

# Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ Sarasota, FL

March 2020

## MARCH SERVICES

Sundays at  
10:30 AM

Rev. Wally Johnson

### March 1

*Purpose in Life*  
Genesis 1:31-2:17  
Matthew 5:1-2

### March 8

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**

*Close Encounters with God*  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
John 3:1-17

### March 15

*Close Encounters- Living Water*  
Exodus 17:1-7  
John 4:5-42

### March 22

*Close Encounters- I Am the Light of the World*  
John 9:1-41

### March 29

*Close Encounters- I Am the Resurrection And the Life*  
John 11:1-45

## Pastor's Corner

Here we go with Lent for 2020. The season of Lent is not mentioned in Scripture. For this reason, some dismiss it as without merit. I think the season of Lent is good and proper because it is a call for us to remember our humanity and our constant need of God's grace.

Some use the season of Lent to give things up. You will hear the question, "What did you give up for Lent?" I think the value of giving something up is not that we earn brownie points with God, but that the denial of the familiar reminds us of the call of the season to return to God with our whole hearts.

I would encourage you to add a practice of spiritual discipline in the place of what you give up. What a wonderful season which reminds us our lives here are temporary, and we are to live in light of eternity! Teach us to number our days, O Lord.

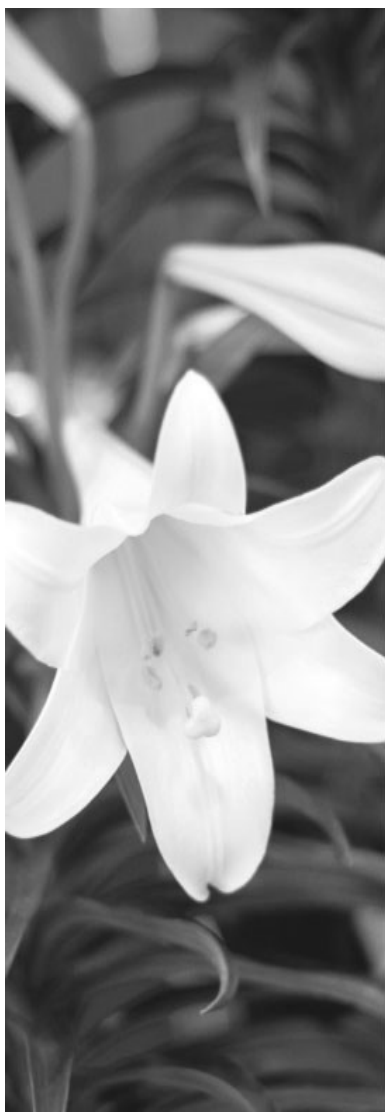


During Lent, we will not have our normal Pastor's Bible Study at 10 on Tuesdays. Instead, we will have a Lent Lunch Series in which we will have a soup lunch or light lunch while we watch a video series by N.T. Wright entitled, "Surprised by Hope." We will watch the video and then discuss the theme of hope each week. I am looking forward to this time each week.

During Holy Week we will have a more traditional Maundy Thursday Service at 5:30, Good Friday Service at noon, and Easter Sunday at 10:30. If you want to join me in the annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross in downtown Sarasota that begins at 8 and is a great way to begin Good Friday.

May God be praised for the grace and love shown in the cross of our Lord!

In His Service,  
*Pastor Wally*



## LENT: LESSONS & LUNCH

Wednesdays, March 4 – April 7  
at 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall

*Surprised by Hope* is a six-session, video-based, study that helps you to grasp the full, breathtaking hope Jesus offers the world and its implications for how you live. Pastor Wally will lead a discussion of the video. A light lunch will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: April 5, 10:30

Maundy Thursday: April 9, 5:30

Good Friday: April 10 at noon

Easter Morning: April 12, 10:30

## Bible Studies

### 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.

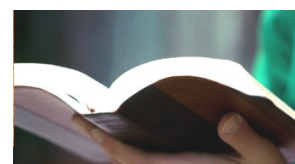
This study will be presented from both Christian and Jewish perspectives.

### WOMEN'S CIRCLES

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

**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**.



# Mission Ministry

## KIDS AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

On **Sunday, March 1**, following our morning worship, we will have our third meal packaging event for Kids Against Hunger. We hope to package at least 6,000 meals. This time the meals will be used by Beth-El, so our time and effort will benefit a ministry that is already on our hearts.

This is an event that anyone can do – it is great fun as well. You can sit and be involved. It will take about an hour after church. We will have our fellowship coffee in the Fellowship Hall that day so you can have a bit to snack on. Mark it down and join us for this event. I know you will thoroughly enjoy the time and effort!



