

## MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

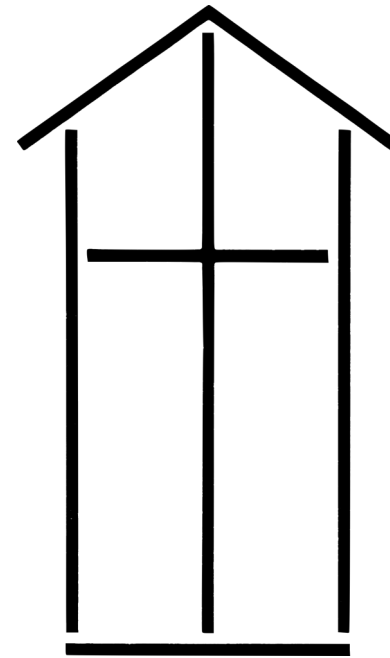
Every member a minister

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, Sunny Fowler and Susan O'Mara.  
The Caregiving Chair for January is Sarah Reynolds.  
The Caregiving Coordinator for January is Gail England.  
The Caregivers of the Week are Susan O'Mara and Annette Hitt.  
The Liturgist for December is Gray Jackson.  
The Liturgist for January is Joe Rankin.  
The flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly and  
Kandy Sims.  
The flowers for January are provided by Geri Smith, Jennifer  
Stribling, Jane Claire Williams and Kathryn Davis.  
The Usher Captain for December is Keith Davis.  
The Usher Captain for January is Dawn Warrington.

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
Associate Pastor for Students	Geoff Davidson
Associate Pastor for Senior Adults	Marty Harper
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

Northminster Baptist Church  
3955 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
601-982-4703  
[www.northminsterbaptist.org](http://www.northminsterbaptist.org)



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Every year the season leads me  
Far away to that place  
Where you are still a newborn baby  
In the hay sleeping safely.  
Timeless Christmas Child,  
My heart holds you close tonight,  
'Cause I know what was to come  
And I see what God has done,  
So each Christmas you could be born again in me.

—Kyle Matthews  
“Timeless Christmas Child”

**NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The First Sunday after Christmas Day**  
December 28, 2025  
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. Following the service, please enjoy a time of fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation

Christmas child,  
you stand at our stable door,  
bearing the unwrapped gift  
of terrible, unrelenting love.

You will us to be born  
again, again, and again.

—Jim Hughes  
*Hay & Stardust*

The Prelude            “In the Bleak Midwinter”            Gibbs

The Spoken Call to Worship            Lesley Ratcliff

\*The Christmas Banner            Mary Alden Ratcliff

\*The Processional Hymn No. 161            *IRBY*

“Once in Royal David’s City”

\*The Litany of Praise            Brock Ratcliff

Leader: Blessings of Christmastide be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The Christmas season continues, and the spirit of Christmas reigns among us.

**People: We want to prolong the friendly greetings and carols of good cheer.**

Leader: The steadfast love of God abides with all who are receptive to it.

**THE CHURCH IN SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 28**

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**Wednesday, December 31**

6:00 p.m. New Year’s Eve Reflection &  
Communion, Sanctuary

**Thursday, January 1**

Church office is closed

**Sunday, January 4**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

**People:** We want to stay in familiar places, enjoying God's mercy and redemption.

Leader: We will not turn away from any possibilities God has in store for us.

**All:** In the name of the one who shared our humanity, we bring our worship and praise.

—Lavon Bayler  
adapted from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit*

\*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 Brock Ratcliff

The Greeting Marty Harper

The Lessons Marty Harper  
Isaiah 63:7-9  
Hebrews 2:10-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

### CONFESSON AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

God of love, create in our hearts a desire to seek out Jesus in the darker corners of our world. Grace us with the courage to search for your son in those people who are strange to us, who frighten us, who are different from us.

—Adapted from a prayer by Father John Mudd

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon Geoff Davidson

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer Geoff Davidson

**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

Great Carols of Our Faith  
(sing verses 1 and 2)

No. 152 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 150 “What Child Is This?”

No. 170 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

\*The Offertory Prayer

Brock Ratcliff

The Offertory

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hudson

\*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

Matthew 2:13-23

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“O Holy Night”  
Amanda Milam, *soprano*

Adam

The Sermon

“A Christmas People”

Lesley Ratcliff

## 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.

## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth Sunday School

Join us at 9:15 a.m. for donuts and good conversation.

