

# Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church † Sarasota, FL

June 2020

## JUNE SERVICES

Sundays at  
10:30 AM  
online at  
Facebook.com/  
NPCSarasota

Rev. Wally Johnson

**June 7**

*Imago Dei*

Genesis 11:1-15, 24-2:3

Psalm 8

**June 14**

*God is Always Greater*

Romans 5:1

**June 21**

*Amazing Grace*

Romans 6:1-11

**June 28**

*Alive in Grace*

Romans 6:12-23

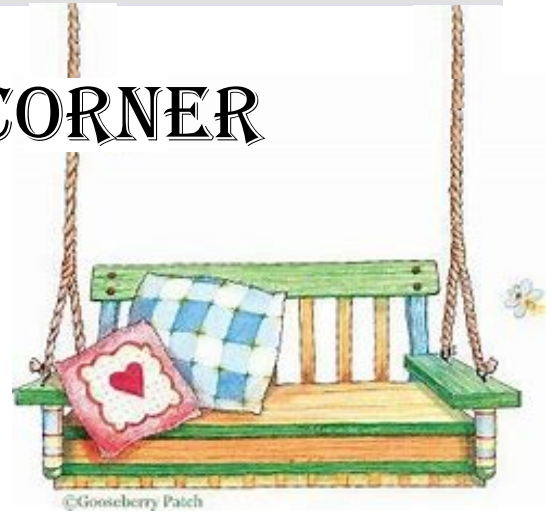
## PASTOR'S CORNER

Greetings to all! What a journey this has been! I never dreamed we would still be meeting only online, but here we are. We have come a long way and I want to say a big thank you to the crew who makes all that possible. I am thankful for Don Kesten, our Audio Tech, and Caleb Kesten, our Video Tech. Then we have the music crew composed of Ed, Gail, Joyce, and Bob. They have been a tremendous blessing! Finally, Sandy Stiles, running slides, and my bride Joyce, running video and providing lay leadership.

You all rock! I could not do this without all of you. Thanks be to God for the gift you are to Northminster!

We plan on resuming in-person worship on July 5, barring any setbacks in our state. You will read more about that in another article in the newsletter. I am excited to be with you again in person, and I want us to go the extra mile to ensure a safe and welcoming space.

In all of this, I have reflected on what God has taught me and what I want to carry forward. We are so prone to reverting rather quickly to our previous “normal” behaviors after we go through a trial. I hope we don't do that. I hope we carry forward the lessons each of us have learned. I hope these days change us and mold us a bit more into the image of Christ. For me, I don't want to waste this trial!



The words of the hymn “Have Thine Own Way Lord” are a fitting prayer for all of us:

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me  
after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me,  
Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord,  
wash me just now,  
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!

See you soon!  
Walk in peace and hope!

*Pastor Wally*

## Wired Word Bible Study Continues on ZOOM



You don't need a "special set of skills" to join Pastor Wally's Bible study. Just log in, **every Wednesday, at 11:00**, using ZOOM!

First, go to Zoom.us and download ZOOM on your computer, tablet, or smart phone. It's free! Each week you will get an email with the connection instructions, along with the lesson. You'll be able to see everyone in the class, OR you can simply listen in, using your phone, without the visual element.

If you are willing to give this a try - please **sign up by emailing Pastor Wally at [pastorwally@npcsarasota.org](mailto:pastorwally@npcsarasota.org)** One added benefit is that some seasonal friends and some friends, who have moved away, are able to join the class. Friends outside of the church are welcome, too; we'll need their email, as well.

## New Website - Same Address

We have updated our Website in an attempt to make it more focused on inviting folks to give us a look. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sally Kirby for her work over the years, maintaining our Web presence. She has done a fantastic job keeping it up to date and relevant. Well done, Sally!

The new site is still a work in progress. Check back regularly to see what changes. The Events section will, obviously, change once we return to a more normal schedule! Give us a look at [npcsarasota.com](http://npcsarasota.com).



## Mission Ministry



These have been challenging times which have required adjustments from all of us. The work of our mission partners goes on, however. Their needs do not go away.

We are thrilled that we have been able to continue our support to our partners, and we look forward to developing

some new mission partners in the coming months. It is your giving that allows this vital work to continue.

If we fail to reach out beyond our walls, we fail to be the incarnate presence of Christ in our community. May the Lord continue to bless and use NPC for his glory!

## Opening Our Doors on July 5th

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! This letter is long, but I hope you read it all the way through.

Your Session has decided to return to in-person Worship on Sunday, July 5. This decision has not been an easy one, but it has been an important one. Many factors weigh in this decision, and we have tried to keep our mission and your safety in mind.

We want to acknowledge that many of you are anxious to return to in-person Worship, while many others are not in a hurry, as there are uncertainties about health and safety. We have all missed the joy of worshipping together and catching up with each other before and after Worship. We have missed the hug and the smiles!

When we return, things will not be “normal,” but procedures are in place so that we can return to Worship as safely as we can.

- Prior to July 5, our building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by a professional sanitizing company. This process will provide a clean starting point and will be repeated once a month for the first few months. In-between, our regular cleaning crew will clean and sanitize after each use of the building.
- Every other pew will be closed for seating to ensure appropriate physical distancing.
- Greeters will wear masks, and the doors will be propped open before the service. We want to avoid the need to use door handles.
- Bulletins will be placed on the pews, not handed out in the narthex.
- Offering plates will not be passed but positioned at the doors and in the front of the sanctuary.



