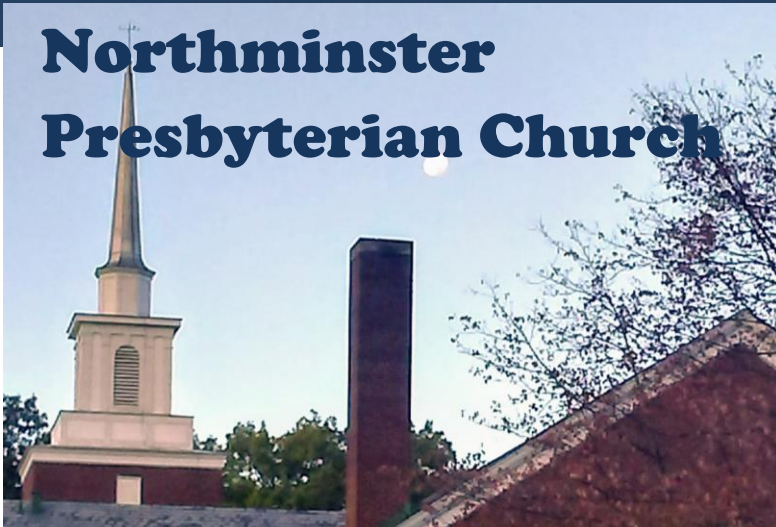


MARCH 2018

Northminster Presbyterian Church



STAFF:
Rev. Dr. Jordan Rimmer, Pastor

*Aaron Crider,
Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Kristina Miller, Secretary

Maureen Jaklic, Director of Music Ministries

Dawn Kosior, Child Care

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Dear Northminsterians,

I want to start out by thanking everyone for their welcome and excitement to start this new year. There is a great spirit to this church. We are a people that seem hungry for new things and anticipating God in new and exciting ways. Let's keep that up.

I have hit the ground running here, and we are now full swing into the season of Lent. The word *lent* simply means spring. It is the 40-day period that leads from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, as we walk with Jesus toward the cross. It is a time of self-examination and repentance. The church traditionally participates in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Such a time is a little scary to protestants, who seem to fear returning to their catholic roots. It is also more and more counter cultural to believe in anything called sin that we may need to repent from. How depressing an idea? That idea does not have the beauty or the marketability of the Christmas message.

I want to take a few minutes to develop for you what Lent is all about, and why we do this odd tradition with ashes. I am not just interested in understanding the traditions. More than that, I think it is critical for your soul that a Lenten spirituality be a part of your faith walk.

The Bible itself does not describe or prescribe the practice of Lent. However, the season is full of biblical images and themes.



The idea of 40 days of preparation is all over the Bible. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai. Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb. Noah was in the rain for 40 days. Jonah prophesied that Nineveh would fall in 40 days. The Israelites wandered 40 years in the desert. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. It has even been argued that Jesus laid in the tomb for 40 hours. Many of these experiences of 40 included prayer and fasting. By prayer, I mean more than grace. I mean talking to and listening to God. Sharing your heart and seeking to understand God's heart.

Fasting is something that Protestants and Americans don't like. I would guess that for many of us, the only time we have ever fasted is when our doctor told us we had to before a test or procedure. We do love our food, don't we?

The point, however, is not to starve ourselves of food. The point is self-denial. It is denying ourselves some of the things we want or think we need. In doing so, we acknowledge that our relationship with Christ is what we really long for.

This works especially well with fasting our food or certain foods, because when we get hungry or we crave that certain thing, we are reminded to pray to God. But this could also be done with TV or social media, or certain stores, or certain habits. We deny ourselves to focus on our need for Jesus.

Continued on next page

Just for Children

Boys' Club

Friday, March 9th, 6:00-8:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, March 25^t at 1:00pm

See Aaron for details!



We are in need of candy donations!

Any small wrapped candy (foil-wrapped chocolate eggs, fun size candy bars, smarties, etc.) will work, *as long as it fits in a plastic Easter egg! Please wrapped candy only, and no gum!* Please have your candy donations here at the church **NO LATER than Sunday, March 11th**! Thank you!
Any questions, please see Aaron!

Christian Fellowship

SOUP LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 4th

immediately following worship.

Come downstairs for soup, dessert and beverage.

A free will offering will be taken.



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Wednesday, Mar. 14th

at the CRANE ROOM at 12 Noon.

Please RSVP to Nancy Hudson or Kay Hilliard

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thursday, Mar. 15th at 1:30pm in the Conf. room.

PATHFINDERS

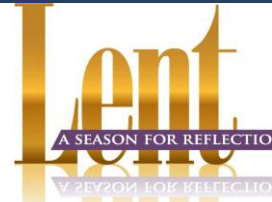
will meet for breakfast at Savannah Methodist Church on **Saturday, March 10**. For more information or to RSVP contact Nancy Gray. This group was originally started at Third and is continuing to be a fellowship event for all.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Lois Kulsic; Matthew Ringwellski; Phil Sawyer; Russ Shelok; Soldiers & families; Refugees; Europe; Israel; Arab world; Sudan; Victims of Natural disasters; Home-bound people.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH

Remember to Spring Ahead.



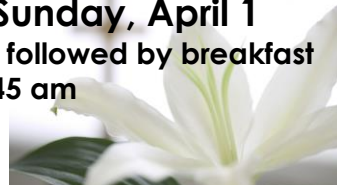
Lenten Lunches continue thru March 21st at Shenango Church. Lunch will be at 12 Noon with the devotional starting at 12:30 pm.