### Youth Sunday Nights

5:00—6:30 p.m.

will resume January 11, 2026.

### Twelfth-Night Bonfire

January 4, 2026

### Youth Sunday & Dessert Auction

February 8, 2026

## CHILDREN’S NEWS

### Children’s Worship Volunteer Schedule

December 28: Firecrackers—Sarah & Nick Newcomb  
Sparklers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer

January 4: Firecrackers—Krysten & Jay Jernigan  
Sparklers—Mary Hastings & Gray Samson

January 11: Chapel Coordinators—Camille & Drew Snyder  
Firecrackers—Lida & Gregg Caraway  
Sparklers—Audrey Dickison & Matt Thames

### Parents’ Night Out

Friday, January 9, 2026, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant-sixth grade) by calling the church office, 601-982-4703, by Wednesday, January 7. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive, or provide a brown-bag supper.

### Atrium & Four5Six

will resume at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

### Lunch and Learn with Katie Blount

January 20, 2026  
12:00—1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

Katie Blount is director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, a position she has held since 2015. Katie will talk with us about her work at the department that oversees the Two Mississippi Museums and other historic sites across the state.

The cost will be \$10 per person. Please RSVP by January 15 by emailing Lesley Ratcliff at [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org) or calling the church office.

### Northminster Women's Retreat

Saturday, February 28—Sunday, March 1  
Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS

### Stewpot Clothes Closet

Stewpot is in need of men's clothing size 40 or smaller, especially pants, shoes and belts. You can drop them off at Stewpot or bring them to the church office. Please contact Julie Wooley at [jjwooley12@gmail.com](mailto:jjwooley12@gmail.com) or Leslie Ward at [lward@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lward@northminsterbaptist.org) with any questions.

### Mr. Simeon's Farewell

I want to sincerely thank this ministry for the opportunity to be apart of such a great organization. It has been a privilege and honor to work alongside so many dedicated and supportive individuals.

I'm grateful for the guidance, friendships, and experiences I've gained here, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. As I end my time at Northminster, I do so with appreciation and fond memories.

Thank you all—it's truly been a great pleasure and a blessing. God bless you all!

### TIME OF RESPONSE

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman  
“The Work of Christmas”

- |                                      |                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| *The Recessional Hymn No. 146        | “Joy to the World” | <i>ANTIOCH</i>  |
| *The Benediction                     |                    | Lesley Ratcliff |
| *The Postlude                        | “Swiss Noel”       | Daquin          |
| *The congregation will please stand. |                    |                 |

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

Isaiah 63:7-9, page 605  
Hebrews 2:10-18, pages 971-972  
Matthew 2:13-23, page 784

**Today is the First Sunday after Christmas Day**, a twelve-day celebration of the birth of Jesus and the incarnation of God in the life of Christ. The liturgical color is white, symbolic of the purity of Christ.

————— **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.

**ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS**

Gorman Schaffer      Libby McGee      Carla Holt  
Virginia Hamilton      Sue Edwards

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.

**Brumfield House**

January 1:      Scott Wilson  
January 8:      Jeff Wilson  
January 15:      Deacons  
January 22:      Skipper Jernigan

**Meals on Wheels**

Monday, January 5

Cooks:                      Rt. 1 Drivers:  
Peggy Brady                      Susan & Charles O'Mara  
Rebecca Starling      Rt. 2 Drivers:  
Amanda Milam                      TBA

Wednesday, January 21

Cooks:                      Rt. 1 Drivers:  
Leah Hendrix                      James Bethea & John Dawson  
Shari Culver                      Rt. 2 Drivers:  
Carolyn McIntyre                      Carol Taff & Beverly Raddin

————— **ANNOUNCEMENTS** —————

**New Year's Eve Reflection and Communion**

Wednesday, December 31  
6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary will be open for one hour on New Year's Eve for a time of quiet reflection and guided meditation. Communion will be served to those who wish to partake.

**Holiday Hours**

The church office will be  
closed Thursday, January 1.

For pastoral care needs, please call 601-980-1002.

**Baptism of the Lord Vesper Service**

Sunday, January 11  
5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

If you are interested in receiving baptism at this service, please contact one of the pastors.

**Northminster Essentials**

Sunday, January 18 through Sunday, March 1  
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, 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](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org).