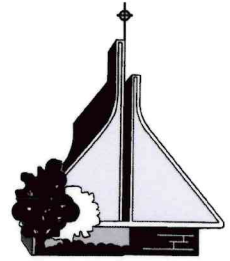


NORTHMINSTER NEWS



VOLUME 69, ISSUE 5

MAY 2025

NEW WEBSITE FOR NORTHMINSTER COMING SOON

We have been working hard at creating a new website for Northminster Presbyterian Church with a new website company. The address of northminsteronline.org will remain the same but if you are set up for online giving with our current platform, you will need to go into your account and discontinue payments being withdrawn no later than May 18th. The new website platform will go into effect on May 20th. At that time you can visit the new website and go into the online giving to set up your giving again.

The new platform offers us many new features in ministry, mission, giving and membership to help us grow at a lower cost than what we were using previously. If you have any problems with the discontinuing of giving online with our current platform, please let us know and we will be more than happy to assist you. Even if you don't currently give online, on May 20th, check out our new website!

Deadline for June/July articles is May 19th. Articles received past the deadline will be included in the following month's edition. All articles are welcomed and encouraged, but may be edited for length and clarity.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
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Sermon Series, 10AM, Sunday's

May 4: "Pastor's Are A Continuation of the Good Shepherd's Care" (John 10)

May 11: "A Time of New Currents, New Gifts, Continued Life" (1 Corinthians 3:6-11)

May 18: Candidate Sunday!

May 25: Memorial Day "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1-3)

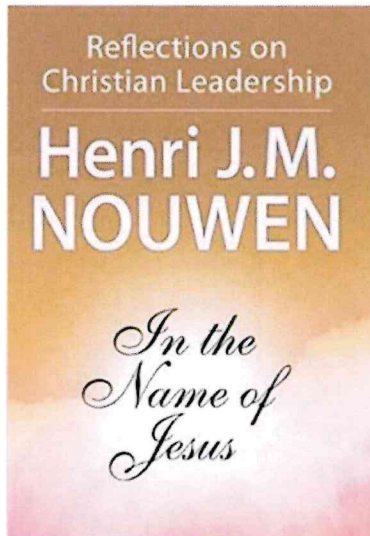
Northminster Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff	Interim Children's Director: Debbie Smith
Office Manager: Debbie Smith	Custodian: Clint Murphy
Treasurer: Kerry Banks	Organist: Jonathan Doram
Financial Secretary: Carol Stanhope	Choir: Destiny Elazier
Sunday Custodians: Clint Murphy	Sound Engineer: Matt Anselmi
Camera Operator: Aidan Brown	Bells: Mary Balkow
Orchestra Conductor: Mary Balkow	

In This Issue:

- Pastor
- Mission/Hunger Committee
- Per Capital Overview
- Nominating Committee
- Christian Education
- Financial & Birthdays

We are living in a time of great confusion over what constitutes a ‘good’ leader. By ‘good,’ I do not mean necessarily an effective or even productive leader. While those are important values to look for in a leader, there are even more fundamental concerns we should have about leaders. A ‘good’ leader is a person whose moral quality and values are in agreement with the kind of virtues and moral values that marked Jesus’s leadership approach.



Henri Nouwen, the beloved Catholic Priest and theologian of spirituality, in one of his books called, *In the Name of Jesus*, explored the virtues and values that marked Jesus’s life as a leader. According to Nouwen, leaders today face three great temptations. Particularly in a time when leadership is often more about managing public branding than grasping a real understanding of the needs and experiences of those they are called to lead.

The three great temptations facing leaders are the desire to be relevant, to be spectacular, and to be powerful. The fear of relevance hangs over many leaders who feel threatened and overwhelmed by a world marked by cultural plurality. In a world of cultural plurality, what is, and is not, considered relevant are often so particularly named by different interest groups, whose answers

conflict with other special interest groups. Leaders who chase after relevance can appear like listless boats in the vast open sea of the late modern world, captains of vessels who are always pivoting their main sail of the boat, trying to catch every wind of change, and therefore never really moving anywhere. Such leaders never offer any group a real act of service and love and understanding. Leaders can mis-identify meaningful connection with others with a surface appearance of relevance. Jesus often connected with people vastly different than him. People from different walks of life with different concerns. He closed that space of difference not by being relevant, but by being vulnerable and non-anxious in the presence of real differences.

Some leaders, fatigued by the every shifting nature of being relevant, choose to identify a legacy action. A bold, public display that creates a large enough spectacle that they hope will become spectacular enough that they will be remembered. Change, the kind of change that betters people’s lives, often doesn’t take place in large spectacular actions or events. Change that leads to lasting, sustainable changes require the work of many hands over long periods of time. This is why Jesus during his three year ministry revisited places and communities, why he spent so much time modeling and explaining to his inner circle of disciples (who were really leaders in training), what he was doing and why he was doing it. Instead of being a spectacle-driven leader, Jesus choose the practices of prayer, vulnerability, and of placing trust in those society had striped trust from. That’s why the call narratives of the twelve disciples earlier in the Gospels of the New Testament spend so much time emphasizing how ordinary and undesirable those twelve people were.

When neither relevance, or spectacle, are within reach, many unhealthy leaders look to a final push for public recognition. This push comes through the use and application of power. Naked and raw and unaccountable to any institution or check and balance. The old colloquialism, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” has been proven to be true too many times in human history. This phrase originated from a letter to an Anglican bishop from John Dalberg-Acton, a Baron in England who was an English Catholic historian (see black-and-white picture). Acton observed that power often mishappened those who sought to experience power at its greatest possible human levels. It is no mistake that Jesus’s most ‘powerful’ action was his self-donation upon the cross where he gave up every bit of his power to avoid his death.



