

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

January 7, 2018

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

Sherry Beebe

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

9:00am Commissioning of John & Jan Kennedy for Interserve Ministry in N. Africa

Call To Worship

Acts 1:8

Hymn #95

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Coronation

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:1-13

(p.1704)

9:00am David Fraser

10:45am Dana Ergenbright

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our sins, your forgiveness; in all our duties, your help; in all our uncertainties, your guidance; in all our dangers, your protection; in all our sorrows, your peace. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, may you be the goal of our journey and our rest along the way. In his name and to his glory. Amen.

Paraphrase from Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

The Greeting

Worship Song

I Will Follow

Tomlin/Ingram/Morgan

9:00am Reception of New Members (see p. 6)

9:00am Hymn #708 (1,2)

Blest Be the Tie

Dennis

During the 9:00am service, children up to grade 5 may be dismissed to Children's Sunday School.

6th grade and up meet in the Youth Room for Sunday School

During the 10:45am service, children in K through 5th grades may be dismissed to the gym for Lighthouse Kids children's church after the hymn/worship song.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Deborah Watson,
Pastoral Associate

Passing of Friendship Pads

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Build My Life
The Praise Team

Younkers

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:14-25

(p.1705)

Sermon

Encountering Christ
Resolved in 2018: Let The Spirit Lead!

Steve Weed,
Pastor

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gloria Patri

Invitation To Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, **he shares our life.**

Eating with sinners, **he welcomes us.**

Guiding his children, **he leads us.**

Visiting the sick, **he heals us.**

Dying on the cross, **he saves us.**

Risen from the dead, **he gives new life.**

Living with you, **he prays for us.**

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may run the race as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, Abba Father, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the life giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again. Amen.

Sharing The Bread and The Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #669

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

Benediction

Prayer Ministry

9:00am Charlie Choi

10:45am Linda Behmke

Today we begin a new 6-week sermon series on “Encountering Christ”, even as we continue our congregational journey in the Book of Acts. Central to the “action” in “Acts” are the accounts of numerous changed lives through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. The question for us is: are we open to encountering the living Christ, being changed, and sharing this good news with our neighbors?

Today on this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate Holy Communion. As Presbyterian Christians, we invite all who profess faith in Jesus Christ to receive communion, regardless of denominational affiliation or membership in this church. At the 9:00 service you are invited to receive communion by coming forward down the center aisle. We break off a piece of the bread (gluten free available), dip it in the cup and eat, then return to your seat by the outer aisles. At the 10:45 service, the Elders and Deacons serve you bread and the cup in your seats.

On Communion Sundays, a portion of the offering is earmarked for our Deacons' Assistance Fund. This fund is used to meet critical needs within our own church family and beyond. Thank you for your very generous donations.

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.)

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.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Michael Brown lives in Bala Cynwyd, and has one adult son, Dylan. Michael works as a Legal Assistant, and comes to NPC from Bethany Baptist Church in Lindenwold, New Jersey.

John Chaffee lives in Bryn Mawr, is our Director of Youth Ministry since October, 2016, and comes to us from Media Presbyterian Church.

Dana Ergenbright lives in Narberth, works as a Training Manager in the Trauma Healing program of the American Bible Society in Philadelphia, and comes to NPC from Liberti Church in Center City Philadelphia.

Adina Halter lives in Villanova with her teenaged children, Jonathan and Lydia, and works as Sr. Product Manager and Chief Technologist for Accessibility at Comcast. Adina comes to NPC from Church of the Savior in Wayne.

Danielle and **Justin** Kauffman live in Lansdowne with their three sons: Ian, Eli, and Fin. Justin works as a Conservation Planner, and Danielle is our new Director of Children's Ministries. The Kauffmann family comes to NPC from Media Presbyterian Church.

Russ and **Susan** Mitchell live in Wynnewood with their teenage daughter, Carly, and have two adult children, Kevin and David. Russ works as a Technology Manager, and Susan teaches Math at the Haverford School. The Mitchell family comes to NPC from Calvary Church in Lancaster.

