

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

January 14, 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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* *arr. Bish*

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Call To Worship **Matthew 28:18-20**

Hymn #689 *The Church's One Foundation* *Aurelia*

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading Acts 8:26-35 (p.1705)

9:00am Kevin Cope
10:45am Tabby Gaffga

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us and guide us, and to embody the good news of Christ. We confess that we have resisted the voice of your Spirit, with self-determined plans that squeeze you out. We have not paused to listen well to you, to our families, to our neighbors, and to those who are different. Have mercy upon us for our sins and for the stress of each day. Through the power and love of the cross, cleanse us anew. By the Holy Spirit, help us to breathe. Restore the adventure of abundant life with you, for the sake of the world you love. One person at a time. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

The Greeting

Worship Song *Build Your Kingdom Here* *Rend Collective*

9:00am Ordination and Installation of New Elders and Deacons

New Elders: *Lisa Hoffman, *Jo-Anne Kaplan, Sue Wenger

Elders renewing terms: Linda Behmke, Jack Comstock

New Deacons: *Kevin Cope, *Godfrey Louie, *Deborah Miller, *Sharon Shallow

(* denotes being ordained)

9:00am Hymn *Here I Am Lord (v.1)* *Schutte*

10:45am Worship Song *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* *Tomlin*

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

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Lanier

Katie Wenger, Viola

Avery Gagliano, Piano (9:00am) Sherry Beebe, Piano (10:45am)

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:36-40; 1 Peter 3:15

(p.1706, 1890)

Sermon

Encountering Christ

Will You Second The Motion of The Holy Spirit?

Steve Weed,
Pastor

Hymn #498

I Love to Tell the Story

Hankey

Benediction

Prayer Ministry

9:00am Jack Comstock

10:45am Emma Shaw

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Berner, my Dad, by Sue Wenger and 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?

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.)

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Pastor: Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We call people to faith, so that in the end, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Elders, or Deacons. In ordination, we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said,

People: **Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all, and if you want to be first, you must be the slave of all, just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.**

Pastor: God has called you by the voice of the Church to serve Jesus Christ in a special way. You know who we are and what we believe, and you understand the work for which you have been chosen.

Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed Faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

For Elders: Will you be a faithful ruling Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

For Deacons: Will you be a faithful Deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

For the Congregation: Do we members of the church accept these persons as ruling Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

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:

- 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 today, 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

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 – 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

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)

2018 CHURCH OFFICERS

THE SESSION with Current Ministry Connections

Pastor Steve Weed – Moderator

Class of 2018

Sam DiLullo – Transition Team

*David Place – Finance Committee, Greeter

Emma Shaw – Young Adult Ministry, Transition Team

*Selim Tawadros – Finance Committee

Scott Todd – Missions Committee

Class of 2019

*Charlie Choi – Missions Committee, Chair

*John Kennedy – Personnel

Charlene McGrew – Christian Nursery School Board, Chair, Personnel

Mike Morrison – Finance Committee

Class of 2020

*Linda Behmke – Personnel, Chair

*Jack Comstock – Outreach, Greeter, Transition Team

Lisa Hoffman

Jo-Anne Kaplan

Sue Wenger

THE BOARD OF DEACONS with Current Ministry Connections

Class of 2018

Faithe Hornung – Treasurer, Deacons' Assistance Fund, Missions

*Omar Mehdi – Vice-Moderator, Transportation, Deacons' Assistance Fund

Ashley Reed – Archivist, College-age Communications

*Gerri Wismer – Homebound Communications

Class of 2019

Ilonka Comstock

Ruth Ellen Patterson – (new) Church Financial Secretary

Tim Roykouff - Secretary

Marcy Wells

Class of 2020

Kevin Cope

Godfrey Louie

Deborah Miller

Sharon Shallow

* serving second term

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.

