

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

Every member of Northminster Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry. The following persons have been called by this congregation to serve as enablers in such ministry.

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor for Children and Adults
Associate Pastor for Students
Minister of Music
Organist
Organist Emeritus
Office Manager
Financial Secretary
Receptionist/Secretary
Sexton

Scott Dickison
Lesley Ratcliff
Major Treadway
Tim Coker
Sheila Hess
Billy Trotter
Leslie Ward
Sam South
Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley
Lamenais Simeon

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
9:00 a.m. Living Nativity Practice, Choir Suite
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 18

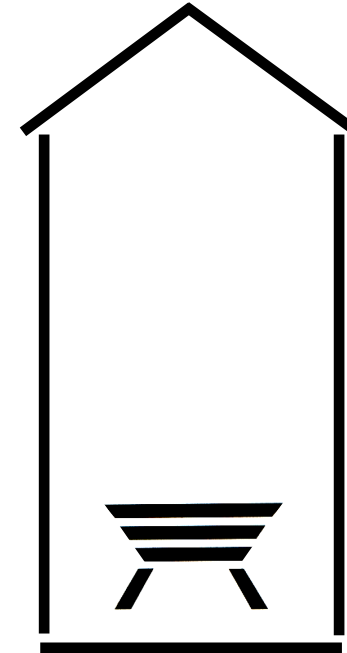
8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
4:30 p.m. Living Nativity
5:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant!
Let it happen as you have said."

—Luke 1:26-35, 38, CEV

Northminster Baptist Church
3955 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601-982-4703
www.northminsterbaptist.org

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023
Ten-thirty o'clock

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection and prayer.

The Meditation of Preparation

A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love.
—Mother Teresa

The Prelude "In The Bleak Midwinter" Gibbs

The Call to Worship "Advent Message" How
I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Alleluia! Amen.

*The Advent Banner Hallie McGinnis

*The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy Brielle Dahl

*The Processional Hymn No. 133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *VENI EMMANUEL*

*The Litany of Praise Ella Boykin

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

People: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

Leader: The Lord has done great things for them, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

People: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

People: They who go out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying the sheaves.

All: Thanks be to God.

—Psalm 126, NIV, *adapted*

*The Gloria Patri No. 807 "Glory Be to the Father" *MEINEKE*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

*The Prayer of Invocation Ella Boykin

The Greeting Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons Psalm 126
I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE LIVING NATIVITY

Children in the Beginners, Firecrackers and Sparklers classes, as well as all 1st through 6th graders, are invited to be a part of the Living Nativity, which is a part of the pre-service music for the Christmas Eve Service.

On Christmas Eve, all Living Nativity participants will need to gather in the Great Hall no later than 4:30 p.m. We will put on costumes, and have a final practice. Our rehearsal time is short. The costumers will be ready at 4:00 so please consider bringing your children early. The pre-service music, a portion of which is the Living Nativity, begins at 5:00. The nursery will be open at 4:00.

We look forward to our children leading us in worship on Christmas Eve!

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Cooks**

Rose Mary Porter  
Kathryn Davis  
Jan Stewart

**Drivers**

Rt. 1 Suzan & Tommy Thames  
Rt. 2 Beverly Raddin & Taylor Pedigo

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The Season of Advent

The Worship and Music Committee offers this year's edition of *The Season of Advent 2023* devotional guide as a gift to our congregation. We hope that the creative expressions and offerings by members and friends will encourage and enhance moments of individual worship throughout this season of expectant waiting. Copies are available throughout the church for you to take and share.

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**Worship at Northminster**

Northminster continues to be a welcoming space for members, friends, and guests. The Worship and Music Committee has discussed ways to be more inclusive and hospitable to those who are new to our worship service. As a result, the words to the "Gloria Patri" and "The Lord's Prayer" will be included in our worship bulletin. Since our service begins in silence as we enter the sanctuary, we hope that all will extend a hand, share a smile, or offer a word of welcome to our guests following the service.

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Northminster Essentials

Sunday, January 21 through Sunday, March 3

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Library (room opposite the main office)

If you are seeking to better understand the history and practices of the family of faith called Northminster, whether you are a friend of the church, a prospective or new member wanting to become more involved in the life of the church, or a long-time member wanting to expand your knowledge of Northminster, this is the course for you.

