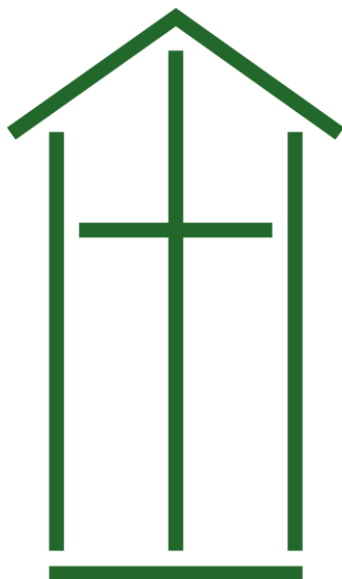




THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Every sacrament, every Bible story, every church service, every sermon, every hymn, every bit of priesthood, ministry or liturgy is for one purpose: to allow us to experience our true self—who we are in God and who God is in us—and to live a generous life from that Infinite Source.

—Richard Rohr

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026
Ten-thirty o'clock

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection, and prayer. Following the service, please enjoy a time of fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation

Sabbath observance invites us to stop.
It invites us to rest. It asks us to notice that while we rest,
the world continues without our help.
It invites us to delight in the world's beauty and abundance.

—Wendell Berry

The Prelude “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” Pinkston

The Call to Worship “O God, We Praise Thee” Coker

O God, we praise thee, now the night is over;
active and watchful, stand we all before thee;
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
thus, we adore thee. Amen.

*The Processional Hymn No. 802 *HOLY MANNA*

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

*The Litany of Praise Eddie Mahaffey

Leader: Our Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Why do we gather in this sacred space?

People: We come to praise our Creator.

Leader: We come to glorify our Provider.

People: To magnify our Sustainer.

Leader: So how do we respond?

People: We will love the Lord our God!

All: With all our hearts, our minds, our souls. Amen.

*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

Eddie Mahaffey

The Greeting

Marty Harper

The Lessons

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 119:33-40

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on my darkness, my weakness,
my confusion. Have mercy on my infidelity, my cowardice, my
turning about in circles, my wandering, my evasions. I do not
ask for anything but such mercy, always, in everything, mercy.

—Thomas Merton

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Lesley Ratcliff

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. 768

DOVE OF PEACE

"I Come with Joy"

*The Offertory Prayer

Eddie Mahaffey

The Offertory

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Ore

*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 18:15-20

Masyn Evans-Clements

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

"In Remembrance"

Red

Jorge Diez, *clarinet*

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time
When God's own will is done.
In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door
And let your brother in.

Take, eat and be comforted.
Drink, and remember, too,
That this is my body and precious blood,
Shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above,
But in your heart,
Look in your heart for God.

The Sermon

“What Worship Is”

Scott Dickison

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Passing of the Peace

The Call to the Table

Scott Dickison

The Communion Litany

Pastor: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: **Thanks be to God for the broken bread.**

Pastor: After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

People: **Thanks be to God for the cup.**

Pastor: Thanks be to God for the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God for the table of communion.

The congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, dip it into the cup, and return to the pews by an outside aisle. Anyone preferring to receive a blessing should simply cross their arms over their chest as if in prayer, and the deacon will offer a blessing. A gluten-free option is available with the pastors at the communion table.

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

We rarely recognize the holy moments while we're living them.
We think we're making an ordinary decision, but God is
weaving another thread into a much larger story.

—Lesley Ratcliff

*The Recessional Hymn No. 539

HOUSTON

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“The Rejoicing”

Powell

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Exodus 12:1-14, page 51

Psalm 119:33-40, page 494

Matthew 18:15-20, pages 799-800

Today is the Fifteenth 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.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Helen "Nellie" Turner Strickland. The proud parents are Turner and Stedman Strickland.