## 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 the white 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.*

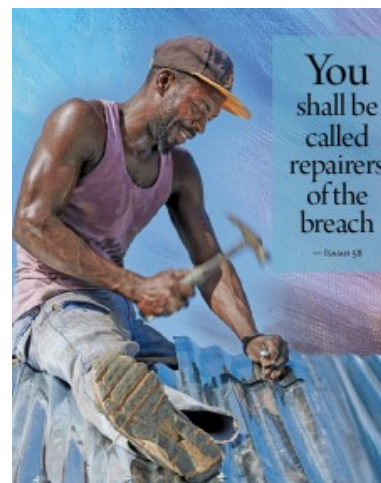
## THE BLESSING BOX

We never know what someone needs at any particular moment. The red Blessing Box, in front of the church, by the bus stop, meets various needs of people passing by. One day last week, several baggies appeared in the box—each with some small toiletries and a pair of new socks. On another recent morning, two shelves were filled with bottled water, supplied by Metro Diner. The NPC congregation continues to provide single-serving pasta meals, fruit cups, bottled water, and all kinds of individually packaged snacks. All of these donations are welcome and vital to the continuation of this ministry. Please leave your contributions in the red wagon, in the Narthex. May you be blessed!

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People) supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing will be received, in special OGHS envelopes, on April 5 and 12 (Palm Sunday and Easter.)







## Connecting at Northminster

If you are interested in becoming a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, or in 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.

A Connections Class will be held on **Sundays, March 15, 22 & 29**, in the Fellowship Hall, following the worship service.

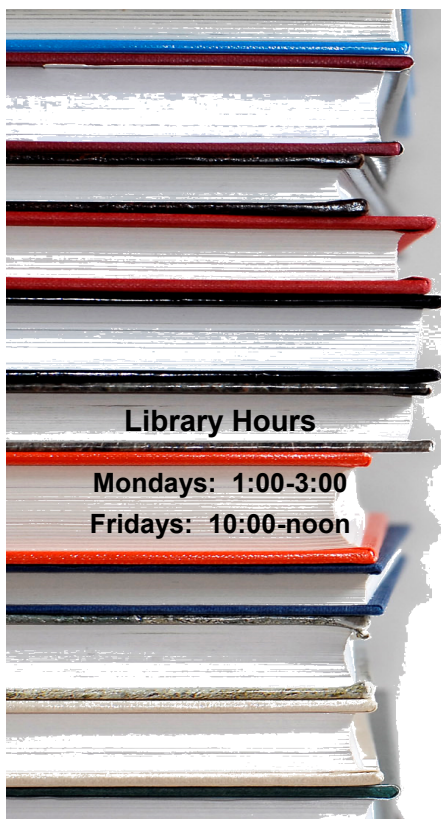
A light lunch is included. Please sign up in the Narthex.

## How to Join Northminster

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 or the church office.**



### Library Hours

**Mondays: 1:00-3:00**

**Fridays: 10:00-noon**

## In the Church Library

“Maybe Heaven will be a library. Then I will be able to finish my to-read list”. Many of us can probably relate to this quote by author Kellie Elmore.

Most of us have formed our own idea of how Heaven will be. It's certainly a popular subject for authors. There are a dozen books in the church library with Heaven in the title, including four that have just been added to the collection: Glimpses of Heaven by Trudy Harris, (a hospice nurse) contains “true stories of hope and peace at the end of life's journey.” Minister Don Piper's book 90 Minutes in Heaven is “a true story of death and life.” Proof of Heaven by Eben Alexander relates “a neurosurgeon's journey into the afterlife,” and To Heaven and Back by Mary C. Neal M.D. is the “extraordinary account of her death, Heaven, Angels and life again.” Why not add some of them to your to-read list?

P.S. The forms to donate a new book to the library are now available in the black bin located on the counter by the bookmarks, near where you sign out the books. There have been requests for large print books so that will probably be a priority when purchasing new books.