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:

- 7:00-9:00pm Middle School on 3rd Fridays-begins January 19
- 4:00pm Sunday HS Youth Group –Resumes today

Upcoming Events:

Confirmation Class 2018: Calling all youth who are interested in attending Confirmation and becoming members of Narberth Presbyterian Church! Just after the New Year we will be starting a **new round of Confirmation beginning Jan 14 at 10:30am in the Youth Room**. This is open to MS as well as HS youth. We will be covering the Christian faith, the Ten Commandments, the Creeds of the Church, and how Narberth Pres. sets out to be a community of faith. We will culminate on Pentecost, which is Sunday, May 20th. On that day we will have a large celebration and welcome all Confirmands into the Church as full members! To help make this a special spring, we would love to have the participation of the rest of the church, if this interests you, please email John Chaffee at jchaffee@narberthpres.org about Confirmation!

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT NPC

BEGINNING JANUARY 10TH

5:45-6:45: Supper in the Fellowship Café (supper served until 6:25)

Each week a simple nutritious meal will be provided by rotating teams of volunteers. You are invited to help once a month with a team doing prep, serving and clean-up.

7:00pm-8:00pm Children's Classes and Childcare beginning Jan 10

Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars, Stuffed Animals! Beginning Wednesday, January 10 children in preschool (and potty trained) through 5th grade will be discovering Bible stories through some of our favorite toys. This week we will talk about collecting with Hot Wheel cars as our toy guide! Get ready to race those cars in fun ways and discover how God wants us to not rely on earthly treasures but things of God such as scripture. Bring your Bible and favorite cars - I will have extras too. All are welcome to play and learn! Please contact Danielle with any questions dkauffman@narberthpres.org.

7:00-8:00pm Recreational activities for middle schoolers with John Chaffee in the gym.

7:00-8:00pm Adult Classes

- **Christian Liberty and the Grace of God-Beginning Jan 10**
In this video-based discussion class, we will address the nature of true freedom in Christ. Why do we need the law if salvation is by grace alone? Through a video series led by gifted teacher, Sinclair Ferguson, we will explore the relationship between God's grace and our works. Dr. Ferguson explains that the solution to both lawlessness and legalism is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is central New Testament theology, with very practical and personal implications for the Christian life.
Led by Norm Johanson Location: Parlor

- **New Explorers' Class – Beginning January 17th**
The Explorers' Class is designed for newcomers and provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere for discussing our relationship with Christ, opportunities and mission of NPC, and what it means to be Presbyterian Christians.
Led by Steve Weed and Debbie Watson Location: Parlor

2018 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 of Christian Athletes – Kasey Dougherty
Fellowship International Mission/Jos Seminary - Tushima
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
REAP - Granada
Servant Partners – Dan & Denise Anderson
SIM USA - Jewell
The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota (Standing Rock)
The Philadelphia Project
The Welcome Church – Steinnagel
Timothy Academy
United World Mission - Woodbury
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Shannon
Young Life (Western Philadelphia Suburbs)

Ambassador

Helga Sauter
Alice Antonelli
Terry Weyant
Jennifer & Tim Roykouff
Joyce Lewis
Isabel Lally
Kathy McLean
Jean McIntire
The Bowser Family
Bob Moore
Greg Esterhai
Ashley Reed
Scott Todd
Helga Sauter
Linda Behmke
Linda Behmke
Melissa Esterhai
Jesse Kennedy
Meg McKinley
Ken & Sally Kapner
Curt Haring
Helga Sauter
Suzanne Morrison
Cathy Callaway
Steve Weed
Scott Todd
Charlie Choi
Faithe Hornung
Helga Sauter
Ashley Reed
Sharon Shallow
Jane Murray
Georgia Ward
Helga Sauter

Barbara Montgomery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **NEW NPC Children's Committee!**

NPC is forming a dynamic team of leaders to provide support and direction to all children's programming including but not limited to Sunday School, Wednesday Night Programming, Special Events, Christmas Programs, VBC, etc. If you have a heart for children and for children's ministry please contact Danielle Kauffman on how to be a part of our awesome team! dkauffman@narberthpres.org.

