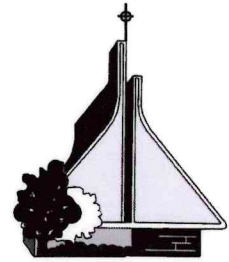


# NORTHMINSTER NEWS



VOLUME 70, ISSUE 3

March 2026



Deadline for April articles is March 23rd. Articles received past the deadline will be included in the following month's edition. All articles are welcomed and encouraged, but may be edited for length and clarity.

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Website: [northminsteronline.org](http://northminsteronline.org)

Worship Service 10:00 AM & Online

Come celebrate the arrival of Christ the King as He rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The waving of palm branches, triumphant music, and a stirring sermon will help us usher in the events of Holy Week.

## GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD AT 7PM

### "Peter's Calvary" by Henrietta Gosselink

Henrietta Gosselink was the mother of Vera Refnes, Ellen Cochran, and Beth Byrne (Concord CA). She was the wife of Nicholas Gosselink, the founding minister of Hope Church here in Sacramento. Henrietta was a gifted writer and was also very talented in dramatic presentations. This reading was an integral part of many musical concerts given by the Gosselink Family as they were growing up. Vera Refnes will be presenting this dramatic reading at the Good Friday service. It will be interspersed with musical selections by our choir and Pear Tree Ringers. You won't want to miss this presentation as it will be an inspiration to all, as we realize how our Lord still loved and cared for Peter despite his shortcomings, just as He forgives and cares for each of us. You 'll want to hear the joyful and triumphant conclusion on Easter Sunday morning.

#### Northminster Church Staff

Pastor: Steve Shullanberger	Interim Children's Director: Debbie Smith
Office Manager: Debbie Smith	Custodian: Clint Murphy
Treasurer: Kerry Banks	Organist: Jonathan Doram
Financial Secretary: Carol Stanhope	Choir: Destiny Elazier
Sunday Custodians: Clint Murphy	Sound Engineer: Matt Anselmi
Camera Operator: Aidan Brown	Bells: Mary Balkow
Orchestra Conductor: Mary Balkow	

#### In This Issue:

- Pastor
- Membership
- Christian Education
- Financial & Birthdays



## The Season of Reconciliation

On Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, the world entered the Holy season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the day when we enter into an annual pilgrimage that takes us from the grave that none of us can escape to the surprising gift of an empty tomb that changes everything. No doubt some of you may have already entered into some sort of Lenten discipline, like increasing your Bible reading or, God forbid ... giving up chocolate.

Lent is not about losing weight, or denying yourself, or taking on a new project. At its core, Lent is about returning to God. Often things happen in our lives that cause us to re-evaluate where we stand in relationship to God:

We get a disturbing diagnosis from the doctor.

We are in a life-altering accident.


The person we always counted on isn't there for us anymore.

The job that once defined us is gone.

Life circumstances can come at us like a wake-up call and if we're smart, we'll listen.

Lent is a time like that for us. But it's not something that just happens to us as a result of our life's circumstances. It's a time that we enter into intentionally. And we do it together, in community with other people who also enter into it intentionally. In the midst of our day-to-day lives, as the world pulls us further and further from God until God has become a stranger to us, we have this time to be reminded of the primary relationship in our lives. We have this opportunity to return to the Lord our God.

The words from **2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2** clearly set the theme: "On behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (5:20b). The word "reconciled" is an interesting one. Originally, it was actually an accounting term, a word used in the business of currency exchange. We still use it in that way when we talk about reconciling finances, meaning we need to account for what has been saved and spent and the numbers need to balance. Eventually, the word "reconciled" was adapted and used to describe a change in human relationships.



that God was reconciling  
the world to himself in Christ,  
not counting people's sins against them.

And he has committed to us  
the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19

**Paul admonishes his readers, "Be reconciled to God!"** By God's grace, even though what you bring to the table is worthless, in Christ it's become acceptable to God. Though we have nothing, we possess everything. This marvelous reconciliation with God is not a gift to be ignored! God has made it possible for us to be in a loving relationship with him, to be reconciled. That's the action of Lent. It's not about performing empty gestures, denying ourselves, or giving up bad habits that we'd be better off giving up anyway. It's about reconciliation.

In **Joel**, God says, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing" (vs.2:12). In **Psalms 51**, we hear, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (vs. 10), and "For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (vs. 16-17). Lent is a time to go inward, to open your heart to God and receive the wonderful gift of reconciliation that God offers.