## Church Classifieds

**HOST OR HOSTESS:** Greet visitors and ask them to sign the Guest Book and hand out Welcome Gifts after the service. Hours: Every Sunday for a month, every third month, from 9:45 until guests leave, after the service. Get to know more members of our church and help inspire visitors to return. **Contact Debbie Latimer.**

**GOLF CART DRIVERS:** Shuttle members & visitors between their cars and the sanctuary. This is an important service to our members and visitors who cannot walk the distance from the parking lot or who have trouble navigating over rough terrain. Your service will be greatly appreciated. **Please sign up in the Narthex.**

**PRESS AGENT:** The Outreach and Marketing Committee is in need of a Press Agent to write and submit articles and announcements to the Herald-Tribune. The salary will be doubled after six weeks! **Please contact Cynthia Murphy.**





## Office Notes



### OFFICE HOURS:

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

### DEADLINES

- Announcements for all Sunday Bulletins are due in the office by noon on the Wednesday before.
- **Session Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, March 11**, for the meeting on **March 18**.
- **Good Tidings deadline:** Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the March newsletter by **Sunday, March 15**.

### PLEDGE CARDS: DO YOU NEED ONE?

The answer to this question might surprise you. It's NO. You don't need an official pledge card to make a pledge. Most pledges, this year, have been received on a traditional card, put in the offering plate, mailed in, or dropped off at the office. And there are extra Pledge Cards in the Narthex if you would like one. However, our bookkeeper, Isabel Oake, will also accept your pledge by phone or in an email. You can pick up a card in the Narthex or be a nonconformist and take a moment to call in your pledge this week.

*All pledges and financial contributions are confidential.*

**Isabel Oake,**  
Office Administrator  
office@NPCSarasota.org

## Financial Update

### Operating Fund

	<b>Jan. 2020</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>
Income	\$ 32,986.68	\$ 32,986.68
Expenses	<u>\$ 33,158.16</u>	<u>\$ 33,158.16</u>
Net Income	\$ - 1,828.58	\$ - 1,828.58

### Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$ 25,843.69
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 22,950.44</u>
	\$ 48,794.13

### Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Ameritrade	\$ 100.20
PILP Money Market	<u>\$114,876.44</u>
	\$114,976.64

### Cornerstone Fund

Charles Schwab	\$ 58,703.52
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*Bob Silver, Treasurer*

### March Birthdays

- 4 Sue Fewell
- 10 Ingrid Lippert
- 13 Ed Stiles
- 19 Carole Glidden
- 20 Laura Burgess
- 22 Mchelle Shirey
- 23 Vic Sewell
- 24 Mary Ann Colter
- Laura Shephard
- 26 Bev Christie





## Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship/ Communion-S 11:30 Meal-Packing Event-FH	<b>2</b> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 11:45 Midday Committee 4 Handbells-FH 6:30 Fellow ship Com.-L 6 AlAnon-EB	<b>3</b> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 11:30 Lenten Lessons & Lunch 1 Worship Committee-L 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<b>4</b> 10 Tai Chi-FH 1 Bridge-FH 1:30 Mission Committee-L	<b>5</b> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	<b>6</b> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance- FH	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 3:00 Suncoast Band Concert-S	<b>9</b> 4 Handbells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	<b>10</b> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 11:30 Lenten Lessons & Lunch 2 Deacons 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<b>11</b> 10 Tai Chi-FH  <b>Session            Reports Due</b>	<b>12</b> 9 Outreach/ Marketing-L 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	<b>13</b> 2 Line Dance- FH	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 11:45 Connections Class-L 3:00 Jazz Band Concert-S <b>Good Tidings            Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 10 Ruth Cir-L 4 Handbells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	<b>17</b> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 11:30 Lenten Lessons & Lunch 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<b>18</b> 10 Tai Chi-FH 5 Session-L	<b>19</b> 10 Bible Study-FH 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	<b>20</b> 8:30 ROMEO & JULIET 2 Line Dance- FH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 11:45 Connections Class-L	<b>23</b> 10 Suncoast Band Recital-S 4 Handbells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	<b>24</b> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 11:30 Lenten Lessons & Lunch 6 AlAnon-EB 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH	<b>25</b> 10 Tai Chi-FH 10 Mary Cir-L	<b>26</b> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 6 Al-Anon(Sp)-EB 6:45 Choir	<b>27</b> 10 Piano Friends Rehearsal-S 2 Line Dance- FH	<b>28</b> 1:30 Piano Friends Concert-S Reception-FH
<b>29</b> 9 Bible Study-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10 Iglesia-EB 10:30 Worship 11:45 Connections Class-L	<b>30</b> 9:30 Suncoast Rehearsal-S 4 Handbells-FH 6 AlAnon-EB	<b>31</b> 9:30 Jazz Band Rehearsal-S 11:15 Staff-L 11:30 Lenten Lessons & Lunch 6 AlAnon (EB) 7 Rose Group				



*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](mailto:office@npcsarasota.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.npcsarasota.com](http://www.npcsarasota.com)