

Northminster Presbyterian Church

“Caring for all with

God’s love and grace.”

315 E. Alvin Drive † Salinas CA 93906

831-449-2717 † northminster.org



Details on back page!!

Northminster News

Vol. XXV, No. 5

Special Covid Pandemic Issue

May 1, 2021

Dear friends,

I subscribe to an online forum called Patheos. It is a source of articles and discussions by and from different faith leaders. I recently came across an article titled “12 Things Your Pastor, Priest or Minister Wishes You Knew,” and I think it is pretty spot-on! These are good reminders for all of us, so I am sharing it with you today as my letter.

Enjoy! And see you in church!

Andy

1. *YOU are a source of encouragement to us.* All too often the people in our pews imagine that clergy are islands of devotion—except of course when we fail spectacularly and publicly. We aren’t. Like everyone else we draw encouragement from others who are faithful and courageous. You shouldn’t be

that way for our sake, of course, but don’t forget, there are days when we draw renewed strength from your example.

2. *Don’t forget to show up.* A search committee may have been instrumental in our coming to your parish, but we count on your presence. In one ancient Rabbinic story God tells the children of Israel, “If you obey the Law, I am God. If you don’t, I am not.” The story didn’t mean that literally, but it makes an important point. God works through people and through God’s church. That work requires your presence.
3. *Don’t compliment our sermons.* React to them. We would rather hear you struggle with what we’ve said from the pulpit or tell us that you disagree and why, rather than say, “That was nice.”

(Continued inside)

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Events online, except where noted.

* - Email andy@northminster.org for Zoom links

Regular Events

Sundays

10:00 am Streaming Worship - Gym/Parking Lot/Online

Tuesdays

10:00 am Women's Bible Study-Geneva Rm/Google Meet

Wednesdays

3:30 pm F.L.O.C.K. - Ministry Center Zoom

5:00 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*

10:00 am Knitting Club - Geneva Rm (social distancing)

Other Events

May

2 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

3 6:30 pm Board of Deacons - Zoom*

6 National Day of Prayer

15 Newsletter Deadline

23 5:30 pm Warming Shelter Meal (Bring to church)

24 6:30 pm Session - Room 11

31 Church Office//Daycare Closed

* Email andy@northminster.org for Zoom links



Internet: northminster.org

Facebook: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas

YouTube: Northminster Presbyterian - Salinas, CA

Zoom: Email andy@northminster.org to receive info

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

Do we have your email address?

Contact micki@northminster.org

- 3 Annabelle Gonzalez
- 8 David Baird
- 8 Jannadi Blake
- 8 Andy Rausch
- 12 Jordan Montero
- 15 Lisa Loder
- 16 Rubye Riggs
- 24 Jeff Cuda
- 24 Gerardo Dominga
- 24 Nancy Palmer
- 30 Joy Lohuis



June Early Birds

- 1 Rick Giffin
- 3 Daniek Blake
- 7 Kristine Abbott
- 7 Aimee Cuda



29 Tom & Nanci Crompton. 16th

June Early Birds

No early birds; check full list next month!

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

From the Pastor

continued

4. *Remember, we're not here to be the religious or spiritual performer.* Clergy take responsibility for fostering and nurturing the spiritual life of a congregation, but we are not there to believe, sing, pray, or profess the faith for all of you. When we do, it brings out the worst in us and in you.
5. *Remember that we can't "fix" you.* Like every caregiver, we wish that we could fix things for you. We can't. Only God can heal you and even God cannot nurture healing when we resist God's help. We will walk with you, listen to God alongside of you, and offer advice when and where it seems appropriate and welcome. But there are spiritual decisions that are all your own.
6. *Please don't pick on our families.* [OK, this one not so much! AR] They are in this because they are devoted to God and to us, but like all of us they are human. They make mistakes, they have their own growing pains and they can be defensive on our behalf. Clergy often describe the lives of their children as "life in a goldfish bowl." Remember, the memories they have of the church are shaped in dramatic ways by your love for them. Just as surely, abusive behavior can alienate them.
7. *No one is perfect.* When you are unrealistic about us, it can make it difficult to relate to you in an honest, transparent fashion. Don't make us little "g" gods or paragons of virtue. We can't possibly fulfill those expectations.
8. *Even clergy need grace.* We all have had days and we live in a world marked by sharp differences of opinion, unmanageable stress, and the pressure to be everything to everyone. Like you, we will have moments when we are impatient, when we lose our temper, or when we act out of fear or a sense of betrayal. We try to remember to say we are sorry, but we still need grace, forgiveness, and understanding.
9. *We can't hold together a church that you are determined to re-make to suit yourself.* We work hard to discern the will of God, but no one knows the will of God in the absolute sense of the word. Along the way, we will feel honor bound to make a decision you don't approve. Wait long enough and we will make one that others don't like. If we offer transparent, sound reasons for making a choice, we hope you will remember that we are doing the best we can to hear God and to hear you. If you think that can be done without disagreement, you must be living alone.
10. *We don't like talking about money anymore than you do.* We might even like it less. But we live in a world in which many good things can only be accomplished by raising money and spending it. We will try to avoid asking for the wrong thing. We will focus on vision, not vanity. We hope that you will remember that the money you give is for something far larger than any of us.
11. *Bring your gifts to the table.* Jesus didn't call the Lone Ranger. He called 12 people who were asked to find 12 more, who—over the centuries—have called billions of others. You are God's gift to the world in the making and there are contributions that only you can make. Nudge us and offer those gifts. Our lives will be enriched and yours will become more of what God created you to be.
12. *Pray for us.* These are challenging days for the church. They are also days filled with potential. You nurtured us in this vocation. Please pray for us. We will pray for you.

