

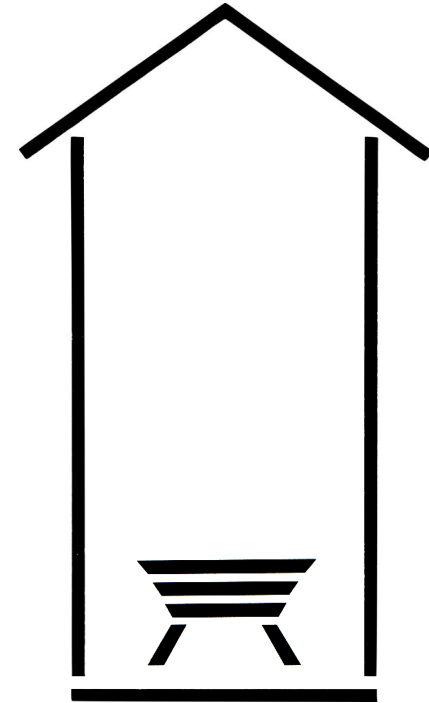
MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Bill Thompson.
The Caregiving Chair for December is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinators for December are Annette Hitt,
Sarah 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

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



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The shadows of this world will say—
There's no hope; why try anyway?
But every kindness large or slight—
shifts the balance toward the Light....
When justice seems in short supply,
lean in toward the Light.

—Carrie Newcomer,
“Lean in Toward the Light”

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 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

From the deep well of silence, joy is
constantly bubbling up and flowing out.
Practice reveals that we are immersed in that joy.
Practice also reveals what is blocking the flow.

—Gunilla Norris

The Prelude “Bring a Torch, Janette Isabella” Hudson

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

*The Lighting of the Candle of Joy Rhodes Massey

*The Advent Banner Aiden Moremen

*The Processional Hymn No. 133 *VENI EMMANUEL*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Advent Litany Sterling Massey

Leader: The JOY of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, December 15

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

11:30 a.m. Deacons' Luncheon, GH

3:30 p.m. Church-wide Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 16

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

5:30 p.m. Committee on Committees Meeting, L/CR

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Committee Meeting, GH

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Church-wide Christmas Breakfast, GH

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

————— **CHILDREN’S NEWS** —————

Children’s Worship Volunteer Schedule

- December 15: Chapel Coordinators—Taylor & Justin Beard
Firecrackers—Sheri & Clint Moody
Sparklers—Sandra & Rob Triplett
- December 22: Firecrackers—Mary Kathryn & Bo Allen
Sparklers—Anne & Parker Snow

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.

On December 24, we will meet in the Great Hall at 4:30 to put on costumes and have a final practice.

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

Parents’ Night Out

Friday, January 10, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant—sixth grade) by calling the church office at 601-982-4703 by Wednesday, January 8. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper. We will also have Parents’ Night Out on February 7, March 28 and May 9.

Preschool Atrium, Elementary Atrium and Four5Six

Resume Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Children’s Birthday Gathering

Thursday, January 16, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Children whose birthdays are in January are invited to stop by the Great Hall to enjoy an ice cream treat with Lesley.

Leader: God of Light, fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.

People: **Help us see your grace and goodness in the world around us.**

Leader: Let us speak and sing to the care you have for the least among us.

People: **When the night seems too long and the shadows too strong, light the way for us.**

All: **Open our hearts to be transformed by hope, peace and joy.**

—Rev. M. Anghaarad Teague Dees and
Rev. Susan Ivany, adapted

*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

Sterling Massey

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7

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

And so we take the ragged fragments,
the patches of darkness
that give shape to the light;
the scraps of desires
unslaked or realized;
the memories of spaces
of blessing, of pain.

And so we gather the scattered pieces
the hopes we carry
fractured or whole;

the struggles of birthing
exhausted, elated;
the places of welcome
that bring healing and life.

And so we lay them at the threshold, God;
bid you hold them, bless them, use them;
ask you tend them, mend them,
transform them
to keep us warm,
make us whole,
and send us forth.

—Jan L. Richardson, *Night Visions*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Lesley Ratcliff

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.

