



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

If worship does not change us, it has not been worship.... To worship is to change.

—Richard J. Foster
Celebration of Discipline

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Leader: O Lord, we love the house in which you dwell,

All: **And the place where your glory abides.**

—Psalm 26, adapted

*The Gloria Patri

MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Invocation

Jason Greener

The Witness of Christian Baptism

Sterling Massey

The Baptismal Affirmation

In Unison

Sterling, we share in your joy today. Your profession of “Jesus Is Lord” has made you one with us and with all believers everywhere. May today mark the beginning of your journey toward both the molding of your life to Christ’s example and the discovery of your unique gifts for the betterment of the world in Christ’s service. We pledge to you our encouragement and all the resources of our congregation as you continue to grow in Christ. May the peace of God the Father, the fellowship of the Spirit, and the love of the Son be with you always.

The Greeting

Geoff Davidson

The Lessons

Exodus 3:1-15
Romans 12:9-21

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

O God, help us to have the courage to speak when we fear we may be wrong, and the humility not to mind when we are.

—Avery Brooke

Plain Prayers in a Complicated World

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Marty Harper

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Marty Harper

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No. 540

HOLINESS

“Take Time to Be Holy”

*The Offertory Prayer

Jason Greener

The Offertory

Bach

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise loving God, whom we adore. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Ye Servants of God”

Bedford

Ben Bullock, *trumpet*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious; he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

“Salvation to God who sits on the throne!”
let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love. Amen.

The Sermon

“Take off Your Shoes”

Lesley Ratcliff

COMMITMENT

Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends an invitation to membership by request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please come forward at this point in the service.

TIME OF RESPONSE

The realm of Christian love is subject to Christ, not to the world. The Church can never tolerate any limits set to the love and service of the brethren. For where the brother is, there is the Body of Christ, and there is his Church. And there we must also be.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Call to Discipleship

*The Recessional Hymn No. 701 “God Is Here” BEECHER

*The Benediction Lesley Ratcliff

*The Postlude Bach

“See the Lord of Life and Light”

**The congregation will please stand.*

The scriptures for today are found on
the following pages in the pew Bible:

Exodus 3:1-15, page 44

Romans 12:9-21, pages 922-923

Matthew 16:21-28, page 798

Today is the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The season after Pentecost celebrates the existence of the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. The liturgical color is green, symbolic of the church’s growth and mission. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:1-2), which rises above the baptistry and is woven into our paraments, underscores this liturgical season’s emphasis on the living, growing Kingdom of God.

———— CAREGIVING CONCERNS ————

CARE CARDS may be found in the pew racks, if you would like to write anyone. Place your cards in the offering plate. Cards will be mailed from the church office on Monday morning.

CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS



Northminster celebrates with Nora and Tam Etheridge who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, September 2.



Northminster is saddened by the death of John Purvis, a member of Northminster since 1969. Christian sympathy is extended to Gayla, to Anna, Andy, Sybil and Davis Frame, to Alex, Mary, Cate and Jack Purvis, to Spencer and Ryder Purvis, and to all who held John dear.

Troy Browning is recovering after surgery.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer

Virginia Hamilton

Beth Israel Congregation

Carla Holt

Lyllian McMullan

Sue Edwards

The Caregiving Committee considers it a privilege to pray for each concern that affects our church family. Recognizing the power of prayer, we meet each Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the church conference room for a brief, informal prayer-time and invite all who can to join us. If you have prayer concerns, please call the church office or a member of the Caregiving Committee.

Pastoral Care Number

To alert the ministers of a pastoral care need,
please call 601-980-1002.

Brumfield House

September 3
September 10
September 17

Mike Peters
Scott Wilson
Rob Hill

Meals on Wheels
Monday, September 7

Cooks:
Annette Hitt

Kandy Sims
Lisa Cobb

Drivers:
Rt. 1: Tim & Becky Frame
Gayla Purvis
Rt. 2: Mike & Pat Beall

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Book Buddies Needed at Spann Elementary School

Reading buddies are needed for one hour per week any time between 7:30 and 1:30 on Monday through Friday. Volunteers will spend 30 minutes each with two children listening to them read and asking reading comprehension questions. Reading buddies can also bring in a favorite book to read to the children. To volunteer, contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or call the church office.

Digital Events Newsletter

The latest edition of our newsletter went out digitally this past Wednesday. If you didn't receive the email, please check your spam or junk folder and contact the church office.

**The Annual Church-Wide Labor Day Potluck and
Welcome for the Evans-Clements family**

Sunday, September 6
No Sunday School

Lunch in the Great Hall following worship

The Fellowship Committee will provide meat and drinks. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to serve your family, plus one more. Please bring serving utensils and label your dishes and serving pieces.

Wednesday Night Supper Resumes

Wednesday, September 9

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Cost: \$5 per child, \$8 per adult, \$25 per family

Servers: Amy Moremen, Judy & Joe Rankin and
Cade Montague

Cashier: George Luter

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 13

immediately following the worship service

Agenda:

I. Election of Deacons

Deacon Nominees

Valerie Linn

Lee Parrott

Gates Skene

Kyle Watson

Christopher Wiggs

Amy Williams

Pursuant to our bylaws, at the annual meeting any member of the congregation may nominate another qualified member, provided that prior to the time of nomination, the person being nominated shall have consented to the nomination and agreed to serve faithfully if elected.

