

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

December 25, 2016

In preparation for worship, please take time to silence all electronic devices, and quiet our thoughts, so that we all may focus our hearts and minds on the Lord.

Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo* **Bach**

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Call To Worship **Malachi 2:17-3:1; Micah 7:18-20**

Hymn #161 *Once in Royal David's City* **Irby**

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7; 22-24 (p.1590)
10:00am Ed Clark

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Good and Faithful God, you always keep your promises – in scripture, and in life. You promised to send Messiah, your Deliverer, to your people, and in Jesus, we see your promise kept. Lord Jesus, you promised to be with us, even after you ascended to God the Father, and you have kept that promise by sending the Holy Spirit. You have promised to return, and take us to be with you, in the Father's house. Forgive us, for we have forgotten your promises, or grown tired of awaiting you, and have turned to our own plans for life. Forgive us, and remind us of your faithfulness, so that we might live in the daily reality, and eternal hope, of your life-giving presence. We pray with gratitude, and in the name of Jesus, who is Immanuel, amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

The Greeting

Hymn #146 *Joy To The World* **Antioch**

Worship Song *Sing To The King* **Foote**

Childcare is provided for children up to 5 years old. No Lighthouse Kids today.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Diane Chen,
Elder

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory

Breath of Heaven
Lyrica Robinson

Eaton/Grant

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Luke 225-36a, 38-40

(p.1591)

Sermon

Anticipation – Realization
Christmas Is Coming – Christmas Is Here

Dr. Deborah Watson,
Pastoral Associate

Hymn #157

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Benediction

Prayer Ministry

10:00am Linda Behmke

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. Dass, by Marjery S. Vangore, and in loving memory of his mother, Rachel Vangore, by Donald Vangore.

CDs of today's sermon are available in the Chapel within 15 minutes after the service. Previous Sundays' sermons are available by date in the bin on the small table. Sermons are also available online at our website www.narberthpres.org or podcast through iTunes.

Thank you for being with us in worship today! To learn more about our church, Welcome Bags are available for newcomers in the Narthex (entrance area at the front doors.)

2017 Giving envelopes are available in the Chapel. Your number may have changed as we consolidate to numbers between 1 and 200. If you want envelopes and do not have them on the table, please drop a note in the office or send an email to cbellamy@narberthpres.org

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 12:15-2:00pm, lunch and childcare provided. Along with discussing the budget and ministries of our church in 2017, we will hear a detailed update on the straw poll and our denominational discernment.

Special Christmas Kickball with the Pastor

Come for all or part of the time! Location: Gym
Thursday, December 29 3:00-5:00pm

The love offering from last Sunday night's Found Wandering Concert totaled \$4,499 for the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission which ministers to the homeless in Philadelphia.

Schedule:

Sat. Dec. 31	7:00pm New Year's Eve Service – Communion (6:30pm A time of music and praise beforehand)
Sun. Jan 1	10:00am One combined Worship Service – Communion (The New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services are identical) Lighthouse Kids on Sunday.

TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY

Too Busy Not To Pray

Starting Sunday mornings on January 8 and running through Sunday, February 26, Pastor Steve will begin a series of messages on “Too Busy Not To Pray: Connecting With God In All of Life.” Who among us does not wrestle both with busyness and stress, and the desire for a deeper prayer life and connection with God?

This will be our theme as a church community for 8 weeks in January and February. Along with Sunday morning messages, many small groups and classes will focus on this theme, including Wednesday nights, starting Jan 11 at 7:00-8:00pm.

All church members and friends are also encouraged to read the book by Bill Hybels with the same title, Too Busy Not To Pray. Books will be available for a donation of \$5.00 (as you are able), starting on New Year’s Eve at our 7:00pm service, and on New Year’s Day at our 10:00am service.

Upcoming timeline looks like this:

December 31 7:00pm New Year’s Eve Saturday night service

January 1 10:00am Sunday morning service

Both services include communion, and coming forward to receive the bread and the cup

Sermon: “What Are Your Spiritual Goals in 2017?”

Sunday January 8 9:00am and 10:45am

Back to regular Sunday service times. First sermon on “Too Busy Not To Pray”

January 9 (Monday) We start reading the book Too Busy Not To Pray as a congregation (2 chapters per week)

ALL in our church and community are welcome to join in this spiritual journey together!

FAMILY MINISTRY: CHILDREN, YOUTH & PARENTS

Sunday Morning Schedule

Infants and Toddlers

- 9:00am-12:15pm: *Nursery* provided in the *Nursery Room* downstairs near the restrooms, and a separate crying/changing room is directly across from the bottom of the stairs.

2 to 3 Year Olds

- 9:00-10:30am: *Hands On Bible, Blue Door Room* downstairs.
- 10:45am-12:15pm: *Spinners!* class, *Red Door Room* downstairs.

4 to 5 Year Olds

- 9:00-10:30am Sunday School *Red door room* (Kindergarten students may attend *Lighthouse Kids*, see below)

Grades 1-3:

These children attend the first part of the worship service with parents and are *dismissed half-way through* to attend:

- 9:30-10:30am: *Rotation Sunday School, Brown Door Room* downstairs.
- 10:45am-12:15pm: *Lighthouse Kids*, downstairs in the *Gym*.

Grades 4-5:

These children attend the first part of the worship service with parents and are *dismissed half-way through* to attend:

- 9:30-10:30am: *Tweens Class*, downstairs in the *Gym*.
- 10:45am-12:15pm: *Lighthouse Kids*, downstairs in the *Gym*.

Grades 6-12:

- **Upcoming Youth Events:**

* Youth Sunday School: There is no Youth Sunday School this Sunday.