GRATITUDE FOR THE LIGHT

*The Offertory Hymn No. 155

ST. LOUIS

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*The Offertory Prayer

Sterling Massey

The Offertory

“Behold, a Rose is Blooming”

Brahms

*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!**

Northminster Women's Retreat 2025

Friday, January 24 – Sunday, January 26
Eagle Ridge Conference Center – Raymond, MS

The Soil of Sorrow

To know loss and sorrow is to be human, and to be human is to seek community and love. On this year's retreat, we will explore how we support ourselves and others through sorrow and loss, and how we deepen our connections with one another as we till the soil of sorrow to see what might bloom there. We'll share song and stories by the fire, participate in art and writing, and engage in embodied activity. As is our women's retreat way, we'll laugh and play games and have lots of good snacks, too!

Cost: \$225 per person; \$300 for a single room

Cost should never keep someone from attending. If there is a need for a scholarship, please contact Lesley Ratcliff.

Questions? Contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or 601-927-0259.

———— 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 start back at 5:00 p.m. on January 12 for dinner, games, fellowship and a lesson.

Stewpot

Saturday, February 1, 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 9. Youth lead worship and teach Sunday school, followed by a church-wide luncheon and dessert auction to raise money for youth trips.

Christmas Caroling

You are invited to join our third—twelfth graders for Christmas caroling today at 3:30 p.m. We'll meet in the back parking lot, carpool to carol at a few members' homes, and return to the church by 5:00.

Join us for the church-wide

Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 22

during the Sunday School hour
(no Sunday School)
in the Great Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Pre-service music begins at 5:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available.

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, and 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. Thursday, December 19, is the last day to bring gifts. Please contact Megan Mayhan at 601-624-6701 or meganmayhan@gmail.com with any questions.

Parents of sixth graders are invited to attend the

Mentor Parents' Meeting

Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m.

in the Library

PROCLAIMING THE LIGHT

The Gospel Luke 3:7-18 Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem "Still, Still, Still" Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you;
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

The Sermon "What, Then, Should We Do?" Scott Dickison

TIME OF RESPONSE

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

—Leo Buscaglia

*The Recessional Hymn No. 152 *GLORIA*

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude "From Heaven Above" Young

**The congregation will please stand.*

The scriptures for today are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:

Isaiah 12:2-6, pages 558-559

Philippians 4:4-7, page 955

Luke 3:7-18, page 834

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, the beginning season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ and of anticipation of the fullness of the kingdom of God. The color purple reflects the Advent themes of preparation and restoration.

The Advent Wreath marks the four Sundays of Advent with the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love surrounding the Christ candle. The ever-green wreath symbolizes the never-ending love of God, and the flickering candlelight dispels the darkness as we are reminded that Jesus is the Light of the World.

The Advent Banner, *Highway Through the Desert*, marks the beginning of the season. The shapes remind us of the unfolding of new life and the flowing of God's spirit among God's people. It is a visual symbol of Emmanuel's coming to earth as told in the book of Isaiah. The prophet foretold the birth of a leader who would cause great changes. On the horizon is a dawning. The banner reminds us of Isaiah 40:3-5:

A voice is calling, "Clear the way of the Lord in the wilderness. Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill made low; and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The banner was designed and made by a Northminster member.

————— 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

Christian sympathy is extended to Joe and Judy Rankin on the death of Joe's sister-in-law, Sandra Rankin.

Christian sympathy is extended to Tim and Cheryl Coker on the death of Tim's sister-in-law, Lisa Coker.

Christian sympathy is extended to Buddy and Carolyn McIntyre on the death of Carolyn's sister, Barbara Kroeze.

Christian sympathy is extended to Ann Vickery and Lisa Kelly on the death of Ann's sister, Virginia Gammill.

Kathy Miller is at home with hospice care.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee	Carolyn Aden
Tom Starling	Sue Edwards	R.W. McCarley
Carla Holt	Virginia Hamilton	

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.

Pastoral Care Number

To alert the ministers of a pastoral care need, please call 601-980-1002.

Brumfield House

December 19:	Andy Frame
December 26:	Jeff Wilson
January 2:	Scott Wilson

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, December 18

Cooks:	Rt. 1 Drivers:
Amy Moremen	Nancy Smith & Amy Finkelberg
Kathryn Davis	Rt. 2 Drivers:
Jan Stewart	Beverly Raddin & Taylor Pedigo

————— ANNOUNCEMENTS —————

The Season of Advent

The Worship and Music Committee offers The Season of Advent 2024 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.