

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

January 28, 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 *Alleluia* **Mozart**

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Call To Worship

Hymn *Let Every Christian Pray* **Green**

(Sung to the tune of When Morning Gilds the Skies)

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading Acts 7:59-8:1a; Acts 9:10-19 (p.1704, 1706)

9:00am Jean McIntire

10:45am Maria Kaminstein

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, thank you for sending Jesus, who came to seek and save those who are lost. Thank you for pursuing us, and getting our attention, even when we have ignored you, and done our own thing. We confess that we not only miss your presence in creation, but we resist your grace as it comes to us from others. We cling to our privacy and independence, rather than humbly admit our need. Through the cross, please forgive our sins. By the Holy Spirit, help us to see Christ and his body with new eyes. Motivate us not only to go to church, but to be the church, to one another, and to the world. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Hymn *Descend O Holy Spirit (v.1,3)* **Lancashire**

Sung to the tune of 'Lead On, O King Eternal'

Story Telling – God at Work **Isabel Lally**

The Greeting

Worship Song *Build My Life* **Yunker**

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 *March from Scipio and Bouree* *Handel*
Pam Fleming, Violin Sherry Beebe, Piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Acts 9:19b-28, 31 (p.1707)

Sermon **Encountering Christ:**
Three People We All Need **Steve Weed,**
Pastor

Worship Song *All The People Said Amen* *Maher*

You are not alone if you are lonely, when you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on, but thank God it's all you need

Chorus: And all the people said amen whoa, and all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends, and all the people said amen

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together, God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world, He sent His son to save us all
Chorus

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God
Chorus (2x)

And all the people said Amen

Benediction

Prayer Ministry 9:00am Lisa Hoffman
10:45am John Furlong

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?

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

Current 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 began a **new round of Confirmation at 10:30am in the Youth Room**. This is open to MS as well as HS youth. We are 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † **Sunday Morning Curbside Cafe:** "Come & See" is our theme for Curbside Cafe 2018. With a regular presence outside the church, we seek to invite our neighbors to *come and see* the love of Jesus through our simple hospitality, prayers, and intentional conversation. For our team, it has been so exciting to see God's vivid work in us and among us! So we invite you, too, to join us and *come and see* for yourselves from **10:45-11:45 a.m.** on Windsor Avenue.

- † **New Thursday night class** –January 25 – March 22 7:00-8:30pm
Pastor Steve is leading a book study on **Mere Christianity**
Location: Parlor

- † **The Women's Bible Study** on the gospel of Luke will resume following the Mere Christianity class, on April 5th.

- † **Save the date for "A Day Away" – personal retreat at St. Raphaela Retreat Center**
Wednesday, April 11th from 9:30 am-3:00 pm (\$25.00 cost includes morning snack and cold lunch) More details soon!

- † **Qualified Charitable Distributions to NPC from your IRA**
In addition to checks, cash, online transfers (txt the amount to 610-624-4831), and stock gifts, direct contributions from IRAs for donors 70 ½ or older can be an attractive option. As you prepare to take your required minimum distribution from your IRA, please consider the special tax benefits of a direct IRA contribution to NPC. Individuals 70½ or older are permitted to direct distributions from most types of IRAs to charitable organizations and exclude those distributions from taxable income. Key step: the distribution check must be made payable to Narberth Presbyterian Church, not to you, in order to take advantage of this benefit. Please contact your accountant and/or IRA administrator to assess the suitability for you. Thank you for your generosity—your gifts help make ministry happen! May God be glorified and many helped through your gracious giving.

- † **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).

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 marked 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.

† **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.

NEW COURSES AND CLASSES AVAILABLE

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 227 pages!

Our class meets in the parlor and will 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.

There is still time to join us this week. Books are available in the chapel, if you participate in the class. Childcare is also provided. Reading for this week, pages 3-32.

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 9:10-31 for individuals or small groups:

- Stephen prayed for Saul as he was being stoned to death. Our story is probably less dramatic, but who has prayed for you and modeled the character of Christ? Who has been a Stephen in your life? For whom, can you be a Stephen?
- Stephen prayed forgiveness for Saul and the others who were responsible for his death. Soon thereafter, Saul's eyes were opened to the reality of Christ, suggesting a connection between Stephen's forgiveness and Saul's awakening of faith. Where have you witnessed the reconciling power of forgiveness? Where would you like to see this happen now?

Since Jesus had already revealed himself to Saul so directly and powerfully, why would God send Ananias to be with Saul? What is significant about the way Ananias addresses Saul in verse 17? What do you learn about the importance of the body of Christ in this story?

When have you, like Ananias, taken the risk to follow the leading of the Spirit, even when you had doubts and fears? Where would you like to grow in risky obedience?

Was there anyone like Ananias who prayed for you to receive Christ? Do you pray for others to know Christ? Do you keep a record or journal of prayer requests and answers?

- As you consider Barnabas welcoming Saul into the Christian community, what do you notice about how he did that? Can you describe your first time attending a church, or NPC, and any feelings of hesitation or anxiety you felt? How were those feelings overcome?
- What has most helped you to feel part of the church community? Where do you still desire a stronger connection?
- What if there had been no Barnabas at the door to actively welcome Saul? Are we aware of who's coming through our doors? Is there any kind of person you find it difficult to accept? Any people we consciously or unconsciously exclude?
- How does God intend our church to flourish, based on the summary statement of Acts 9:31? "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit. It grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord." WOW!



On the Web:

www.narberthpres.org

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BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

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

Monday, January 29

**7:00pm Open Youth Committee Meeting, YR
(All ages welcome)**
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 30

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)
11-3pm Phila. Presbytery Meeting, Doylestown
7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor
7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 31

9:30am Staff Meeting, Parlor
**5:45 -8:00pm Wed Night Supper and
programming**
6:45pm Explorers' Class
7:00pm Classes for all ages
Menu: BBQ Pork, 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: jlmpsyh@hotmail.com

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

Feb 5,19 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Feb 6 7:00pm Deacons' Meeting, Parlor
Feb 8 9:30am Quilts for Comfort, Parlor
Feb 9,23 9:30am Moms' Study Group, Parlor
Feb 9,23 7:00pm Pickleball, Gym

Thursday, February 1

4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor
7:00-8:30pm Mere Christianity book study
with Pastor Steve, Parlor (Read through
p. 32)
7:30pm Adult Pick-up Basketball, Gym

Friday, February 2

10:00am Women's Bible Study, Chapel
6:30-9:00pm Marriage Course, Parlor
6:30pm Parents' Night Out, Gym

Saturday, February 3

Sunday, February 4

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
10:30am Confirmation Class, Youth Room
10:45am Worship Service-Communion
Super Bowl YG party @ Halters-check with
John Chaffee for details!

Feb 12 7:00pm Elder/Deacon Training, Parlor
Feb 20 7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor
Feb 22 9:30-4:00pm All-day Quilting event, Parlor
Feb 27 7:00pm Missions Committee, Parlor