

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

January 21, 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

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Invitation to Amnion Baby Bottles

Alice Antonelli,
Elder, Ambassador for Amnion

Call To Worship

Hymn #130

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-9

(p.1706)

9:00am Anne Barr

10:45am Dana Ergenbright

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we thank you for your sovereign grace that pursues us on the Damascus Road. Even though your intentions toward us are always good, we fail to trust you. Instead of asking for your guidance, we prefer to run our own lives. Please forgive us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to see that in Christ we are no longer slaves, but beloved sons and daughters of God. Help us to believe the truth, that our highest freedom is found in surrender to your will. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Recognition of Carol Bellamy and Commissioning of Ruth Ellen Patterson as Financial Secretary

Meg McKinley, Elder, Chair of Finance

The Greeting

Worship Song

No Longer Slaves

Bethel Music

9:00am Sacrament of Infant Baptism

Isla Mae Hammacher

Daughter of Derek & Karen Hammacher

9:00am Song

This Little Light of Mine

10:45am Worship Song

Great I Am

Anderson

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

Lord, Touch My Eyes
Tom Patterson, Baritone

Buryl Red

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:10-19

(p.1706)

Sermon

**Encountering Christ:
The Power of A Converted Life**

Steve Weed,
Pastor

Hymn #92

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

Benediction

Prayer Ministry

9:00am Greg Hein
10:45am Emma Shaw

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Patricia Todd, by Scott and Julie and the family.

We are in a 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?

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.

Unbound: From time to time we all experience obstacles to knowing the peace of Christ in our daily lives. Unbound is a ministry that helps us find the joy and freedom that Jesus desires for us. Personal prayer sessions are available on Sundays at 10:45 am with Gene and Becky McGee and on Wednesday evenings with Dana and Maria Kaminstein at 7 pm. Sessions available by appointment only. Contact Gene (267-446-9598), Becky (215-287-3844), Dana (610-247-4825), Maria (610-247-4927).

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 5 Year Olds

- 9:00-10:30am: *Gospel Light, Red Door Room* downstairs
- 10:45am-12:15pm: *Play through the Bible, Red Door Room* downstairs.

Grades K-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:

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Confirmation Class
- 7:00-9:00pm Middle School YG on 3rd Fridays
- 4:00pm Sunday HS Youth Group

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 have begun **a new round of Confirmation 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

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

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**

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: Chapel

- **New Explorers' Class**

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

THURSDAY

- **Women's Bible Study on the gospel of Luke** led by Cathy Callaway, 7:00-8:30pm. Location: Pastor Steve's office.
- **New Thursday night class – starting January 25 7:00-8:30pm**
Pastor Steve will lead a new book study on Mere Christianity (More details, p. 12)

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.

† **Amnion's "Make Change for Life" Baby Bottle Collection and Diaper Drive:** Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 21 marks the beginning of NPC's annual fundraiser for Amnion Pregnancy Center. Baby bottles will be available to be taken home, filled with loose change and returned to NPC by **Sunday, February 18**. Donation of disposable diapers, size 3, 4, or 5, and baby wipes is also appreciated. All donations may be dropped off in the chapel or church office. Any questions, contact Alice Antonelli at arichardson1@gmail.com

† **Christian Nursery School 2018-2019 Registration Days!!**

- Narberth Presbyterian Church members and current Nursery School families were invited to register on Friday, January 26 in the church gym, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- All other families are invited to register on Friday, February 2 in the church gym, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

We recommend that you register on these days, as spaces fill up quickly

† **To preserve the deductibility of your church contributions,** it is recommended that you do not file your 2017 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions to NPC from the church, scheduled to be mailed by January 31, 2018. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

† **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.

NEW COURSES AND CLASSES AVAILABLE

Alpha Marriage Course

Friday Nights beginning January 19th

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

New Book Study - Thursday Nights - Mere Christianity!

Starting Thursday night, January 25, at 7:00pm, Pastor Steve will lead a 9 week in depth study of Mere Christianity by CS Lewis. This book, originally given as a series of 15 minute radio talks during the difficult days of WW2, is a modern spiritual classic.

In our own time of distress and upheaval, Mere Christianity draws us back to the center point of the gospel in Jesus Christ. If ever we needed to "keep the main thing, the main thing", the time is now. If you are seeking a stronger faith, and clearer understanding of Christianity, this is the best you can do in 190 pages!

Depending on the size of our group, the class will meet in the parlor and run each **Thursday night from 7-8:30pm, January 25 through March 22**. Please feel free to invite friends and especially those who may be spiritually seeking. Please sign in the chapel if you are interested. Books will be available next Sunday for those who commit to participate. Childcare is also provided.

