



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—Prayer of Saint Francis

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
January 25, 2026  
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

You wake from dreams of doom and—for a moment—you know: beyond all the noise and the gestures, the only real thing, love's calm unwavering flame in the half-light of an early dawn.

—Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*

The Prelude                      “Creator of the Stars of Night”                      Held

The Spoken Call to Worship

\*The Processional Hymn No. 77                      *LOBE DEN HERREN*  
“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

\*The Litany of Praise                      Robin Harvey

Leader:     The Lord be with you.

**People:     And also with you.**

Leader:     Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**People:     And renew a right spirit in me.**

Leader:     Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**All:         Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation. Amen.**

—Psalm 51, 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                      Robin Harvey

The Greeting Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 Lesley Ratcliff

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

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

The beginning of prayer is silence. If we really want to pray, we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks. And to be able to see that silence, be able to hear God, we need a clean heart; for a clean heart can see God, can hear God, can listen to God; and then only from the fullness of our heart can we speak to God. But we cannot speak, unless we have listened, unless we have that connection with God in silence of our heart.

—Mother Teresa

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 No. 708 *DENNIS*

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

\*The Offertory Prayer Robin Harvey

The Offertory “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Powell



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

Isaiah 9:1-4, page 555

Psalm 27:1, 4-9, page 437

Matthew 4:12-23, page 785

**Today is the Third Sunday after Epiphany in Ordinary Time.** Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. The season after Epiphany continues that emphasis, calling attention to the words and deeds of Jesus' earthly ministry. Also known as "Growing Time," the liturgical color for the Sundays after Epiphany is green.

## ———— 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

Beth Israel Congregation

### ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer

Libby McGee

Virginia Hamilton

Carla Holt

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.

**The Caregiving meeting for Monday, January 26 has  
been cancelled due to the possibility of inclement weather.**

### Pastoral Care Number

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

### Brumfield House

January 29:	Kirk Sims
February 5:	Joe Sims
February 12:	Mike Peters
February 19:	Charles O' Mara

### Meals on Wheels

Monday, January 26

Cooks:	Drivers:
Cathy Davis	Rt. 1: Becky & Tim Frame/ Gayla Purvis
Polly Watkins	Rt. 2: Pat & Mike Beall
Jean Welsh	

## — ANNOUNCEMENTS —

### **January 18 Congregational Meeting**

At a special meeting called by the Chair of the Board of Deacons on Sunday, January 18, the Congregation voted to accept the Board of Deacons' recommendation that Northminster form a Search Committee for an Associate Pastor for Community and Mission. The Congregation elected two members to serve on the Search Committee: Andy Frame and John Studdard. Per our Bylaws, the rest of the Search Committee will be comprised of the Vice Chair of the Board of Deacons (Blakely Fender) and one representative from each of the Standing Committees responsible for the area in which the minister will work: Denominational Relations (Solon Smith), Missions (Gray Jackson), Personnel (Bill Thompson), and Wider Net (Margery Van Meter).

### **Spann Elementary School Socks and Underwear Drive**

Our friends at Spann need underwear and socks for their school clothing closet. They welcome all sizes for children ages 4—12. Please drop your donations off in the church office by February 6 and we will deliver them to Spann.

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

Wednesday, January 28

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Cost: \$5 per child, \$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Menu: red beans & rice, broccoli, salad and cake

Servers: Gloria Montgomery, Amy Moremen,  
Joe Rankin and John Tingle

Cashier: George Luter

## ADULT STUDIES

Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

### **Baptist Distinctives: An Exploration of Denominational Relations**

Tonight, February 1, April 19 and 26

Northminster provides financial and leadership support to a variety of Baptist ministry partners who work in four basic platforms, each related to a particular aspect of being Baptist: 1) Theological Education; 2) News and Advocacy; 3) Network Support and Faith Formation; and 4) Long-term Mission Support. On January 25 and February 1, we will explore our investment in theological education and our work in the news and advocacy arena. In addition to learning about our Baptist ministry partners, we will be joined by our former associate pastor, Stan Wilson, who will inform us about his role with RAWtools South.

### **The Birth of Satan: the Biblical Roots of the Evil One and Why He Won't Go Away**

February 15, 22, March 1 and 8

Satan, Lucifer, Old Scratch, Beelzebub, the Prince of Darkness. His many names evince the way the devil has captured the popular imagination like few other biblical characters. Yet much of the character we recognize was developed apart from scripture. Over these four weeks, using T.J. Wray and Gregory Mobley's fascinating book, *The Birth of Satan: Tracing the Devil's Biblical Roots*, as our guide, we will distinguish what the bible actually says from what originates from other sources. Finally, we'll talk about how we make sense of evil in the world and how we might understand the character of the adversary today.

