

Northminster Presbyterian Church

December 5, 2022

*"Realizing God's Love by Serving and
Empowering..."*



December is here, and the Christmas season is upon us!

We pray that you are all doing well and continuing to stay safe and healthy.
Below are some brief church updates.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting to elect new elders and deacons on **Sunday, December 11th in the Sanctuary** immediately following the 10:00am worship service. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend!

Elder nominees for the Term of 2024 are as follows:

- Fridolin Avouglan
- Samuel Bang
- Ward Palmer

Deacon nominees for the Term of 2024 are as follows:

- John Forbing
- Suzanne Howard
- Marjorie Toldi

Nominees submitted by Dick Toldi, Moderator of the Nominating Committee

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

*Join us for worship during Advent as we wait for
the joyous birth of Christ!*



We look forward to joining together in worship during this Advent and Christmas season! Communion will continue to be served during worship every Sunday in Advent, which began Nov. 27th and will go through Dec. 18th. We will also have communion during our **Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary.** Communion will continue to be served with the pre-packaged Communion cup and wafer.

Due to the 2022 calendar year that has Christmas Day on a Sunday, only a few hours after our Saturday night Christmas Eve service, **NPC will not be holding a worship service on Sunday, December 25th** so that you can be with your families. **NPC will hold a worship service on Sunday, Jan. 1st, 2023 at 10:00am to greet the New Year!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES!

Additional volunteers are needed to serve as Sound or Streaming Operators for NPC worship services. Now that we are streaming our worship services, a Sound Operator and a Streaming Operator are needed each week. Training will be provided. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kathy Farris at kmfarris@verizon.net.

PLEDGES AND YEAR-END GIFTS

It is time to celebrate God's generosity and respond to Christ's grace by sending in our pledges to give to Northminster Presbyterian Church in 2023. Let's remember that giving to God's work is a privilege, not an obligation. God does not need our money - everything belongs to Him (Psalm 50:10-11; Psalm 24:1). But He invites us to give of ourselves and the things that we have so that we can be part of His work.

Your financial commitment, along with time and talents, is a faith decision to be prayerfully made between you and God. We hope that you are able to contribute to Christ's work in the same generous manner as you have in the past. If you are able to increase your giving, or want to begin giving, we are grateful for your generosity.

You will soon receive in the mail your pledge card for 2023. Please read through the materials you receive, and if you have not done so already, take the time to think and pray about how God is leading you to give in 2023. **We ask that you return your pledge card to church no later than December 18.** You may mail your pledge card to the church, drop it in one of the brown offering boxes on Sundays, or email your pledge information to Connie Modglin at conniemodglin@npcdb.com.

You may also want to prayerfully consider a special year-end gift. For those who are IRA owners age 70-1/2 or older, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) may be a great option for you to give a donation tax-free. For those age 72 or older, a QCD may count toward your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA. (See article later in this newsletter for more information.)

If you have questions or need more information on pledging or giving, please contact Connie Modglin at 909-860-4282 or conniemodglin@npcdb.com. Thank you for your consideration.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

The women's Sarah Circle Bible Study will meet **Wednesday, December 14th** from 10am to 12pm in the Fireside A room. We are reading and discussing the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study entitled *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol M. Bechtel, who is a professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

For this meeting, please read Lesson 4, Sabbath and Surrender, Exodus 16. Hope to see everyone there!

NPC WORSHIP NOW LIVESTREAMING!

Northminster is livestreaming worship at last! You can find our YouTube channel "NPC Livestream" by clicking the blue button below. Please be sure to subscribe to this channel. Watch our services live, or view past worship services at your convenience. Be sure to check it out!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW NPC LIVESTREAM YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please continue to pray for:

- The conflict in Ukraine - for peaceful resolution; for God's protection, healing and provision for the people affected; for safety for people trying to evacuate and/or trying to provide supplies and aid to others; for world leaders
- Sam and Yulia Naylor and family
- Family of Eleanor Suehrstedt, who passed away on Dec. 1st
- Kent Hedrick - recovering from undergoing surgery on Nov. 8th; cancer was removed from his lung; no other cancer found; drainage tubes removed on Nov. 29th; next checkup in six months

If you have prayer requests to share with the NPC prayer chain, you may email them to office@npcdb.com.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

Curtis Fulgham - December 2
Frances Cummings - December 3
Tami Walker - December 8
John White - December 11
Phillip Hunn - December 16
Grace Ochuru - December 19
Brenda Bemis - December 26

Happy Anniversary!

Garry and Sandra Wakeland
December 9

John and Linda White
December 17

Edward and Lisa Chan
December 22

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS



Deacon Offering and **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected during the month of December. The Deacon Offering assists needy persons in our area and pays for Deacon service programs. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

If you would like to give to these offerings, please be sure to include a note on your check or a note accompanying your check or online donation specifying which offering your contribution is for. You may also use the designated Deacon Offering envelopes, which can be found in the pews, and the Christmas Joy Offering envelopes, which are available in a basket in the Narthex.