Good News Evangelism Team: Fourth Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm

Led by Pastor Steve Location: Chapel

This will be a monthly gathering to receive training on sharing our faith, and to hear stories of how we see God at work. The emphasis will be less on programs and more on people, and how God is leading us to reach out into the community with the good news of Jesus Christ. ALL are welcome to this time of encouraging one another to fulfill the Great Commission.

ACTS 9

Application Questions from Acts 9:1-19 for individuals or small groups:

- How would you define conversion? What was Saul converted from, and what was Saul converted into? (Acts 26:17,18; Colossians 1:13,14). If you compare Saul's conversion experience to that of Timothy in 2Timothy 1:3-5, what differences do you see? What dynamics are similar and might be considered "normative" about conversion?
- Saul of Tarsus had been an active and approving witness to the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58; 8:1). If you put yourself in the place of Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1,2), and consider his impeccable religious credentials as a "blameless" Pharisee (Philippians 3:4-6), what are you thinking and feeling?
- How do you respond to the secular adage, "It doesn't matter so much what you believe, as long as you are sincere."
- Because Jesus died on the cross ("tree", Deut. 21:22,23), Saul was convinced that Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. This encounter with Jesus himself completely reversed Saul's understanding of Jesus (see Galatians 3:10-14; 2Cor 5:16,17).
- How has your understanding of Jesus grown and developed over the years? Was there a major turning point in regard to your faith in Jesus?
- In 1 Corinthians 15:3-11, Paul reflects on his Damascus Road experience in light of the resurrection of Christ. What do you think he means when he describes himself as "abnormally born" in v 8? What do you observe about the effects of receiving the grace of God in verses 9-11?
- Saul had been persecuting Christians. Why then did Jesus say to Saul, "Why are you persecuting ME?" (Acts 9:4,5)
- Luke records Saul's conversion three times in Acts, here in chapter 9, and twice as testimony in Acts 22 and 26. What does this say about the importance of Saul's conversion? (Acts 9:15,16). What does it say about the importance of sharing our story? On the basis of 1Thess 2:8, what goes into a good sharing of our "story?"
- What was daunting about the Lord's assignment to Ananias? (Acts 9:10-16). How did he respond, including how he addressed Saul in verse 17? Can you think of any daunting assignment you received from the Lord? How did it go? Have you had an Ananias come into your life?
- Is there anyone in whom you have given up? How does this story of Saul's conversion encourage you? Is there anything you are led to do in relationship with this person?



On the Web:
www.narberthpres.org
twitter.com/narberthpres
facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 21

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve's Office
8:00am Sunday School, Parlor
9:00am Worship Service
9:30am Children's Sunday School, downstairs
9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
10:30am Confirmation Class, Youth Room
10:45am Worship Service
4:00pm HS Youth Group

Monday, January 22

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

Tuesday, January 23

7:00am Men's small group, Resource Room
7:00am Men-Sponsored Prayer Breakfast, at Narberth Diner
11:00am Prayer Group, Parlor (open to all)
7:00-8:30pm Good News Evangelism Team, led by Pastor Steve, Chapel
7:00pm Missions Committee Meeting, Parlor
7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 24

5:45 -8:00pm Wed Night Supper and programming
6:45pm New Explorers' Class
7:00pm Classes for all ages
Menu: Potato Bar, salad, fruit, dessert (gluten-free also)

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: jlmpsy@hotmai.com

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

Jan 29 7:00pm Open Youth Committee Meeting, YR (All ages welcome)
Jan 30 11-3pm Phila. Presbytery Meeting, Doylestown
Feb 2 6:30pm Parents' Night Out, Gym
Feb 8 9:30am Quilts for Comfort, Parlor
Feb 9,23 9:30am Moms' Study Group, Parlor
Feb 9,23 7:00pm Pickleball, Gym
Feb 22 9:30-4:00pm All-day Quilting event, Parlor

Thursday, January 25

9:30am Quilts for Comfort, Parlor
4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor
7:00-8:30pm Women's Study Group, Steve's Office
7:00-8:30pm Mere Christianity book study begins with Pastor Steve, Parlor
7:30pm Adult Pick-up Basketball, Gym

Friday, January 26

9:30am Moms' Study Group, Parlor
10:00am Women's Bible Study, Chapel
6:30-9:00pm Marriage Course, Parlor
7:00pm Pickleball, Gym

Saturday, January 27

Sunday, January 28

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve's Office
8:00am Sunday School, Parlor
9:00am Worship Service
9:30am Children's Sunday School, downstairs
9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
10:30am Confirmation Class, Youth Room
10:45am Worship Service
4:00pm HS Youth Group