* Sunday School Returns on Jan. 8th!

* Winter Youth Kickoff on Jan. 8th, 4-6pm! More details to come!

- For all youth-related questions, please contact John Chaffee 610-664-4880 x112 jchaffee@narberthpres.org

2016 MISSIONARY CAUSES

Mission

4D Ministries – Hank Paulson
Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center
Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc. – North Ireland
Chosen People Ministries (formerly Messiah Now) - Cruz
Cornerstone Christian Academy
Corrymeela Community – North Ireland
CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) - Darwin
CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) – Brindley (Philly Bridges)
CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) - Shenk
DiscipleMakers - Hall
Esperanza Health Center
Fellowship International Mission/Jos Seminary - Tushima
Global Mapping International - Todd
Greater Europe Mission- Loeffler
Habitat for Humanity - Camden
Habitat for Humanity –Philadelphia
House of His Creation
Interserve-USA - Kennedy
Intervarsity – Emma Shaw
Kingdom Connect - Duffy
Kirkwood Camp (Presbytery of Philadelphia)
Neighborhood Crusades Inc.
Presby's Inspired Life
Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International
Presbyterians for Renewal (Wee Kirk)
Presbytery of Philadelphia General Mission
Servant Partners – Dan & Denise Anderson
SIM USA - Jewell
The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota (Standing Rock)
The Philadelphia Project
The Philadelphia Project – Erika Knight
The Welcome Church – Steinnagel
Timothy Academy
United World Mission - Woodbury
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Shannon
Young Life (Western Philadelphia Suburbs)

Ambassador

Helga Sauter/Margie Nathanson
Alice Antonelli
Terry Weyant
Jennifer & Tim Roykouff
Joyce Lewis
Lally / Hartssock
Kathy McLean
Jean McIntire
The Bowser Family
Bob Moore
Greg Esterhai
Scott Todd
Susan Hurst
Helga Sauter
Linda Behmke
Linda Behmke
Melissa Esterhai

Meg McKinley
Ken & Sally Kapner
Curt Haring
Helga Sauter
Open
Open
Steve Weed
Scott Todd

Helga Sauter
Brint Nicolai
Sharon Shallow
Dave Bellamy
Jane Murray
Georgia Ward
Helga Sauter
Carol Heller
Barbara Montgomery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † **Sr. Trip to Longwood:** There is a sign-up sheet in the Chapel for the rescheduled Sr. Adult trip to Longwood Gardens on **Tuesday, January 3rd**, leaving from NPC at 9am, and returning by 3pm. What a great way to start of the New Year!
- † **“A Time To Remember” Wed. January 4th at 7:00pm**
For everyone who has lost someone dear, whether family or friend, this service will be a time of reflection, prayer, and encouragement. Led by Gerri Wismer, Debbie Watson, and John Chaffee.
- † **In the darkness that is Aleppo, Syria, the light of Christ continues to shine.**
Through our missions budget via The Outreach Foundation, NPC supports the National Evangelical [Presbyterian] Church of Syria and Lebanon whose churches, including in Aleppo and other locations in Syria, continue to worship the Lord and minister faithfully in Christ’s name to those who are displaced. Despite destruction of property, the Presbyterian Church of Aleppo pledges “to continue our ministry...and as a church to be a sign of hope in this despairing time... We will never cease to dedicate our effort to bring love and peace into the city of Aleppo...Greeting to all of our partners hoping that they will pray for us this Christmas in Aleppo in order that we will meet the needs of marginalized people.” Elsewhere in the region, your gifts to Interserve through this year’s Gifts of Hope Gallery will help support a short-term medical clinic providing much needed medical care. Thank you for your gifts which shed the light of Christ in places of great suffering. Please continue to support these ministry partners in prayer.
- † **Dr. Janet Moore** has been serving in our Counseling Ministry for the past 10 years, working with individuals struggling with a wide range of personal and psychological challenges. Dr. Moore’s perspective is that addressing mental health issues is essential to opening our hearts and minds, thereby enabling a closer relationship with God that can sustain us in an imperfect world. You may reach Dr. Moore by leaving a message on her church extension, 610-664-4880 (ext. 121), or at 484-686-6630.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † **Your 2016 tithes, offerings and other gifts**, payable to Narberth Presbyterian Church, may be placed in the offering plate any Sunday this month or mailed (postmarked) prior to year-end to:

Narberth Presbyterian Church
205 Grayling Ave.
Narberth, Pa 19072-0414
Carol Bellamy, Financial Secretary

Please note that gifts intended for 2016 must be **postmarked by December 31, 2016**, received at the church office by the end of the day Saturday, December 31st, **or placed in the offering plate at the New Year's Eve service**. In addition, you may give online at narberthpres.org or, even faster, by texting the amount of your gift to 610-624-4831. Online transactions completed on 12/31 will be credited to your 2016 account. Thank you for your generous gifts this year!

† **Treasurer's Report**

Through December 14th, our offering amount for the year is approximately \$975,000, which is \$242,000 below our \$1,217,000 annual budget. Our spending in budgeted areas is expected to be slightly below budget at year end (expenses were \$25,000 below budget at end of November).

We do generally have a significant percentage of giving arrive towards the end of the year, but we are currently further behind than in past years.

In our budget, over 20% is allocated to missions near and far. Through your giving, we also maintain our building and equipment, pay our staff and benefits, teach our growing number of children and youth about Jesus and help them to strengthen their faith, and assist in reaching out to our neighborhood and community.

Your prayerful consideration of how you can help us to finish 2016 well is greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless you in your giving!