For questions or to sign up, please call the church office at 601-982-4703 or email Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

Sunday mornings at 9:15-ish in the Youth House. There will be donuts and good conversation.

Return to Sunday Nights at the Youth House

Join us January 7 at 5:00 p.m. for a shared meal, games, lessons, prayer and fellowship.

Stewpot

Saturday, February 4, 9:30 a.m. We will gather in the Great Hall kitchen and prepare a meal to be served at Stewpot, then we will eat lunch together.

Youth Sunday/Dessert Auction

February 11. Youth lead worship and teach Sunday school, followed by a church-wide luncheon and dessert auction to raise money for youth trips and activities.

Spring Break Beach Retreat

March 11-14. Somewhere at or near Orange Beach. More details to come.

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## **BRUMFIELD HOUSE**

### December 21

Andy Frame

### December 28

Jeff Wilson

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 24

Firecrackers

Melissa Robinson & Mike Kitchell

Sparklers

Judy Gregory & Olivia Studdard

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Parents of 6th graders are invited to attend the

### **Mentor Parents' Meeting**

on

**Wednesday, January 10**

**at 6:00 p.m.**

in the Library

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SAVE THE DATE!

Northminster Women's Retreat 2024

Friday, February 16 – Sunday, February 18

Eagle Ridge Conference Center

Raymond, MS

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

– Isaiah 40:31, KJV

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Major Treadway

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No. 163 "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

*The Offertory Prayer

Ella Boykin

The Offertory

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Held

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise loving God, whom we adore. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel

Luke 1:46b-55

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

Larkin

Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:

"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control."

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.

The Sermon

"Like Those Who Dream"

Scott Dickison

COMMITMENT

Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends an invitation to membership by request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please come forward at this point in the service.

TIME OF RESPONSE

Life need not be easy to be joyful. Joy is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ.

—William Van der Hoven

- *The Recessional Hymn No. 152 “Angels We Have Heard on High” *GLORIA*
- *The Benediction Scott Dickison
- *The Postlude “Prepare the Way, O Zion” Manz
- **The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages December 17 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:

- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 ~ pages 603-604
- Psalm 126 ~ page 499
- Luke 1:46b-55 ~ page 832
- I Thessalonians 5:16-24 ~ page 961
- John 1:6-8, 19-28 ~ page 862

CAREGIVING CONCERNS

CARE CARDS may be found in the pew racks, if you would like to write anyone. Place your cards in the offering plate. Cards will be mailed from the church office on Monday morning.

CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Carla Holt is recovering at the Sienna at St. Catherine’s.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Christine, Bryan, Blaine and Gray Bridges on the death of Christine’s father, Billy Riddle.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Gorman Schaffer | Sue Edwards | Virginia Hamilton |
| Roxanne Aldridge | R.W. McCarley | Libby McGee |
| Carolyn Aden | Mary Lou Jernigan | Robbie Cross |
| Tom Starling | Roger Paynter | |
- Martha Quarles, mother of Lori Quarles

The Caregiving Committee considers it a privilege to pray for each concern that affects our church family. Recognizing the power of prayer, we meet each Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the church conference room for a brief, informal prayer-time and invite all who can to join us. If you have prayer concerns, please call the church office or a member of the Caregiving Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. The color purple reflects the Advent themes of confession and repentance as we “prepare the way of the Lord.”

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- The Deacon of the Week is Eddie Mahaffey.
- The Caregiving Chair for December is Annette Hitt.
- The Caregiving Coordinators for December are Annette Hitt, Janice Joyner, Sarah Reynolds and Sunny Fowler.
- The Caregiver of the Week is Faye Barham.
- The Liturgist for December is Amanda Milam.
- The Flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly and Kandy Sims.
- The Usher Captain for December is Keith Davis.

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Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Communion Service
 Sunday, December 24
 5:30 p.m.
 Pre-service music begins
 at 5:00 p.m.
Childcare will be available.

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The church office will be closed  
 Monday, December 25, Tuesday,  
 December 26 and Monday, January 1.  
 For pastoral care needs,  
 please call 601-980-1002.  
 Caregivers will meet Tuesday, January 2.