MESSAGE FROM NAYLOR FAMILY AND ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE



*Greetings from Russia,
This year we witnessed a senseless war, its human devastation, and an unraveling of progress. We also witnessed new friendships, a vibrant fellowship of believers, and hope in things we cannot yet see. As Christmas approaches, we remember that Christ was born into a hard and broken world. His birth was heralded as the Emmanuel event - God with us. And that remains our experience and our prayer: in the hard and broken, God with us.*

*With love and gratitude,
Sam and Yulia (and Kristina, Andrey, and Sabina)*

We were so grateful to have Sam Naylor and his family join us in worship back on July 24th and share with us about their ministry in Russia and Ukraine. We continue to ask you all to **pray** and **give** financially to help Christian families in Ukraine.

As a reminder, you can contribute **directly to Peter's Work** through [PayPal](#) or through a check mailed to the address below. **Donations to the ministry are tax deductible. \$40 will cover a Russian orphan's gift. \$60 will cover a heater for a Ukrainian family.**

Mail checks to:
Peter's Work
P.O. Box 2308
Manhattan Beach, CA 90267

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Thank you all so much for your support of the Adopt-a-Family program for Inland Valley Hope Partners. Because of your generous support, all of the gifts on our "Caring Tree" were purchased and will be given to the families for



Christmas. Thank you for your kindness in making the holidays brighter for those less fortunate.

RIDES TO CHURCH

The NPC deacons are coordinating rides for those in our church family who are in need of a ride to church. Please let Debbie Palmer or your deacon know if you are able to help out with providing rides, OR if you need a ride. You may contact Debbie at debpalmer525@gmail.com or 951-660-4224.



PER CAPITA COLLECTION

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund - part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC (U.S.A.) system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

Presbytery's suggested Per Capita pledge is \$65.00 per member for 2022. If you wish to donate the Per Capita for your membership (per individual member), please write the words "Per Capita" on your check memo line and mail it to the church office or place it in one of the offering boxes at Sunday worship. For more information, please contact conniemodglin@npcdb.com.

SHELTER DINNER SERVERS NEEDED

We invite all NPC members to join in supporting our monthly dinners for residents of Inland Valley Hope Partners shelter. **A big thank you to all those who provided dinner items in 2022!** We will not be serving in December, but

we will resume this ministry in January 2023. Please look out for the new sign-up sheet to be posted soon in the Narthex at church (next to the Sunday flowers sign-up sheet), or contact Ward Palmer (wardpalmer918@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping out. Thank you!

SUNDAY FLOWERS



Thank you to all who donate for Sunday morning worship service flowers. You may take the flowers home with you after the service. We are so grateful for all of you who donated flowers in 2022! Thank you for your generosity! If you would like to sign up for a specific date to honor a special occasion or loved one, the sign-up sheets for 2023 are now available. You can also add your name in to donate a second flower arrangement if there is one donor already listed on that date. Please see the book on the table in the Narthex to sign up. **Please note that the cost for flowers is \$30.**

SUPPORT NPC THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

Remember that your purchases from Amazon.com can help NPC! When you shop on Amazon, be sure to shop through AmazonSmile and link your account to NPC, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase amounts to NPC. Here's how:

- Go to smile.amazon.com in your web browser (e.g., Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.)
- Log into your Amazon account
- Look for where it says "Or pick your own charitable organization" and type in "Northminster Presbyterian Church"
- Find NPC on the list of search results (be sure to find the one that says "Diamond Bar CA") and click the yellow "Select" button on the right

For the most recent quarter, we received a donation from AmazonSmile of \$16.30!

Please note, you must always start at smile.amazon.com to make sure your eligible purchases will be credited for donations. Thanks for your support!

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS: GREAT OPTION FOR TAX-FREE DONATIONS

The IRS has reminded IRA owners age 70-1/2 or older that they can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year.

These transfers, known as **qualified charitable distributions or QCDs**, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity before the end of the year. Moreover, for those who are at least 72, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

To make a QCD for 2022, contact your IRA trustee soon so the trustee will have time to complete the transaction before the end of the year.

Normally, distributions from a traditional individual retirement arrangement (IRA) are taxable when received. **With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization, such as electronically from the IRA to the charity, or by check from the IRA payable to the charity.**

An IRA distribution does not count as a QCD if it is a payment (electronic or check) made directly to the IRA owner. **The distribution must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity.**

QCDs are not deductible as charitable contributions on Schedule A. But, as with deductible contributions, the donor must get a written acknowledgement of their contribution from the charitable organization, before filing their return.

For more information about IRA distributions and QCDs, see [Publication 590-B](#), also available on IRS.gov.

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