Leaders who are shaped and informed by Jesus are those who instead of pursuing power or displaying it over those who have the least amount of access to power, are leaders who give away their power to others for the sake of the common good of all. As Henri J.M. Nouwen argued in his book, *In the Name of Jesus*,

“I leave you with the image of the leader with outstretched hands, who chooses a life of downward mobility. It is the image of the praying leader, the vulnerable leader, and the trusting leader. May that image fill your hearts with hope, courage, and confidence.”

May you, the faithful church family of Northminster Presbyterian Church, in these challenging and confusing times, desire to follow leaders like Jesus. Leaders who are known for their love of others and their longing to see others, particularly those on the margins of society, finally get to experience the joy of being seen, known, and welcomed by all.

Mission Opportunities



The Hunger Committee is already preparing for our annual food drive for Dyer Kelly families Christmas baskets. As we have in the past, we have decided on the following items to be donated each month from June through October.

JUNE *Green beans*

JULY *Applesauce (6 pack, 4oz each)*



AUGUST *Jelly*

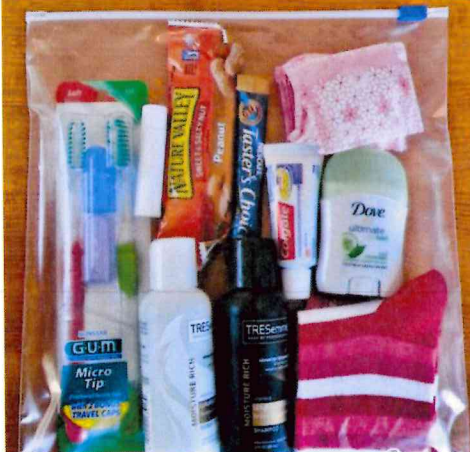
SEPTEMBER *Peanut Butter*

OCTOBER *Soup*

We are also planning to have our annual **Bake and Craft Faire on October 12, 2025.**

So, crafters....start planning all the fantastic projects you will be working on all summer.

Blessing Bags



Blessing Bags are available in the Narthex for you to take and hand out to those in need. If you would like to donate items towards the making of these bags, you can purchase travel size shampoo, soap, deodorant, hand wipes, lotion, toothpaste, etc. and drop off in Narthex on Sunday mornings or bring to the Church Office during the week.

PER CAPITA: AN OVERVIEW

Paying per capita is similar to

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- paying to be connected to the Internet
- paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip
- participating in community supported agriculture (CSA) or a similar co-op

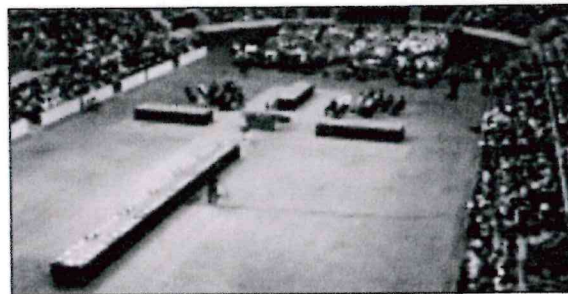
General Assembly meetings so that everyone could be present to participate regardless of distance or financial resources. Over time, per capita has been used to fund "ecclesiastical and administrative" functions that are shared by the whole church. In 1995, the following definition was developed:

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

A brief history

The earliest mention of something like a per capita apportionment dates back to the 1700s.

In the mid 1800s, a "plan of mileage" was adopted by the General Assembly to defray the expenses of commissioners attending



PER CAPITA 2025: \$32.50



This is an exciting time for our Church family. The Nominating Committee will soon be starting the search process for the 3 Elders and 3 Deacons for the Class of 2028. Many of you will be suggested nominees.

The Nominating Committee will be contacting the suggested nominees, along with other church members, beginning in early June/July. All members, please give making a commitment to this opportunity to serve your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to being in touch with you.

God bless you all and thank you in advance for your consideration and willingness to help your Church family work, with God by our side, to do His will!

Kathy Espinoza, Elder Chair

The 2025 Nominating Committee will soon be calling on you to pray and listen for God's guidance as you consider the opportunity of serving your church family as an Elder or a Deacon. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact Kathy Espinoza, Committee Elder/Chair or Darlene Edwards, Committee At-Large Member. Thank you very much!

ADULT EDUCATION

NOW (Northminster On Wednesdays):

Join us on Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 at noon for a Tri Tip lunch and a presentation by Sacramento Metro Fire Department. They will be here to check our defibrillators and then give us a lesson on how to use them in the case of someone going into cardiac arrest. This can save lives! Please join us.



WORKING WOMENS BIBLE STUDY (A.K.A. Not Yo Mama's Bible Study)

Friday, May 16th at 6:30pm @ the Smith House

"Bring a Friend Friday!"

Join us and bring a friend!

Come with your favorite Scripture and ready to speak on what it means to you.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30AM every Tuesday in the home of Millie Payne.

Join us for a morning treat & Bible Study

Currently studying 12t, 2nd & 3rd John

Call Mary Holden if you would like to attend.

FINANCIALS

Financial Results March 2025				
Giving:		January	February	March
• General gifts		24,333	18,756	14,809
• Miscellaneous Receipts		3,710	2,467	816
• Total Giving		28,044	21,223	15,624
Expenses:				
• less Expenses		25,119	26,411	25,429
Net Surplus:				
• (loss) Surplus		2,924	(5,188)	(9,805)



Beth DePuy	May 15
Alice Worsely	May 15
Liz Seashore	May 16
Ben Amerine	May 18
Tom Avenell	May 25
Barry Stanhope	May 27
Linda Barnett	May 29

CANDIDATE SUNDAY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday May 18th, will be our Candidate Sunday to hear this individual preach from the pulpit and then after worship meet for a Congregational meeting to review the terms of the call and vote.

