

Northminster Presbyterian Church

“Caring for all with

God’s love and grace.”

315 E. Alvin Drive † Salinas CA 93906

831-449-2717 † northminster.org



The Christmas Season Online:

Find us online at these sites:

Internet: northminster.org

Facebook: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas

YouTube: Northminster Presbyterian - Salinas, CA

Zoom: Email andy@northminster.org to receive info

Venmo (online donations) [@northminsterpresbyterian-church](https://www.venmo.com/northminsterpresbyterian-church)

Do we have your email address?

Contact micki@northminster.org

Northminster News

Vol. XXIV, No. 11

Special Shelter-in-Place Issue

December 1, 2020

Dear friends,

I haven't yet watched the HBO series, Game of Thrones, and I have yet to read the books (books are always better!), but Game of Thrones has certainly made its way into culture!

The motto of the “House of Stark,” one of the factions in the series, is “Winter is Coming.” According to George R.R. Martin, the author of the series, it is the sentiment that there are always dark periods in each of our lives, and even if things are good now (“summer”), we must always be ready for a dark period when events turn against us (“winter”). That is certainly evident in all our lives—babies are born, birthdays occur, families get together, all bright, summery things. And then there are the dark times: a cancer diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job.

When Christianity was spreading into Europe and the British Isles, the missionaries needed some way to connect the people's “pagan” religion with the new faith. One of the ways they did this was to put important

Christian holy days on or around the same time as their current festivals. Thus, the Feast of Samhain in Britain became All Hallows Eve. The celebration of Spring fertility festivals became Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord. And the Norse midwinter festival Yule became Christmas.

Christmas is especially appropriate for celebration in the winter, for the days are indeed dark, and Jesus came into this world to bring light to the darkness. In the beginning of the Gospel of John, he says that John the Baptist “came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:7-9) During the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we light a new candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing the coming of the light of the world, Jesus.

(continued on back page)

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Events online, except where noted.

* - Email andy@northminster.org for Zoom links

Regular Events

Sundays

10:00 am Streaming Worship - Online

Tuesdays

9:30 am Women's Bible Study - Geneva Rm

Wednesdays

12:00 pm Scripture Chat with Andy & Bill (video)

3:30 pm F.L.O.C.K. - Rm 21 & Zoom*

5:30 pm Youth Connection - 1st/3rd Wed - Zoom*

5:30 pm Youth Connection - 2nd/4th Wed - Geneva Rm

Thursdays

9:30 am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom*

Other Events

November

22 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

27 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

29 10:00 am First Sunday in Advent - Online

December

6 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

7 6:30 pm Board of Deacons - Zoom*

12 Deadline to return Angel Tree gifts

19 1-3 pm Angel Tree Gift Pick up

20 Deadline for Advent Boxes

21 Preschool Christmas Break Begins

24 6:30 pm Streaming Christmas Eve Service

25 Office, Daycare closed for holiday

25 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

27 10:00 am After Christmas Worship Brunch - Zoom*

27 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

28 Office, Daycare closed for holiday

28 6:30 pm Session - Zoom*



Our Homebound Friends

Gerda Van Meter - Pacific Coast/Kindred

Ann Binns - Brookdale

Emma Price - Brookdale

Ted Selvester - Windsor Skyline

Grace Bryan - Chicago

December

5 Donovan Dominguez

7 Paula Banchemo

7 Mary Schellhaas

7 Lynne Sergius-Briscoe

9 Margaret McKey

11 Jim Strand

15 Joyce Solazzi

16 Janice Souza

18 Don Thomas

19 Dora Dominguez

20 Fay Biddle

Lizabeth Sonico

28 Jonnie Barrient



January Early Birds

1 Tom DeLay

Chris Vivit

5 Rebekah Loder



Anniversaries

December

7 Gahr Gardner & Lynne Sergius-Briscoe . . . 2nd

26 **John & Susan West** 51st

January Early Birds

No early birds - see full list next month!

* If your name is missing from this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office.

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-21-2001

HEY MARY, IT'S YOUR TURN TO CHECK THE SWADDLING CLOTH

Advent & Christmas at Northminster

Co-vid can't stop the creative ways our world has found to worship God and celebrate with each other. This year we will welcome the coming Christ-child with a number of online events. Tune in at northminster.org, our Facebook page, YouTube channel or Zoom!

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 10:00 am

Join Pastor Andy, Pastor Bill and the Worship team online. Make your own wreath and light the candles with us!