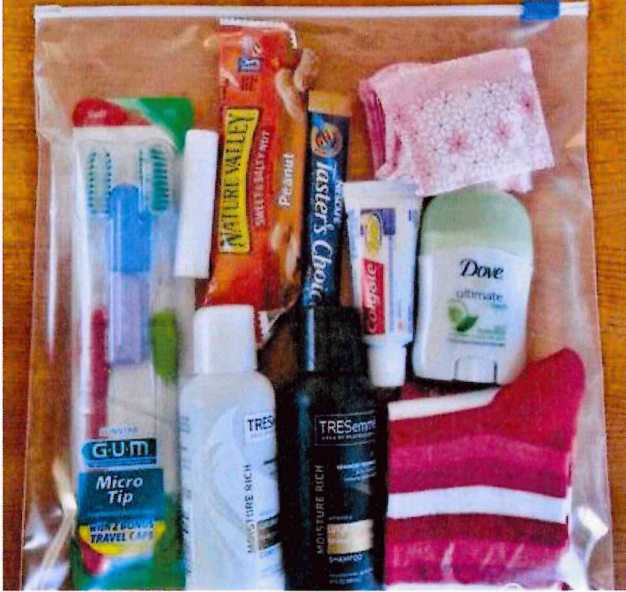
There's also a challenge in Lent for us to do more than receive the gift of reconciliation. For if that gift is truly received in our hearts, we know that it's not intended to be hoarded for ourselves. It's intended to be shared with others.

During the season of Lent, instead of giving up chocolate, we can do something that will really make a difference in our lives. There may be someone you have a hard time getting along with, a relationship that's been damaged. Or perhaps there is someone you haven't taken the time to get to know very well, but you would like to. Or maybe there is someone you have trouble understanding because you seem to have such different ways of looking at the world. What can you do to work at repairing that relationship, removing the wall that stands between you, or accepting your differences? I encourage you to take the ministry of reconciliation seriously and act on it during this season of Lent.

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## MISSION

### Blessing Bags



### Blessing Bag Ministry for the Homeless

We invite everyone to participate in our Blessing Bag Ministry, which provides essential items to those experiencing homelessness. Please pick up your blessing bags on your way out in the Narthex. Your kindness and support make a meaningful difference in our community.



Drop by our Hunger Table starting April 1st, to discover what delicious baked treats are available for donation. We will have baked goods every 1st Sunday of the month. All proceeds go directly to support our Hunger Committee programs, including Christmas food baskets.



**WORKING WOMENS BIBLE STUDY**  
**(A.K.A. Not Yo Mama's Bible Study)**

**Friday, March 20th at 6:30PM**

**6:30pm Wine, Sparkling Apple Cider & Hors d'oeuvres**

**7pm Bible Study & Prayer**

**8p Dessert**

**"Daring Women of the Bible"**

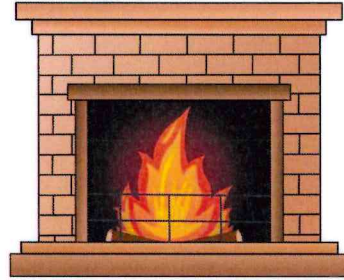
Join us to learn about women in the Bible who dared to trust, believe, and step out in faith. This fresh look at these women will help you discover new insights into God's character, persevere through difficult times, and find joy in the hope that Jesus provides. For the lesson in March we will be studying Puah & Shiphrah: "How to Fight Your Fears" by Margaret Feinberg.



## ADULT EDUCATION

# Wednesday Recharge!

## FIRESIDE CHATS



**10:30AM—** Join us in the library every Wednesday as we study the Bible. We are just finishing the study of Revelation and will begin a new study March 11th.