### **Northminster Trivia Night**

May 3

More details coming soon—but expect fellowship and fun at Northminster's first Trivia Night, which will close out Adult Studies for the semester.

### **Northminster Essentials**

through Sunday, March 1

9:15—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).

## **Mahjong Ministry**

### **Next Hand**

Sunday, February 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

We will also play March 15, April 26 and May 17

Join us for one, some or all of the dates.

These will be events for folks who have learned the basics. If you haven't learned, please reach out to Lesley about a time to do so.

## **Northminster Women's Retreat**

Saturday, February 28—Sunday, March 1

Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS

### **Unrushed: Finding Sacred Rest**

On this year's retreat, we will explore the gift of sabbath as a sacred unhurried way of being. We'll gather for a learning session on Saturday morning, vespers service and games on Saturday night, and a learning session and worship service mid-day on Sunday. The remaining time will be open for you to explore the gifts of sabbath. We'll have optional sessions on walking the labyrinth, creating art, practicing gentle movement, and settling into quiet meditation, and you will be able to find whatever holy rhythm suits your needs. As always, we'll laugh together, rest together, and savor plenty of good snacks along the way!

Cost: \$200 per person; \$250 for a single room  
(Cost should never keep someone from attending. If there is a need for a scholarship, please contact Lesley Ratcliff.)

Questions or to register? Contact Lesley Ratcliff at  
[lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org) or 601-927-0259.

Please register by February 11.

## **Save the Date**

### **Protection Policy Training**

for all who volunteer with children, youth or vulnerable adults

Sunday, March 22, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

————— **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.

**Stewminster Basketball**

Seventh and eight grade boys from Northminster and Stewpot will meet to play basketball. Games will be played at Madison Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m., each Thursday through February 12, with playoffs to come.

**Youth Sunday & Dessert Auction**

February 8

Youth lead worship and teach Sunday school, followed by a church-wide luncheon and dessert auction to raise money to support our ministry. If you would like to donate a dessert for the auction, contact Jennifer Stribling at 601-209-2223 or [jenniferstribling@me.com](mailto:jenniferstribling@me.com).

**Superbowl Party**

February 8 at 5:00 p.m.

**Spring Break Trip to Dauphin Island, AL**

March 8-11

Cost: \$200

Get away from the semester and join us at the beach! Space is limited so reserve your spot online or in the church office.

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

**Atrium & Four5Six**

tonight at 5:00 p.m.

**Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule**

- January 25: Firecrackers—Mary Ellen & Jeff Stancill  
Sparklers—Sandra & Rob Triplett
- February 1: Firecrackers—Laura & Patrick Taylor  
Sparklers—Kim & Kyle Watson
- February 8: Chapel Coordinators—Elizabeth & Percy Quinn  
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Lida & Gregg  
Caraway
- February 15: Firecrackers—Blair & Ryder Taff  
Sparklers—Amanda & Trey Clark

**Girls' and Guys' Scavenger Hunts**

Girls—Today, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Guys—Sunday, February 1, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

First through sixth graders are invited to join us for a scavenger hunt and a snack on their respective dates. We'll meet at the children's area to start the hunts. Contact Lesley at [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org) to sign up.

**Parents' Night Out**

Friday, February 6, 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, February 4. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper.

**Children's Birthday Gathering**

Tuesday, February 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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





## **THE CHURCH IN SERVICE**

### **Sunday, January 25**

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 3:30 p.m. Girls' Scavenger Hunt
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir Ensemble
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

### **Monday, January 26**

- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

### **Tuesday, January 27**

- 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Cmte., L/CR

### **Wednesday, January 28**

- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, January 29**

- 7:00 p.m. Stewminster Basketball

### **Friday, January 30**

- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, January 31**

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service, Chapel
- 10:45 a.m. Beth Israel Torah Study, Chapel

### **Sunday, February 1**

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

## **THE CHURCH IN SERVICE-continued**

### **Sunday, February 1**

3:30 p.m. Guys' Scavenger Hunt

4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir

5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six

5:00 p.m. Youth, YH

5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

**MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**  
**Every member a minister**

The Deacon of the Week is Mike Peters.  
The Caregiving Chair for January is Sarah Reynolds.  
The Caregiving Coordinator for January is Gail England.  
The Caregiver of the Week is Amanda Milam.  
The Liturgist for January is Joe Rankin.  
The flowers for January are provided by Jennifer Stribling.  
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

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