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

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



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

Sisters of Mercy, Montgomery Avenue, Merion

This interfaith event will include a time of questions and answers with US Congressman 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 Congressman 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 interfaith 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. There were people from both parties and independents on the planning committee. 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.

- † **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.

- † **Year End Giving Update**
We are still finalizing numbers, but with a strong finish, offerings for 2017 look to have exceeded our two prior highest years of 2014 and 2015, and should cover our final expense numbers in budgeted areas for the year. A full report will follow when the year is finalized. We thank you for your generosity, and thank God for His abundant blessings that allow you to give, and keep our ministry thriving.

- † **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 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.

ACTS 8

Application Questions from Acts 8:26-40 - for individuals or small groups:

- In Acts 8, Philip left behind what might be called a “revival” in Samaria (8:5-8), ministering to crowds of people, only to travel down a long desert road for one person. What does this say about Philip? About God? How does this speak to you about the nature of success or compassion?
- Jesus promised the indwelling presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit beyond his death and resurrection (John 14:25,26; 16:7,13,14). How did Philip experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever felt directly guided by God? How did you discern that? How do we “test” the leadings of the Holy Spirit to make sure they come from God?
- Evangelism is a scary, sometimes unattractive word, even to Christians. What do you observe in the witness of Philip that is attractive and commendable? How does Philip’s approach resemble Peter’s instruction in 1 Peter 3:15?
- Philip preached the "good news of Jesus Christ" to this man. How would you describe the difference between "good news" and "bad news" evangelism?
- What are some possible ways you can "get into the chariot" with a neighbor or friend, or even stranger, to share your faith? How might God use your unique personality and spiritual gifts to share the good news of Jesus and to make a positive connection? How might God use NPC?
- Scripture played a central role in the Ethiopian Eunuch believing in Christ. Specifically, Isaiah 53 served as a powerful passage foreshadowing the redemptive suffering of Jesus. What role did Scripture play in your coming to faith? How can we effectively share the written word of Scripture to lead people to the living Word of Jesus Christ?
- As a black African, the Ethiopian Eunuch represented the gospel moving out to another racial ethnic group of people, a kind of bridge between the Samaritans earlier in Acts 8, and the Gentiles, with the initial conversion of Cornelius in Acts 10. What opportunities do we have to reach out to people different than we are, for the sake of the gospel?
- Do you see people in your life who are truly hungry for God like the Ethiopian Eunuch? How would you describe the level of spiritual hunger in yourself? In your world? In our culture?



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

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, YR
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

Monday, January 15

Office Closed for MLK Jr. Day
 2-4:00pm Transition Team Meeting, Parlor
 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 16

7:00am Men's small group, Resource Room
 7:00am Men-Sponsored Prayer Breakfast, at Narberth Diner
7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor
 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

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 25 9:30am Quilts for comfort, Parlor
 Jan 25 7:00-8:30pm Mere Christianity book study begins with Pastor Steve, Parlor
 Jan 26 7:00pm Pickleball, Gym
 Jan 29 7:00pm Open Youth Committee Meeting, YR (All ages welcome)
 Jan 30 11-3pm Phila. Presbytery Meeting, Doylestown
 Jan 30 7:00pm Missions Committee Meeting, Parlor
 Feb 2 6:30pm Parents' Night Out, Gym

Wednesday, January 17

5:45 -8:00pm Wed Night Supper and programming See page 8
6:45pm New Explorers' Class begins
 7:00pm Classes for all ages
 Menu: Mac & Cheese/tomatoes, salad, fruit, dessert (gluten-free also)

Thursday, January 18

4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor
 7:00-8:30pm Women's Study Group, Steve's Office
 7:30pm Young Adults Potluck @ Britany Smith's
 7:30pm Adult Pick-up Basketball, Gym

Friday, January 19

10:00am Women's Bible Study, Chapel
6:30-9:00pm Marriage Course begins, Parlor
 7:00-9:00pm Middle School Youth Group

Saturday, January 20

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