Maundy Thursday is March 29

Our church will host the community service here at Northminster at 7:00 pm

EASTER SERVICES – Sunday, April 1

Sunrise service: 8:30 am, followed by breakfast
Resurrection Service 10:45 am



Committee Meetings:

Christian Education – Tues, March 6, 7pm
Worship – Wed, March 7, 5pm
Corporate Affairs – Thurs, March 15, 6:30pm
Session – Wed, **March 21**, 6:45pm
Deacons – Wed, March 28, 6:30pm

Lay Leaders:

4 – Sally Dexter
11 – Paul Ubry
18 – Jean Reynolds
25- Bruce Bauman



Ushers:

4 – Barb Brown, Dawn Kwiat,
Melissa Stitt, Hazel Shannon
11 – Bruce & Marilyn Bauman,
Joe & Pat Hixenbaugh
18 – Bob & Betty Peters, Frank & Sally Porada
25 - The Hudaks



Saturday, April 7th from 9:00-2:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are to be placed *behind the curtains on the stage.* **No clothing, televisions or large furniture!** Jewelry is accepted. The Willing Workers Class will be setting up the week of April 2nd. Please come help. Deadline for items is Thursday, April 5th before noon. See Esther Richardson with questions.

The Pastor's Letter (con't.)

This kind of self-denial is also meant to slow us down so that we can take a look in the mirror of our souls. Often, we stay busy so that we don't have to face our own sin. Lent calls us to self-reflection. We are to see that we are sinners; there are things that we are still a slave to. We do wrong things and think worse things.

Lent is not just a season to leave things behind. It can also be a season of taking up new things or replacing bad things. Many choose new devotions, better Bible reading habits, or new forms of prayer as a part of their Lenten spirituality.

But the period is not totally self-centered. There is also the practice of almsgiving. This means acts of pity or mercy. It can mean giving financially to another. It can also mean serving or providing for others. Yet even in almsgiving we see our own sin. We recognize that we have so much that we could have done for others.

This leads us to probably the most important word of Lent—Repentance. Repentance is not simply saying, "I'm sorry." To repent is to relent. It is to give up your opinion or position and turn the other way.

This is where the symbol of ashes comes in. Ashes are a sign of mourning. People in grief or sorrow would put on sackcloth and ashes. They would feel itchy and look dirty on the outside because of your sadness and pain on the inside. The image is rooted in two deeper symbols. First, cities that were destroyed produced ash and rubble. Ashes became a symbol of destruction and loss. Second, ashes related to the symbol of dirt. Humans are made from dirt, and to dirt we return. Ashes on our heads for Ash Wednesday remind us of our frailty, our sin and the destruction we should receive, and of the sorry we should feel for our sin. It is a symbol of repentance.

So we begin the Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, the church would not sing any song with hallelujah in it, or sing the Gloria, until after Easter. The songs would be in minor keys, and speak of sin and the need for the cross. In church history, Easter would be a time of joining the church. People would be baptized on Easter, with Lent as their preparation. The palms of Palm Sunday were traditionally burned to be the ashes for the next year. Thus the cycle back to Easter starts again.

The point of this journey would not be to morbidly obsess with our sin or make us depressed. The point was to create a sense of night, so that when Easter burst forth, it would be like a bright sunrise. At Easter, we are meant to put away the Ashes and put on joy. We are to stop our repentance and start our celebration.

For my Lent preaching, I am going through the book of Ruth. Ruth has such great themes of redemption and salvation. It is a series that will build, so if you miss a sermon in this series, make sure you catch up online. You can listen three ways. You can go to the church website and click on the "sermons" tab. You can also look up "Jordan Rimmer Sermons" on the podcast app on your iPhone.

May God bless you with a great and meaningful Lent. ~ *Jordan*

Thank you for supporting Habitat for Humanity's "Douse for a House" fundraiser. As a congregation, we raised \$574; the Mission committee gave \$500, for a grand total of \$1,074. It will help provide housing in our community.

Kacelyn Jameson, Dave Reynolds & the Mission Committee

Thank you for all the heartfelt prayers, cards & visits over the past 6 months.

I am very grateful!!!

*God's blessings & love,
Jane Johnson*



Sherry Ubry	3/1
Sydney Snow	3/1
Dan Raiser	3/2
Rachel Sumner	3/2
Shirley Grimm	3/3
Chuck Lehman	3/3
Gwenne Fisher	3/6
Jessica Latcheran	3/6
Fred McConnell	3/7
Darlene Rhodes	3/7
Carol Kaufman	3/11
Bob Bruce	3/12
Delbert Coxson	3/13
Frances Morgan	3/14
Dustin Sumner	3/15
Dennis Jameson	3/15
David Cunningham	3/18
Nancy Lockhart	3/20
Ellen McCormick	3/21
Judi Cathcart	3/21
Joe Kosior	3/22
Jim Knight	3/22
Donna Snow	3/23
Dawn Kosior	3/23
Katy McCormick	3/23
Richard Kingsley	3/25
Karyn Weisz	3/26
David Stouffer	3/31
Phillip Sawyer	3/31
Markus Miller	3/31



Northminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God by reaching out,
and building up for Christ.*

A YEAR OF

FOCUS



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