**Bring a sack lunch & stay for fellowship afterwards!**



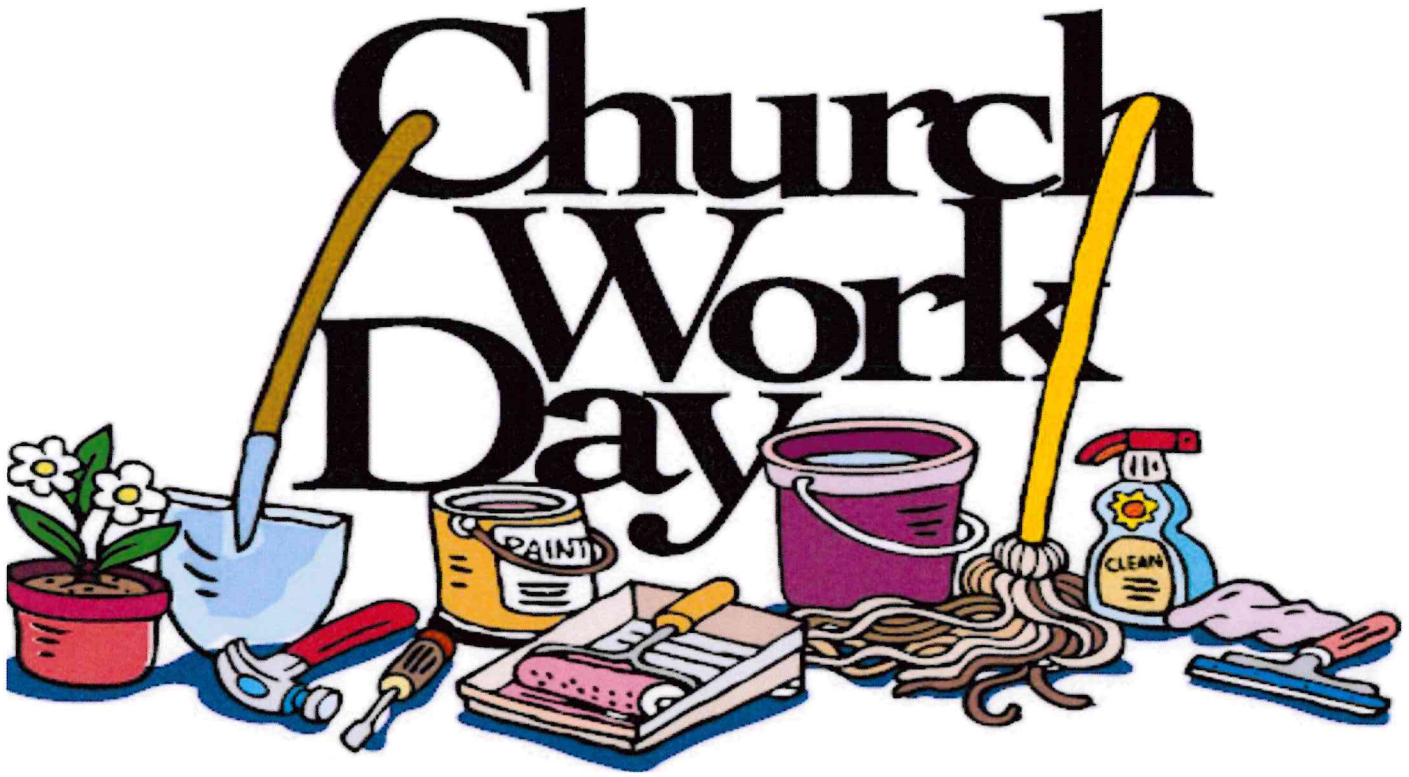
## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**9:30AM** every Tuesday in the home of Millie Payne.

**Join us for a morning treat & Bible Study**

**(We pick a book of the Bible & study it all the way through)**

**Call Mary Holden if you would like to attend.**



**Come help us spruce up the church by participating in the all-church work day! This is a great opportunity to join together as a community, lend a hand, and prepare our space for Holy Week and Easter morning. Everyone is welcome—bring your energy and enthusiasm!**

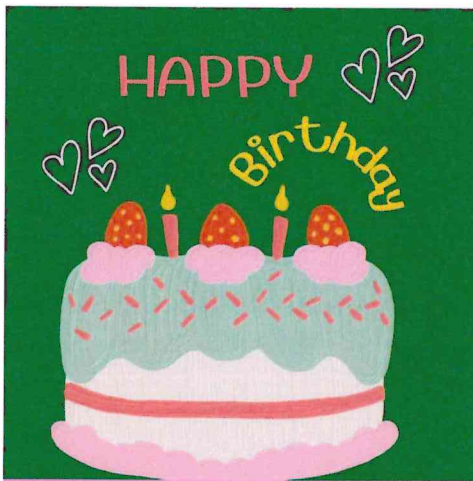
**Date & Time TBA**

**Look for it in upcoming bulletins and wall at worship**

## FINANCIALS

Count your Blessings – count them one by one, and remember Northminster as one of those Blessings. God has blessed our church and will continue to bless it. Be part of that blessing by giving back. You can drop your offerings off in the plate at the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings or mail it to the church office. You can also participate in the electronic giving that you will find at [Northminster.org](http://Northminster.org).

There is no current accounting to post this month but refer back to this page next month for a financial update.



<b>Lucy Fugler</b>	<b>3/19</b>
<b>Joyce Davis</b>	<b>3/23</b>
<b>Kerry Banks</b>	<b>3/26</b>
<b>Darrel Cooley</b>	<b>3/26</b>
<b>Betty VanDerKamp</b>	<b>3/28</b>



### An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at  
your back.

May the sun shine warm upon  
your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your  
fields.

And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm  
of his hand.