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06-03-2013

I PROMISE I'LL FINISH MY HOMEWORK IF
YOU LET ME PLAY A LITTLE MORE ...
HERE'S A RAINBOW, EVEN

Warm food warms hearts!

These days, the need for assisting the homeless is greater than ever! And our North-minster family is on top of it, providing meals for the Salinas Warming Shelter on our regular days, and special dates as needed.



We will provide meals for our shelter friends this month on **Sundays, May 2 and May 23**. Due to Covid safe practices, **please bring your gifts of food to the church by 5:30 pm**. We will transport the items to the shelter.

God bless you for your compassionate care for our homeless neighbors, the "least of these".



Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School, June 14 to 18. All kids from kindergarten through 6th grade are invite to join us to learn how "Jesus' power pulls us through"! We will have some safe fun each day from 1:00 to 5:00! Enrollment is limited, so visit the website to sign up! Only \$50 per child.

Wild & Wacky Wednesdays are back! These are limited to 12 children, and take place from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Only \$10 pays for snacks and supplies!

- ★ On June 23, we will go on a trip to Roaring Camp Railroad in the Santa Cruz mountains and hike, enjoy a picnic, and ride the steam train!
- ★ June 30—Build It! We will be building railroad-themed bird houses, and learn to use tools safely!
- ★ July 7—Games, games, and more games! Pastor Bill will teach you some of his favorite board games!

Westminster Woods Camp, July 21-28. We have to opportunity to go the Woods in northern California as church group. We will stay in cabins together, and have fun with traditional camp activities such as hiking, crafts, archery and learning about God! See Pastor Bill or Pastor Andy for more information.

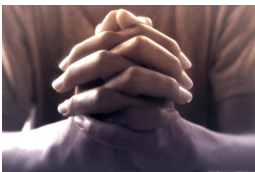
2021 Holiday Club. We will join our friends from the UK for a week of crazy fun and learning! Each day from August 9 to 13, we will gather at the church after school for a snack at 3:30, then join the gang on YouTube from 4 to 5. OR you can join us from home!

Our Homebound Friends



Gerda Van Meter - Now home!!
 Emma Price - Brookdale
 Ted Selvester - Windsor Skyline
 Grace Bryan - Chicago

Prayer Partners Wanted!



Do you have a little spare time and are looking to fill it? When you hear about the suffering of friends or around the world are you moved to talk to God about it?

Then we need you on our prayer team!

When we receive a request for prayer, we call the prayer team to mobilize our spiritual army. We issue regular updates for those requests, and pass along answered prayer with praise reports.

If you would like to join the team, please call Micki in the church office at 831-449-2717, option 3.

Church Staff / Participants

Pastor Andy Rausch
 Organist/Choir Accompanist Claire Vincent
 Director of Music Dana Vivit
 Parish Associate Bill Lane
 Daycare Laura Hunter-Michels, Tasha,
 Susan, Claire, Teresita, Esmerelda,
 Camila, Yvonne, Allie, Jennifer, Anais
 Executive Assistant Jackie Gash
 Preschool/KinderPrep Laura, Amanda Robles
 Custodian Jesse Perez
 Set Up Techs. Tom Folliard, Bob Hynes
 Groundskeepers . Tom McKey, Jim Vincent, Bob Hynes
 Church Secretary. Micki Brown