Like everything else in 2020, the Angel Tree Program will go on, but in a slightly different way! We are serving 35 children in 22 families, and are also providing a ham (or turkey) to each family.

You can call or email Aimee Cuda, our new head angel, and ask her to assign you a child.

On Saturday, December 19, the families will be invited to drive up to the Geneva Room to receive their gifts, get a bag of goodies and some hot cocoa.

Contact Aimee at 831-206-7303 or email her at aimeecuda@gmail.com if:

- ◆ You'd like to adopt a child (gifts to be **turned in at NPC by December 12, 2020**)
- ◆ You would like to contribute a \$20 Safeway card (toward the ham or turkey)
- ◆ You would like to contribute cookies, cocoa, or other treats for December 19
- ◆ You want to take a shift on December 19 to give out gifts

So give Aimee a call or email her, and watch your email!



Streaming Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

Join us Christmas Eve as we gather in our homes online to hear the glorious news: "A savior is born, who is Christ, the Lord!" Through Scripture and music we will celebrate the birth of Jesus the Messiah, Emmanuel! Let the hallelujahs begin!!

(After) Christmas Online Worship Brunch

Sunday, December 27, 10:00 am

So...during this year's Christmas season most folks won't see the locust swarms descend upon their homes, leaving them bare after the holidays. But a smaller, quieter, more reflective Christmas can be a blessing, so join us online for a Zoom gathering of our annual After Christmas Brunch. Enjoy your favorite brunch items with our Northminster family. Please email Pastor Andy for the Zoom connection information.

The Gift of FOOD!

These days, the need for assisting the homeless is greater than ever! And our Northminster family is on top of it, providing meals for the Salinas Warming Shelter on our regular days, and some special holiday dates.



Due to Co-vid safe practices, **please bring your gifts of food to the church by 5:30 pm.** We will transport the items to the shelter.

Sunday, November 22
Friday, November 27 (After Thanksgiving)
Sunday, December 6
Friday, December 25 (Christmas)
Sunday, December 27

God bless you for your compassionate care for our homeless neighbors!!

ADVENT FOOD BOXES

The Mission Committee is once again collecting "Reverse Advent Food Boxes" this year. Get a box, decorate it up, and fill it with non-perishable foods (and other goodies!) **Please bring your box to the church on or before December 20**, and the boxes will be distributed to needy families through All In Monterey.



Here is a list of suggestions for the Advent Food Box:

Box of cereal	Peanut butter
Stuffing mix	Boxed potato flakes
Macaroni and Cheese	Canned Fruit
Canned Tomatoes	Canned Tuna
Dessert Mix	Applesauce
Canned sweet potatoes	Cranberry Sauce
Canned beans	Crackers
Rice	Oatmeal
Pasta	Spaghetti sauce
Chicken Noodle Soup	Tomato Soup
Canned corn	Canned mixed vegetables
Canned carrots	Canned green beans

From the Pastor continued

2020 has seemed especially dark. The shut-downs caused by the pandemic, the loss of lives, the disruptions to our routines—all of these have made the last few months seem especially dark. But the good news is that Jesus does indeed bring light and hope into the world.

This Advent, I invite you to join us in celebrating bringing light into the world. We can't have our usual Advent party this year, but I still encourage you to make or purchase an Advent wreath. I have some foam disks and candles here at the church if you'd like to make one; just let me know! You can also get wreaths at Michael's or Amazon. Or you can simply put four candles on your table, and scatter some decorations around them. Each Sunday, beginning November 29, we will light a new candle during our worship livestream. You can light your candles with us!

And then bring light into the world in more tangible ways: get a gift for a child in need through the Angel Tree program (see the Angel Tree article!), call a friend or a shut in, deliver a meal to someone who is lonely, send a card!

See you online!
Andy



Christmas Treasure from Trash

*You can make pretty
Christmas ornaments
from old Christmas cards.*

You will need:

- * old Christmas cards
- * scissors
- * glue
- * 3" or 4" circle pattern
(cut from cardboard or
just trace a coffee cup)
- * hole punch
- * yarn and ribbon
- * glitter
- * trims — rick-rack, ribbon,
sequins, beads

How to do:

Trace the circle on two cards.
Cut out and glue the backs of
the cards together.

Decorate the edges of the
cards with glue and glitter or
scraps of ribbon.

Punch a hole in the top.
Insert a piece of yarn or
ribbon.

You may also make small
ones for gift tags.

Just cut your
circles smaller.
Leave the
back white
and write
"To:" and
"From:" on it.

