

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 3

9:00 a.m. Living Nativity Practice, Choir Suite
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
1:00 p.m. Boarding Homes, GH
5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, YH
5:00 p.m. Preschool & Elementary Atrium and Four5Six

Monday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
5:30 p.m. Committee on Committee, L/CR

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 a.m. Youth Breakfast Club, Primos

Wednesday, December 6

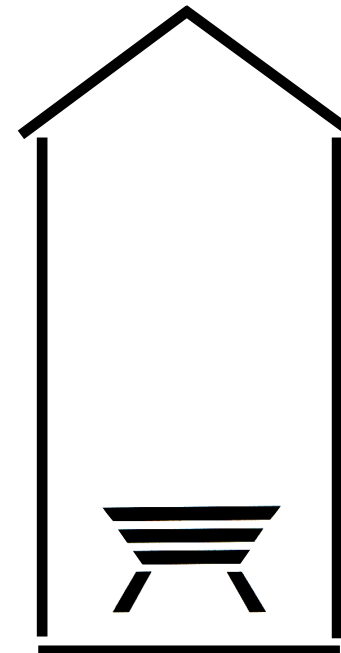
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR
5:30 p.m. Personnel Cmte., L/CR
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 9

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

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
11:45 a.m. Deacons' Luncheon, GH
3:00 p.m. Youth, Christmas Caroling, YH



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Let nothing disturb thee, nothing affright thee. All things are passing; God never changeth. Patient endurance attaineth to all things; who God possesseth in nothing is wanting. Alone God sufficeeth. —

—St. Teresa of Avila

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 First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 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

Advent. The coming of quiet joy. Arrival of radiant light in our darkness.

—anonymous

The Prelude “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hahn

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 Vaughn Strum

*The Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope Benjamin Buckley

*The Processional Hymn No. 135 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *HYFRYDOL*

*The Litany of Praise Eddie Mahaffey

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Hear us Shepherd of Israel, who leads Joseph like a flock.

People: Awaken your might, come and save us.

Leader: Restore us, O God.

People: Make your face shine upon us so that we may be saved.

Leader: Then we will not turn away from you.

All: Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

—Psalm 80, *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 Eddie Mahaffey

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons Isaiah 64:1-9
I Corinthians 1:3-9

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Monday, December 4

Cooks

Amanda Milam
Peggy Brady

Drivers

Rt. 1 Jean Williams & Steve Bass
Rt. 2 Amy Finkelberg &
Nancy Smith

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**An Advent Gathering for Women**

Join us for a time of reflection and creativity  
as we begin the season of Advent

**Wednesday, December 13**

**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**in the Great Hall**

A light supper will be provided for \$10.  
RSVP to Lesley at [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org).

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SPANN KINDERGARTENERS SING CAROLS

You are invited to join the Adopt-A-School Committee in listening
to the Spann School Kindergarteners sing Christmas Carols
Friday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall

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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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**Please Be Aware**

Emails and texts are going around that appear to be coming from the pastors asking for help with an urgent favor that involves purchasing gift cards. This is a scam!

The pastors will not contact you by email or text asking for money or gift cards. Please delete these texts or emails and do not respond.

## BOARDING HOMES PROJECT ~ AN ADVENT TRADITION

TODAY ~ 1:00 P.M. ~ GREAT HALL

**For the last four decades Northminster has been delivering warm clothing, food and toiletries to the residents of the Personal Care Homes in Jackson.**

Personal Care Homes are private homes for individuals with mental disabilities. These individuals do not qualify for state hospitalization, and many of the residents exchange their Social Security check for room and board, so there is no money available for any extras. Some are in quite difficult circumstances. All of them appreciate a thoughtful visit and gift. Today we will gather in the Great Hall and assemble all of our gifts into individual bags: a blanket, toiletries, warm socks, and cookies baked by you. We will then divide into teams and deliver the gifts to every personal care home resident in Jackson. Usually, we are finished by 3:30 p.m.

This is a wonderful intergenerational opportunity for the entire church family to participate in our community together.

You can help by

- Giving a generous financial contribution
- Baking cookies and bringing them to the Great Hall by Sunday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- Showing up on December 3 at 1:00 p.m. to assemble and deliver bags to Boarding Homes

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**Preschool and Elementary Atrium, and Four5Six
Tonight at 5:00 p.m. is the last meeting of the year.**
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### Coffee for Salt and Light

Premium Honduran coffee is currently for sale at \$12 per bag.  
Proceeds will help fund expenses of Sal y Luz Ministry in Honduras.

To purchase, please call Jann Puckett at  
601-594-8590. Jann will deliver to your home.

Please make **checks payable to Salt and  
Light Ministries (no cash please).**

### 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.

The remaining rehearsal schedule is as follows:

**December 10 from 9-9:30 a.m.**  
**December 17 from 9-9:30 a.m.**  
**December 24 at 4:30 p.m.**

All rehearsals will be in the Choir Room, except for December 24, when we will meet in the Great Hall. Because rehearsal times are short, please be on time and present for as many rehearsals as possible.

