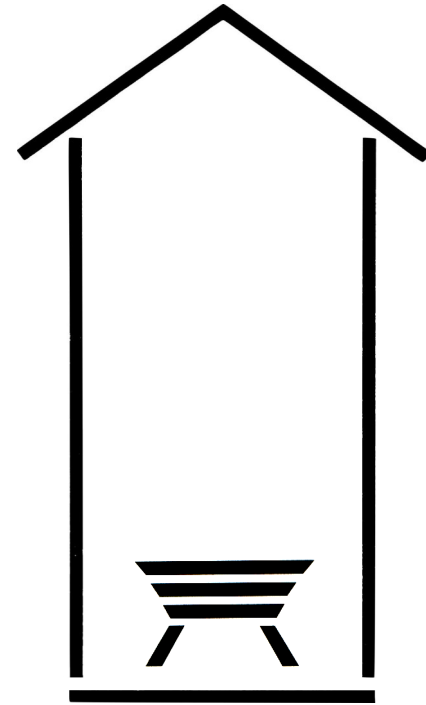


MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Joe Rankin.
The Caregiving Chair for December is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinators for December are Annette Hitt,
Sara Reynolds and Sunny Fowler.
The Caregiver of the Week is Annette Hitt.
The Liturgist for December is Amy Williams.
The flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly,
Kandy Sims and Becky Frame.
The Usher Captain for December is Keith Davis.

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	Scott Dickison
Associate Pastor for Children and Adults	Lesley Ratcliff
Interim Youth Coordinator	Dabbs Massey
Minister of Music	Tim Coker
Organist	Sheila Hess
Organist Emeritus	Billy Trotter
Office Manager	Leslie Ward
Financial Secretary	Sam South
Receptionist/Secretary	Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley
Sexton	Lamenais Simeon



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

A seed in the ground. A flame in the darkness. A hand outstretched. A child in the womb. Hope starts small and overtakes us, stretching the borders of what we have known.

—Jan L. Richardson

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 1, 2024
Ten-thirty o'clock

LIGHT COMING INTO DARKNESS

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection, and prayer. Following the service, please enjoy a time of fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops at all -

— Emily Dickinson

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

The Call to Worship “Advent Message” How

Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly!
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly! Amen.

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

*Lighting of the Candle of Hope Mary Alden Ratcliff

*The Advent Banner Ellen Ruth Stancill

*The Processional Hymn No. 133 *VENI EMMANUEL*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Advent Litany Jeff Wilson

Leader: The Hope of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Living Nativity Practice, Choir Rm.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

11:30 a.m. Youth Cmte., YH

5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six

5:30 p.m. Youth, YH

Monday, December 2

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

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, December 4

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, L/CR

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

3:00 p.m. Children’s Birthday Gathering, GH

Saturday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Orchestra & Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. Boarding Homes Set-up, GH

9:30 a.m. Youth Stewpot meal prep

Sunday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:00 a.m. Living Nativity Practice, Choir Rm.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:00 p.m. Boarding Homes, GH

3:30 p.m. Missions Cmte., L/CR

5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six

5:30 p.m. Youth, YH

Stewpot

Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m.

Meet in the Great Hall kitchen, where we will prepare a meal to be served at Stewpot. We will go out to lunch when we finish.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 8, 5:00 p.m.

We will have our White Elephant gift exchange. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and bring a wrapped gift that costs around \$10. It will be a fun night!

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Youth will gather with the third through sixth graders at the Youth House and go sing Christmas carols before returning to share a meal together.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Preschool Atrium, Elementary Atrium and Four5Six

Tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

December 1: Firecrackers—Dabbs & Jeffery Massey
Sparklers—Ramsey & Brian Long
December 8: Firecrackers—Krysten & Jay Jernigan
Sparklers—Blair & Ryder Taff

The Living Nativity

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

Practice began this morning. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

December 8 and 15 from 9:00-9:30 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 attend as many rehearsals as possible.

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

Leader: God of all our beginnings, in darkness we wait and wonder, longing for Light.

People: Restore our sight.

Leader: God of prophets and promises, we remember your faithfulness to Israel and Judah.

People: Restore our hope.

Leader: God of mystery and miracle, prepare our hearts for your Holy Advent.

People: Rekindle our spirits.

All: Rejoice, for the God of hope is with us.

*The Gloria Patri

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

Jeff Wilson

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Jeremiah 33:14-16
I Thessalonians 3:9-13

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE CONFESSION OF DARKNESS AND THE ASSURANCE OF LIGHT

The Meditation of Confession

For the ways in which we bury your light
underneath layers of busyness and denial;
for the times we fail to recognize your light in
the eyes of the hungry, the outcast, the stranger;
for the opportunities not taken to share your light with others;
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy upon us.

— Katherine Hawker

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Scott Dickison

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

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.

GRATITUDE FOR THE LIGHT

*The Offertory Hymn No. 271

CWM RHONDDA

“Christ Is Coming! Let Creation”

*The Offertory Prayer

Jeff Wilson

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!**

PROCLAIMING THE LIGHT

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Lesley Ratcliff

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.

Boarding Homes Project: An Advent Tradition

Set-up Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 8, 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.

On Sunday, December 8, 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.

Poinsettias

If you would like to provide a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, please complete a form and return it with \$10 for each plant ordered. You may order in different ways:

Use the insert included in order of worship on December 8, and return it in the offering plate. You can also stop by the church office to complete a form or send an email to neely@northminsterbaptist.org.

Deadline to receive information is Monday, December 9.

Spann Kindergartners Sing Christmas Carols

You are invited to join the Adopt-A-School Committee in listening to the Spann School Kindergartners sing Christmas carols on Friday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall.

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

Join us at 9:15 a.m. There will be donuts and good conversation.

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

We will meet at 5:00 tonight for dinner, games, fellowship and a lesson.

Brumfield House

December 5: Bo Allen
December 12: Bryan Bridges
December 19: Andy Frame
December 26: Jeff Wilson

Meals on Wheels

Monday, December 2

Cooks: Rt. 1 Drivers:
Annette Hitt Julie & Dudley Wooley
Kandy Sims Rt. 2 Drivers:
Becky Wooley Marianna Field & Janet Holt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday, December 4
5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall
Cost: \$5 per child, \$8 per adult, \$25 per family

Servers: Sara Cox, Mary Heard,
Dawn Perkins, Judy & Joe Rankin
Cashier: George Luter

Northminster Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is currently 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 17, is the last day to bring gifts. Please contact Megan Mayhan at 601-624-6701 or meganmayhan@gmail.com with any questions.

The Sermon "The Days Are Surely Coming" 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—Worshipers will come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, and return to the pews by an outside aisle. Anyone preferring to receive a blessing should simply cross their arms over their chest as if in prayer, and the deacon will offer a blessing. A gluten-free option is available at the communion table.

The Cup—Worshipers will be served the cup seated in the pews. Once all have been served, we will 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.