† **TOY BOX - Wednesday Night Children's Program**

Puzzles, Legos, Remote Control Cars, Stuffed Animals! Beginning this Wednesday, January 10 children in preschool (and potty trained) through 5th grade will be discovering Bible stories through some of our favorite toys. This week we will talk about collecting with Hot Wheel cars as our toy guide! Get ready to race those cars in fun ways and discover how God wants us to not rely on earthly treasures but things of God such as scripture. Bring your Bible and favorite cars - I will have extras too. All are welcome to play and learn! Please contact Danielle with any questions dkauffman@narberthpres.org.



† **MLK Jr. Day Event: "Driven by Faith"**

Sunday, January 14, 2018 2:00-3:30pm

Sisters of Mercy, Montgomery Avenue, Merion

This event will include a time of questions and answers with Pennsylvania Senator Dwight Evans. There will be five areas of focus:

- 1) Poverty
- 2) Homelessness
- 3) Immigration
- 4) Concern for the Earth
- 5) The Criminal Justice System

The questions will have been submitted in writing for Senator Evans to answer. There will be a professional moderator who will facilitate the conversation.

The purpose of the event is to ask, and come up with some possible answers to the question of what we, as individuals and as faith communities, can do to address these issues.

This is an opportunity to hear about some existing initiatives concerning 5 areas of deep concern, and to engage in conversations which might lead to shared efforts to effect positive change in these areas. All are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † **Scripture Readers needed!** Each week someone from the congregation blesses us by reading the first scripture portion for the day. We are compiling a Winter/Spring roster of people for the two services, and would be happy to have you read if you are at least 7 years old and are willing to speak a little more slowly than you probably do otherwise! Please sign up in the Chapel, and leave your e-mail so that we can get the "script" to you the Friday or Saturday before you read.

- † **New Women's Study Group has started on Thursday evenings!** We meet from 7:00-8:30pm in Steve's Office. We will resume with a new book study beginning on Thursday Jan 11. **All are welcome to join at any time. For more information, please contact Cathy Callaway** at ccallaway@narberthpres.org or 215-341-6607.

- † **For those who like to sing!** On an occasional basis, prior to the worship services, our musicians will be offering an "extended prelude" of music and praise from 8:45-9:00am.

- † **Financial resources free for the taking!** Complements of the Finance Committee, a few extra copies of a 20-day devotional entitled *Generosity: How God's Radical Grace Changes Our Perspective on Money and Possessions* are available in the Chapel. Also available: one copy of Ron Blue's *Master Your Money: A Step-by-step Plan for Experiencing Financial Contentment*, and Jeff Anderson's *Plastic Donuts: Giving that Delights the Heart of the Father*. Take, read, and grow!

- † **Dr. Janet Moore** has been serving in our Counseling Ministry for the past 13 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.

ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE



Calling all couples – newly married or veterans – the ***ALPHA Marriage Course***, will be offered on Friday evenings, beginning January 19th through March 9th . This course provides husbands and wives with tools to build and strengthen a vibrant relationship over time. Each Friday evening (6:30-9pm), a maximum of 5 couples enjoy a nice dinner at a table for two, watch a brief video presentation by Nicky and Sila Lee, and talk with each other about important issues that can get swept under the carpet in the rush of daily life. This is **not** a large group activity; rather, you and your spouse work only with each other. The cost for 7 weeks of dinner and the course materials is \$120 per couple. It's a bargain! So, whether you have been married a short time, or for many years, this course is a great investment in your relationship! There will be childcare provided at no extra cost. Please contact Debbie (dwatson@narberthpres.org or 610-664-4880 ext.114) to sign up, and check it out at [http://us.alphausa.org/Groups/1000056818/The Marriage Course.aspx#.Vq-iLLrLcs](http://us.alphausa.org/Groups/1000056818/The_Marriage_Course.aspx#.Vq-iLLrLcs)

ACTS 8

Application Questions from Acts 8:1-25 - for individuals or small groups:

- Following Stephen's death, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem which resulted in a scattering of believers, bringing the gospel to new areas in Judea and Samaria (fulfilling Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8). The early church fathers used to say, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." How do you explain this? Why is Christianity often stronger in times of adversity and opposition?
- What are the opportunities as well as the challenges of being the church in today's American culture, which appears to be increasingly hostile to Christians?
- Acts 8:1 says that all, "except the apostles" were scattered and "preached the word wherever they went" (8:4). How does this tie in to the Protestant Reformation idea of the "priesthood of all believers?" What can laity do that clergy often can't do? According to Ephesians 4:11,12, what are the respective roles of pastors and lay people? How do you respond to the question, "Are you in full-time Christian ministry?"
- What is the purpose of the apostles' visit in Acts 8:14-17? How does this experience of the Holy Spirit tie back to Pentecost in Acts 2? Read Acts 2:38,39. If you are a Christian, when you first received Christ, did you understand salvation to include not only forgiveness, but the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- In Acts 8:18, what do you think Simon the Magician "saw" in the laying on of the apostles' hands and the gift of the Spirit? How have you experienced or discerned the Spirit's ministry as somehow tangible?
- Why is Peter's rebuke of Simon the Magician so strong in Acts 8:20-23? What is incomplete about Simon's repentance in Acts 8:24?
- Simon is a lesson in the proper (or improper) use of spiritual power. What is the essence of spiritual power in the New Testament, and what is the purpose of that power? (Consider Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 2Timothy 1:6,7; Luke 22:24-27).
- If you pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, are you prepared to answer the question, "Why?"



On the Web:
www.narberthpres.org
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BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 7

Reception of New Members@ 9:00 service

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve's Office

8:00am Sunday School, Parlor

9:00am Worship Service-Communion

9:30am Children's' Sunday School, downstairs

9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room

10:45am Worship Service-Communion

4:00pm HS Youth Group

Monday, January 8

7:00pm Prayer Group, open to all, Steve's Office

7:00pm MBR-Bible Study, Music office

7:30pm Men's Bible Study in Gal., Copy Room

7:30pm Open Youth Committee Meeting, YR

Tuesday, January 9

7:00am Men's small group, Resource Room

7:00am Men-Sponsored Prayer Breakfast, at Narberth Diner

7:00pm Deacons' Meeting, Parlor

7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 10

5:45 -8:00pm Wed Night Supper and programming resumes

7:00pm Classes for all ages

See page 8

Menu: Chicken, salad, fruit, dessert

Thursday, January 11

9:30am Quilts for comfort, Parlor

4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor

7:00-8:30pm Women's Study Group, Steve's Office

7:30pm Adult Pick-up Basketball, Gym

Friday, January 12

10:00am Women's Bible Study, Chapel

7:00pm Pickleball, Gym

Saturday, January 13

Sunday, January 14

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve's Office

8:00am Sunday School, Parlor

9:00am Worship Service -Ordination & Installation of new Elders/Deacons

9:30am Children's Sunday School, downstairs

9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room

10:30am New Confirmation Class begins, Youth Room

10:45am Worship Service

2:00-3:30pm MLK Jr. Day Event:

"Driven by Faith"

Sisters of Mercy, Montgomery Avenue, Merion

4:00pm HS Youth Group

Each Week

Christian Nursery School – Jennifer Addy, Director, 610-664-8890

2, 3 & 5 Day Programs 9:00am to 11:30am & 11:30am to 3:30pm Extended Day Program, Sept.-May

AA meets 12:30pm, Monday–Friday. Also, Saturday at 12:30pm & Sunday at 4:30pm

Counseling: Dr. Janet Moore: cell: 484-686-6630 email: jlmpsych@hotmail.com

Planning ahead Information and calendar updates 24/7 at www.narberthpres.org

- Jan 16 7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor
- Jan 19 6:30-9:30pm Marriage Course begins, Parlor
- Jan 19 9:30am Moms' Group, Parlor
- Jan 19 6:30-9:00pm Marriage Course, includes supper, Parlor
- Jan 19 7:00-9:00pm Middle School Youth Group
- Jan 25 9:30am Quilts for comfort, Parlor
- Jan 26 7:00pm Pickleball, Gym
- Jan 30 11-3pm Phila. Presbytery Meeting, Doylestown
- Jan 30 7:00pm Missions Committee Meeting, Parlor
- Feb 2 6:30pm Parents' Night Out, Gym