We look forward to our children leading us in worship throughout the season of Advent!

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

You never pray with greater power than when you plead the promises of God.

—William J.C. White

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Lesley Ratcliff

**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. 271 "Christ Is Coming! Let Creation"

*CWM RHONDDA*

\*The Offertory Prayer

Eddie Mahaffey

The Offertory

"People, Look East"

Wood

\*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

Mark 13:24-37

Major Treadway

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

"Ev'ry Valley"

Beck

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low;  
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.  
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low,  
and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain,  
and all flesh shall see it together.  
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen

The Sermon

"Now. Here. This."

Scott Dickison

**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Call to the Table

Scott Dickison

The Communion Litany

Pastor: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**People: Thanks be to God for the broken bread.**

Pastor: After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

**People: Thanks be to God for the cup.**

Pastor: Thanks be to God for the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God for the table of communion.**

The Bread

Worshippers will come forward by the center aisle. Receive the bread and, having received it, return to your seat by the outside aisle.

The Cup

Worshippers will be served the cup seated in the pews. Take the cup, a symbol of your willingness to receive the grace of God. Once all have been served, drink the cup together.

**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**

When I think upon my God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap from my pen; and since God has given me a cheerful heart, it will be pardoned me that I serve God with a cheerful spirit.

—Franz Joseph Haydn

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 539 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

\*The Benediction Scott Dickison

\*The Postlude "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" Burkhardt

\*The congregation will please stand.

The Lectionary passages December 3 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:

- Isaiah 64:1-9 ~ page 702
- Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 ~ page 481
- I Corinthians 1:3-9 ~ page 949
- Mark 13:24-37 ~ page 807

**Musician for today**  
Bennett Randman, *cello*

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Youth Sunday School**

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

**Christmas Party**

Tonight at 5:00 p.m. White Elephant Gift Exchange at the Youth House! Throw on your ugliest Christmas sweater and come to the Youth House. Bring a wrapped gift that costs less than \$10.

**Breakfast Club**

Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast for students before school. We'll gather at 7:00 a.m. and finish in time for folks to get to school. Please let Major know in advance if you would like to come and need a ride to school.

Tuesday, December 5: Primos on Lakeland

**Caroling**

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. Youth will gather with the 3rd-6th graders at the Youth House and go sing Christmas Carols before returning to share a meal together.

**Spring Break Beach Retreat**

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

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BRUMFIELD HOUSE

December 7

Bo Allen

December 14

Bryan Bridges

December 21

Andy Frame

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**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**December 10**

**Firecrackers**

Morgan & Aaron Samuels

**.Sparklers**

Krysten & Jay Jernigan

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The Northminster Choir

Presents

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

The Morning Hour of Worship

Sunday, December 10

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**SAVE THE DATE!**


**Northminster Women's Retreat 2024**


Friday, February 16 – Sunday, February 18  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center  
Raymond, MS

**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**

 Northminster is saddened by the death of Vivian Thompson, a member of Northminster since 1998. Christian sympathy is extended to all of Vivian’s family and friends.

 Northminster is saddened by the death of Jack Root, a member of Northminster since 1992. Christian sympathy is extended to all of Jack’s family and friends.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Claire and Martin Millette on the death of Martin’s father, Samuel Millette. Christian sympathy is also extended to Preston and Geri Smith and all of Sam’s family and friends.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Jeffery, Dabbs, Logan, Dylan, Sterling and Rhodes Massey on the death of Jeffery’s sister, Heather Green.

**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 First 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 Jennifer Stribling.
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 Sarah Reynolds.
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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**Northminster Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is in the stairwell foyer with names, ages, clothing sizes, and wish lists from children in our community. If you want an angel early or may not be present at the church during the time the names are on the tree, Megan will be happy to get an angel's information to you. You may also stop by the church to adopt an angel anytime the church office is open. In addition, we have volunteers ready to shop for angels if you are unable to do so but would like to financially support an angel. Remember that more than one person and/or family can work together to provide gifts. Tuesday, December 12 is the last day to bring gifts. Please contact Megan Mayhan at 601-624-6701 or [meganmayhan@gmail.com](mailto:meganmayhan@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Communion and Children**

Communion Sundays are special times of worship at Northminster, and we want all our children to feel as included as possible. It has been a long-standing tradition at Northminster that each family will decide whether or not non-baptized children can receive Communion. Please know that children who have not yet been baptized and whose families decide that they need to wait to receive Communion can still come forward to receive a blessing from the deacons who are serving Communion. *To signify that they wish to receive the blessing but not Communion, these children simply need to cross their arms over their chests, as if in prayer, when they approach a deacon who is serving the bread.* Hopefully, this option will provide non-baptized children who do not partake in Communion a way to more fully participate in the worship life of our faith community. Jesus Christ said, “Let the little children come to me.” Here at Northminster, our desire is to be as welcoming of children as is the Savior we follow.