.38</u>
	\$ 20,254.58

Cornerstone Fund

Charles Schwab \$ 53,627.09

Mortgage Balance as of October 2019

	\$144,583.25
Required Monthly Payment	\$ 2,184.74
Breakdown: Principal	\$ 1,689.62
Interest	\$ 498.12
Interest Rate:	3.9720

Bob Silver, Treasurer

Office Notes



OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30

Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

**Office closed for Christmas
December 25, 26 & 27
and on January 1
for New Year's Day**

NOTE: EARLY DECEMBER DEADLINES

- **Announcements for the Dec. 22 and 29 bulletin are due on Monday, December 16.** 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 11**, for the meeting on **December 18**.
- **Good Tidings deadline:** Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the January 2019 newsletter by **Wednesday, December 11**, 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

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

Isabel Oake



December Birthdays

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

DECEMBER

Northminster Presbyterian Church † 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1 1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Communion 3 Suncoast Band</p>	<p><i>2</i> 4:15 Bells-S 5:30 Fellowship Committee-L 6 AlAnon-EB</p>	<p><i>3</i> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group</p>	<p><i>4</i> 10 Tai Chi 10:30 Membership Committee-L 1 Bridge Players-FH</p>	<p><i>5</i> 9 Finance-L 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>6</i> 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p><i>7</i> 10-3 Session Planning Retreat 6:30 Choir Rehearsal-S</p>
<p><i>8 2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3 Jazz Concert-S Bring in Angel Tree Gifts</p>	<p><i>9</i> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 4:15 Bells-S 6 AlAnon-EB</p>	<p><i>10</i> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group</p>	<p><i>11 Good Tidings Deadline</i> 10 Tai Chi 1:30 Mission Committee-L 5:30 Christmas Potluck-FH</p>	<p><i>12</i> 9 Outreach & Marketing-L 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>13</i> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET Xxx Cookie Basket Packing 11:15 Basket Delivery 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>
Drop off cookies for Cookie Baskets						
<p><i>15 3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/Cantata-S 11:30 Reception-FH 3 Suncoast Band Concert-S</p>	<p><i>16</i> 10 Ruth Circle -L 4:15 Bells-S 6 AlAnon-EB</p>	<p><i>17</i> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group</p>	<p><i>18</i> 10 Tai Chi 10 Mary Circe-L 5 Session</p>	<p><i>19</i> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>20</i> 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p><i>21</i> 11 Handbells 3 Horns-a-Plenty Concert-S</p>
<p><i>22 4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:15 Handbells-S 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship</p>	<p><i>23</i> 4:15 Bells-S 6 AlAnon-EB</p>	<p><i>24 Christmas Eve</i> 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 5:30 Christmas Eve Service-S 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group</p>	<p><i>25 Christmas</i></p>	<p><i>26</i> 10 Bible Study w/ Dick Murphy-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir Office Closed</p>	<p><i>27</i> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance-FH</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29</i> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship-S</p>	<p><i>30</i> 4:15 Bells-S 6 AlAnon-EB</p>	<p><i>31 New Years Eve</i> 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group</p>				

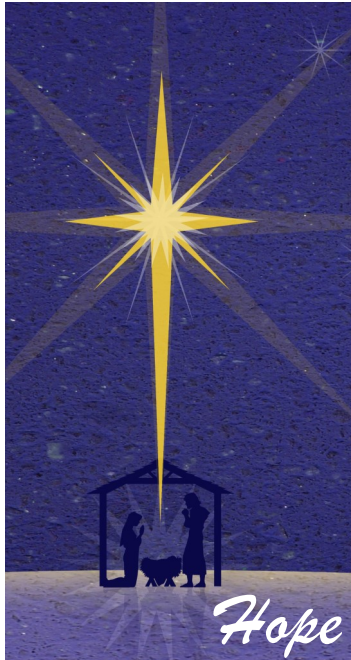


The Church with the Red Roof

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"



Hope for Tomorrow

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.