Communion and Children

Communion Sundays are special times of worship at Northminster, and we want all our children to feel as included as possible. It has been a long-standing tradition at Northminster that each family will decide whether or not non-baptized children can receive Communion. Please know that children who have not yet been baptized and whose families decide that they need to wait to receive Communion can still come forward to receive a blessing from the deacons who are serving Communion. *To signify that they wish to receive the blessing but not Communion, these children simply need to cross their arms over their chests, as if in prayer, when they approach a deacon who is serving the bread.* Hopefully, this option will provide non-baptized children who do not partake in Communion a way to more fully participate in the worship life of our faith community. Jesus Christ said, "Let the little children come to me." Here at Northminster, our desire is to be as welcoming of children as is the Savior we follow.

———— 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

Congratulations to Turner and Stedman Strickland on the birth of their daughter, Helen “Nellie” Turner Strickland. Nellie is also welcomed by Gene and Kendall Yates, Gene Yates III and Ellie and Cole Stacy.

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 10	Scott Wilson
September 17	Rob Hill
September 24	Jeff Wilson
October 1	Joe Sims

Meals on Wheels
Monday, September 7

Cooks:
Annette Hitt
Kandy Sims
Lisa Cobb

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

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

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

Today

Join us for a potluck lunch in the Great Hall after worship
as we welcome Masyn and her family to Northminster.

Wednesday Night Suppers Resume

Wednesday, September 9
5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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

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

Cashier: George Luter

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 13
Immediately following the worship service

Agenda

I. Election of Deacons

Deacon Nominees

Valerie Linn
Kyle Watson

Lee Parrott
Christopher Wiggs

Gates Skene
Amy Williams

II. Election of Legacy Giving Committee Members

The Board of Deacons recommends the following members to serve a three-year term on the Legacy Giving Committee:

Rick Calhoon
Will Walker

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. This applies to both elections.

We will also provide an update on the continued sharing of our facilities with the Beth Israel Congregation.

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.

Adult Ministries Call for Speakers

FED Talks is a two-night series of short, TED-style talks in which 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.

Lunch and Learn with Richie Burnette

Tuesday, September 29 at noon in the Great Hall

Lunch: \$10

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.



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 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!

Save the Date!
Senior Adult Conference
Scam Awareness and Prevention

Tuesday, November 10
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Featured Speakers
FBI Investigator
Better Business Bureau Fraud Department

Registration is opening soon.

———— **YOUTH NEWS** ————

Youth Sunday School

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

No Youth Activities for Labor Day

Enjoy your long weekend and we'll see you next week!

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

September 13: Firecrackers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer
Sparklers—Caroline & Kirk Sims

September 20: Chapel Coordinators—Dana & Scott Wilson
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Neely &
Michael McGinnis

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.

Children's Birthday Gathering

Wednesday, September 16, 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.

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, but during the day! We will feed the children lunch.

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 opening soon.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, September 6

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

11:30 a.m. Labor Day Potluck, GH

Monday, September 7

The church office is closed.

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, September 8

5:30 p.m. Building Maintenance Cmte., L/CR

Wednesday, September 9

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

5:30 p.m. Personnel Cmte., L/CR

Friday, September 11

11:00 a.m. John Purvis Visitation, GH

1:00 p.m. John Purvis Funeral, Sanctuary

8:00 p.m. Beth Israel Rosh Hashanah Service

Saturday, September 12

10:15 a.m. Beth Israel Service

Sunday, September 13

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting

5:00 p.m. Atrium & Four5Six

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

5:30 p.m. Fall Adult Studies, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Will Walker.

The Caregiving Chair for September is Sarah Reynolds.

The Caregiving Coordinator for September is Gail England.

The Caregiver of the Week is Nena Carmody.

The Liturgist for today is Anne Brawley.

The Liturgists for September are Anne Brawley and
Amy Finkelburg.

The flowers for today are provided by John Tingle.

The Usher Captain for September is Judy Rankin.

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 Community and Missions	Masyn Evans-Clements
Associate Pastor for Senior Adults	Marty Harper
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

Northminster Baptist Church
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