Adult Ministries Call for Speakers

FED Talks is a two-night series of short, TED-style talks where members of our church share stories of faith, experience, and discovery. On September 13, we'll explore "**Where I've Seen God,**" and on September 20, "**What I See Differently Now.**" We're looking for people willing to share a story, experience, or insight in a 5–10 minute talk. If you're interested in being a FED Talk speaker, please contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

Community Book Study

Tuesdays, September 15 and 22
11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall
(lunch provided)

Sunday, September 27, 4:30 p.m. at Mt. Helm Baptist Church

Join us for a community book study of theologian Howard Thurman's classic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, hosted in partnership with Mt. Helm Baptist Church. Some books will be available in the church office for purchase for \$10 and are widely available elsewhere.

FALL ADULT STUDIES

FED TALKS: Faith, Experience and Discovery

September 13 & 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Come join us for this two-night series of short, TED-style talks featuring members of our church sharing stories, questions, and discoveries from their lives of faith. Join us September 13 for “Where I’ve Seen God” and September 20 for “What I See Differently Now.” Come listen, learn, and be inspired by the faith and experiences of people in our own community.

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 4

Everyone is invited to bring their pets to the amphitheater for a blessing of the pets on St. Francis Day. We’ll have a brief service of blessing and enjoy ice cream and pup cups. More details to follow!

The Poetry of Ordinary Time

Sundays, October 11, 18 & 25

Join us these weeks in October as we pair poems with the scriptures and themes of Ordinary Time, or as we speak of it here at Northminster, “The Growing Season.”

Northminster Hits: Musical Bingo Night

Sunday, November 8

We're kicking off a new night of fellowship and fun with music, friendly competition, and a chance to see just how well you know your favorite songs. More details coming soon, but start thinking about who you want on your team!

Lunch and Learn with Richie Burnette

Tuesday, September 29 at noon in the Great Hall

Join us for our next Lunch and Learn as Richie Burnette—a Mississippi raconteur and storyteller, and Brooks Elfert's father—presents **“No Jesus, No Elvis.”**

Richie will explore the often-overlooked Christian roots of American music, tracing the influence of the church on artists such as Elvis Presley, B. B. King, Faith Hill, and many others. He'll also share a few musical performances along the way. Whether you're a music lover, history buff, or simply curious, this promises to be a fascinating presentation.

We'll enjoy lunch together, followed by Richie's presentation and time for questions.

Please RSVP by **September 22** using the QR Code below.



———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

Join us at 9:15 a.m. There will be donuts and good conversation.

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

Sunday night youth activities have resumed! Students, join us at 5 p.m. for dinner, fun, and growing together in our faith. Adults, talk to Geoff about how you can help make this another great semester.

Save the Dates

Youth mission trip to Waco, TX, July 3-8 or 9, 2027. Now accepting registrations! Cost: \$275, including a \$75 deposit.

For those interested in 2027 Passport June 19-25, a \$100 deposit is due by September 29. Final cost TBD. No Passport registrations will be accepted after this date.

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

August 30: Chapel Coordinators—Megan Wylie & Hart Wylie
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Neely &
Michael McGinnis

September 6: Firecrackers—Krysten & Jay Jernigan
Sparklers—Kim & Kyle Watson

Children's Sunday Night Activities

Sunday, September 13

Our Preschool and Elementary Atriums and Four5Six will begin a new year in the Children's Area.

Parents' Day Out

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant-sixth grade) by calling the church office, 601-982-4703, by Wednesday, September 16. This is just like Parents' Night Out, just during the day! We will feed the children lunch!

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, September 22, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Children whose birthdays are in September are invited to stop by the Great Hall to enjoy an ice cream treat with Lesley.

Save the Date!

Children's Retreat

November 7-8

Children in third through sixth grade are invited to our annual Fall Retreat. This year we will be exploring the theme "God's Story, Our Hands" through the stories of Moses. We'll play games, have Bible study, do a ropes course, and have a bonfire. We will leave at 8:00 a.m. on November 7 and return in time for worship at Northminster on November 8. Registration is coming soon.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, August 30

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Baptism

5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH

Monday, August 31

8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 4

6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service

Sunday, September 6

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

11:30 a.m. Labor Day Potluck

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Blakely Fender.
The Caregiving Chair for August is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinator for August is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiver of the Week is Rob Hill.
The Liturgist for August is Marty Kelly.
The flowers for today are provided by Lesley Mosby.
The Usher Captain for August is Nancy Smith.

Every member of Northminster Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry. The following persons have been called by this congregation to serve as enablers in such ministry.

Senior Pastor	Scott Dickison
Associate Pastor for Children and Adults	Lesley Ratcliff
Associate Pastor for Students	Geoff Davidson
Associate Pastor for Senior Adults	Marty Harper
Associate Pastor for Community and Missions	Masyn Evans-Clements
Minister of Music	Tim Coker
Organist	Sheila Hess
Organist Emeritus	Billy Trotter
Office Manager	Leslie Ward
Financial Secretary	Sam South
Receptionist/Secretary	Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley

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