



**Proclaiming God's Grace,
Creating Community,
Serving our Neighbors**

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Rev. Dani Forbess

Organist

Eric Johnson

Christian Ed Lead

Ally Pexa

Choir Director

Miriam Anderson

Board of Elders

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Lars Carlson

Tom Haff

Dana Hammer

Scott Monrad

Jan Olson

Becky Rufin

Katherine Voyles

Ann Wightman—Clerk of
Session

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Trisha Wirta

Board of Deacons

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Nancy Ingle

Jennifer Jensen

Julia Miller

Robert Porter

Sheila Striegl

Dawn Thornhill

David Voyles

Northminster News

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Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family,

The season of Advent and Christmas mark the beginning of the Christian liturgical calendar. So, we can also say Happy New Year!! We start the year in quiet preparation as we wait for the light. As Christmastide comes into its full glory, we see the light - everywhere we go! Lights on the tree, lights on the Advent wreath, lights in the neighborhood, twinkling lights all around.

Yet, in the Northwest, we are still deep in the winter season. We celebrate the light has come, even as we huddle beneath blankets and dig out our warmest mittens for a late night run to the store. The light has come, we sing, but outside it is still dark and cold.

One of the greatest gifts that our faith can give us is the ability to hold these two ideas together. This is called a paradox. A paradox is a mystery. How can we be so sure of the light when we're still huddled in the dark? It seems contradictory, but actually it holds the possibility of truth. How true this is for so many parts of life. How can we experience joy in the midst of sorrow? How can we taste hope in the midst of great loss? How can we rejoice in the light when we're sitting in the dark? It's not crazy thinking. It's a paradox. It seems contradictory, but really, it holds the possibility of truth.

January often holds many challenges as well. We may struggle with financial well being, sickness, or relational stress. For some people this is the darkest and hardest part of the year. As Christians, we are in a position to recognize the scope of these challenges and all the hardship that they bring. Along side of this, we are also equipped by the Spirit to gently hold the light. Perhaps the candle light of Christmas Eve is the best image we have of the paradox that our faith offers. We do not shine the light in the eyes of our neighbors so as to cause pain. Instead, we offer the light up for all to see. We do not hoard the light, making it known only to us. We lift it into the darkness, noting the paradox that we can only have it when we give it away.

Let us lift up the light together, and hold it for each other as we move into this new year!

News Editor
Stacy Kern

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www.northminsterpres.org

“look for us on facebook!”

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 7-28, Sunday Mornings @ 9:15

Living Micah 6:8, Facilitated by Pastor Dani

This class will continue exploring themes that we have engaged through the Black Lives Matter Curriculum and the Human Rights document. Using a combination of three books recommended by the PCUSA, we will weave together a conversation about race, gender, and spirituality for the purpose of opening ourselves up to what it means to live Micah 6:8—to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Books (will be stocked at His Word Found Here in Ballard, 5404 22nd Ave NW):

A Bigger Table

John Pavlovitz

No Innocent Bystanders

Shannon Craigo-Snell &
Christopher Doucot

Fearless Dialogues

Gregory C Ellison II

Wednesday Bible Study Resumes!

The Parables of Jesus: A Small Group Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am

Come to the Library on Wednesday morning for an opportunity to consider the parables of Jesus. This is a small group format where all perspectives are welcome. Facilitated by Pastor Dani, this conversation is a great way to start the day. End time is 11 am. Bring your Bible or use one from the Library.

ESTATE PLANNING & CHURCH GIVING WORKSHOP

Join us in the Library on Wednesday January 10th at 11:30 am for an Estate Planning workshop with Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation. He'll talk about different options for including the church and other charities in your will and other documents. **Lunch will be served!**

RSVP to Stacy Kern at 206-372-1664 or finsec@northminsterpres.org asap!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, DECEMBER 3, 2018



The kids
did a great
job!
Thanks
kids and
Ally for
everything



CHRISTMAS EVE

The white Christmas we enjoyed recently, made for smaller than normal congregations on Christmas Eve. Those able to make it were treated to a lovely time celebrating Christ's birth. The choir, led by Miriam Anderson, sang carols from around the world while various folks read about the challenges and the joy of that night long ago.



Pictures by Bret Wirta who asks if it's ok to take a selfie during the candle lighting?



The Haffs and their grandchildren lit the Advent candles!

Former Member News

Our church friend Chuot Muthiang called me from Addis Ababa in Ethiopia this morning. He's been there visiting his family for several months, and he'll return to the US in mid January.

Chuot first came to Northminster about twenty years ago, leaving a refugee camp in Ethiopia, helped by a Lutheran missionary organization. When he was about eight, he and a cousin walked from the Nuer region of Sudan (now South Sudan) to safety in Ethiopia - a distance of maybe six hundred miles (like walking from here to San Francisco). They were dodging gunfire and without a safe source of food for a large part of the time. The camp where they ended up provided Chuot with a basic education and taught him English, then arranged for him to come to the US.

Fred Kern and I were involved in helping Chuot to find work and to get a college education. He now has a bachelor's and master's degree in public administration, lives in Vancouver, Washington, and works for the state of Oregon in the Portland area. He became a US citizen easily about ten years ago, so should hopefully have no problem returning to this country next month.

On a previous visit to Addis Ababa Chuot married, and now has a child he's only just seen. As we count our own many blessings, we wish him well as he works to try and arrange for his family to join him here.

Ann Wightman

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Mark 1:9-15	Mark 1:16-20	Mark 1:21-28	Mark 1:29-39



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

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Seattle WA 98117

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please notify us with corrections if needed, or if you wish to stop receiving the Northminster News.

NEWS FROM ALLY PEXA:

Confirmation: Faithful Questions 2018

Begins February 18th

Confirmation is offered for 7th grade and up, including adults. Join us for one of our two tracks, youth or adult, as we explore the essential tenets of the Christian Faith, as well as explore other faith traditions. Keep an eye out for more information, including how to sign up, in late January.

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Christmas Pageant!