- Our coffee fellowship after the service is suspended until it is safe to resume.
- The buildings will only be open for Worship. All outside groups and all activities continue to be suspended to minimize any infectious contact. Fellowship hall will not host any events until further notice.
- Individually packaged, sealed, and sanitized communion kits will be used. We want to continue to observe communion, but we need to do so safely.
- Masks will be required in Worship so that we can be safe, and hopefully, sing. We will have masks available for those who do not have them. We know the masks are uncomfortable, but they are not dangerous, and they demonstrate our love and concern for each other.
- Greet each other with a nod, a bow, or some other symbol of your love. No handshaking, hugs, or physical contact, please.
- Collections of physical goods for Beth-El have been suspended until they are receiving items again, and we can collect them safely.

I encourage you to worship with us online at [Facebook.com/NPC](https://www.facebook.com/NPC) until you are comfortable returning to in-person Worship. We will continue to live-stream our services. We are one in Worship, whether at home or in person. We are blessed to have you worship with us, however you choose. All these things are not prompted by fear, but based in love for each of you.

If the date of opening is moved (it will be a continuing topic for Session), all the procedures will be in place prior to opening.

Thank you for your patience and your prayers. I look forward to seeing you!

*Pastor Wally*

## Who's Who at NPC

Have you ever had a question about something at Northminster and didn't know who to ask? Session has recently appointed the following committee chairs. Call them if you have a question or if you'd like to join their committee!

**Christian Education** - Sally Kirby

**Fellowship** - Larry Barnhart

**Finance** - Bob Price and Bob Silver

**Membership** - Cynthia Murphy

**Mission Ministry** - Bob Silver

**Outreach & Marketing** - Ron Myers

**Parish Life** - Betty Miller

**Personnel** - Al Eckes

**Property** - Jim Christie

**Worship** - Jan Cory

**Representatives to Nominating Committee** - Cynthia Murphy and Steve Thompson



## In the Church Library

To quote theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, "Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer." With that thought in mind and the feeling that some of you, like me, are ready for some fun reading, I've put the following books on display in the library ready for you to check out and enjoy: There are two recently donated little volumes titled, Church Chuckles and Rolling in the Church Aisles. We also have, More Holy Humor, a book of inspirational wit and cartoons. There are two books written by Barbara Johnson, who was known as the "Christian Erma Bombeck," with the amusing titles of Pack Up Your Gloomies in a Great Big Box and Sit On It and I'm So Glad You Told Me What I Didn't Want To Hear. And last, but not least, The Gospel According to Peanuts. I am not sure, as I write this column, when we'll be able to resume regular library hours. However, don't forget, Isabel has graciously agreed to open the library for you until things are back to normal. Just give her a call during office hours.

## Financial Update

### Operating Fund

	<b>April 2020</b>	<b>Yr-to-date</b>
Income	\$ 24,924.67	\$ 110,192.93
Expenses	<u>\$ 25,342.42</u>	<u>\$ 95,984.92</u>
Net Income	\$ - 417.75	\$ 14,208.01

### Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$ 53,844.18
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 22,981.85</u>
	\$ 76,826.03

### Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Ameritrade	\$ 100.20
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 587.18</u>
	\$ 687.38

### Cornerstone Fund

Charles Schwab	\$ 57,273.20
----------------	--------------

**Mortgage Balance:** \$0



## Office Notes

### OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30

Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

Isabel will be out of the office June 22-30.

*The church office remains open during the Corona virus lockdown.*

*Social distancing is practiced;  
wearing a mask is appreciated.*

### DEADLINES

- Announcements for all Sunday Bulletins are due in the office by noon on the Wednesday before.
- **Session Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, June 10**, for the meeting on **June 17**.
- **EARLY Good Tidings deadline:** Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the July newsletter by **Wednesday, June 10**.

### DIRECTORIES & UPPER ROOM

Our new LifeTouch Picture Directory is here! Anyone who wants a copy can swing by the office to pick it up. If you don't want to come in, give me a call and I'll leave it outside for you. There are still copies of the May-June Upper Room available, too.

*Isabel Oake, Office Administrator*

- 1 Bea Swanson
- 2 Ron Conner
- 11 Dave Messinger  
Mark Goslin
- 13 Jane Clark
- 14 Aurea Siebert
- 21 Mary Lou Jatho
- 24 Marilyn  
Thompson
- 27 Martie Myers
- 29 Larry Harvell  
Lori Ladd

JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS



... but they who wait for  
the LORD shall

*renew their strength;*

they shall mount up  
with wings like eagles;

they shall run and

*not be weary;*

they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

## Northminster Presbyterian Church

*"Called by Christ. Sent by Christ."*

### STAFF:

**Rev. Wally Johnson**, Pastor  
*pastorwally@npcsarasota.org*  
**Isabel Oake**, Office Administrator  
*office@npcsarasota.org*  
**Sally Kirby**, Clerk of Session  
*clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org*  
**Edward L. Stiles, Jr.**, Music Director  
*music@npcsarasota.org*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.**  
**Online through June 2020**

### OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Monday -Thursday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday

**PHONE:** 941-355-4729

**FAX:** 941-351-2162

**E-MAIL:** office@npcsarasota.org

**WEBSITE:** www.npcsarasota.com



*The Church with the Red Roof*  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
3131 61st Street  
Sarasota, FL 34243-2542

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #526  
Manasota, FL

**CURRENT RESIDENT**

*PLACE LABEL HERE*

*In-person Sunday  
Worship Services  
scheduled to resume  
at Northminster  
on July 5!*

*See details on Page 3*

