

Northminster Presbyterian Church

**“Caring for all with
God’s love and grace.”**

315 E. Alvin Drive † Salinas CA 93906
831-449-2717 † northminster.org

A Milestone in Ministry!

**Celebrating Pastor Andy’s
30th Ordination Anniversary!**

**Sunday, September 20
11:00 am (after worship)**

Details inside!

Northminster News

Vol. XXX, No. 9

September 2026

Dear friends,

Thirty years ago this month I began a calling and a journey I never anticipated. On September 16, 1996, right here at Northminster, I was ordained by the Presbytery of San Jose as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, the fancy Presbyterian-ese for “pastor.” Since my ordination, I’ve served three Presbyterian Churches: First Presbyterian Church of Marion, Iowa, where I was Associate Pastor to Youth, Children and Families for four years; then the First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, where I served in a similar role as Associate Pastor for eight years; and then I was called here to Northminster to be your Pastor some 17 years ago. (I know... if you do the math it only adds up to 29, but the years of service at each place were “more or less” $\times$ number of years!)

I said I never anticipated my call to ministry. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a physician, like my uncle. My parents were teachers, but I never really considered teaching as a profession when I was young. I went to church every Sunday and Tuesday or Wednesday, and I even sometimes “played church” at home, lining up all my stuffed animals on the bed and preaching to them! I even baptized some of them. But being a pastor was never a consideration.

As I finished high school and began college, I found that I really didn’t have the knack for the science required for a career in medicine, so I began my preparation to be a teacher. And I was serving the church in different ways, as a counselor and then Activities Director at Mount Hermon’s Redwood Camp, as a children’s

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SCHEDULE OF CHURCH EVENTS

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Room 11
 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary/Online
 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship - Ministry Center
 5:30 pm Youth Connection - Room 24 9/20

Mondays

12:30 pm Senior Singers Rehearsal - Geneva Rm 10/5

Tuesdays

7:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesdays

3:30 pm F.L.O.C.K. - Ministry Center 9/16

Thursdays

8:00 am Men's Breakfast - First Awakenings
 10:00 am Knitting Club - Library

Other Events

September

7 Office, Day Care closed for Holiday
 9 9:00 am Preschool 2026-27 begins
 9 12:00 pm KinderPrep 2026-27 begins
 13 6:30 pm SHARE Center Meal - 845 E. Laurel Dr.
 15 Newsletter Deadline
 16 3:30 pm FLOCK returns
 19 4:00 pm Relay For Life
 20 11:00 am Pastor's 30th Ordination Anniversary Celebration
 20 5:30 pm Youth Connection returns
 27 6:30 pm SHARE Center Meal - 845 E. Laurel Dr.

2 Linda Westoby
 6 Stacy Koleszar
 12 Warren Sonico
 Larry Tack
 14 Micki Brown
 16 Emma Price
 23 Jackie Gash
 28 Cindy Lumsden
 29 Barbara Perry
 30 Thomas Thomson



October Early Birds

8 Ryan Bangs



4 **Dan & Karen Towle** 61st
 8 **David & Rhonda Baird** 53rd

October Early Birds

6 **Jeff & Felisa Hoogendyk** 58th
 8 Tino & Jessica Montero 22nd

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



Internet: northminster.org

Facebook: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas

YouTube: Northminster Presbyterian - Salinas, CA

Venmo (donations) @northminsterpresbyterian-church

Do we have your email address?

Contact micki@northminster.org

Our Homebound Friends



Marilyn Barr - Madonna Gardens
 Emma Price - Vista Harden Ranch (Brookdale)
 Ted Selvester - Texas
 Vee Thomas - home
 Dorothy Walker - home

It's happening!



**Saturday, September 19
4:00-9:00 pm
Downtown Salinas City Center**

**Join our team! Support our
fundraisers – Car Raffle & more!!
You can make a difference!!**

**Contact Jackie Gash or Lisa Loder
for more information!**

A Milestone in Ministry!



**Pastor Andy's
30th Ordination
Anniversary
Celebration!**

**Sunday, September 20
11:00 am (after worship)**

**Enjoy a free lunch catered by
Cocina 32 CaliMex Barbecue!**

**Share 30 years of memories -
and help make new ones
for the next 30!**

**RSVP to the church office or
Jackie Gash by September 11.**

Serving Christ-in the Homeless

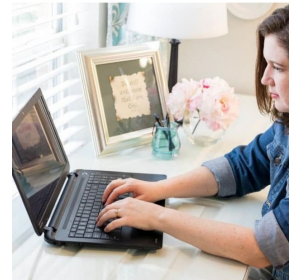


Northminster partners with the SHARE (Salinas Housing Advancement Resources Education) Center in meeting the needs of the homeless by providing and serving

dinner for our brothers and sisters on the **second and fourth Sundays, September 13 and 27**. You can help by providing gifts of food for the meal and/or by helping to serve it. **Please bring items to the church by 5:00 pm or by 6:30 pm if bringing to/serving at the Center, 845 E. Laurel Drive.**

Women's Online Bible Study

Ladies, take advantage of insightful Bible study, all from the comfort of your own home/computer! We meet **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom**. Join us as we learn about Abiding in Christ. Contact leader Terry Heffington for login information and study materials.



Church Staff / Participants

Pastor	Andy Rausch
Church Administrator	Jackie Gash
Organist/Choir Accompanist	Claire Vincent
Parish Associate	Bill Lane
Daycare	Jerrianna, Sue, Ale, Elizabeth, Berenice,
.....	Erica, Jasmine, Jasmine S, Maria, Ashley
Treasurer	Sue Brockett
Preschool	Amanda Robles
Custodian	Jesse Perez
Set Up Tech	Tom Folliard
Church Secretary	Micki Brown

From the Pastor

continued

ministry staff member and then director of the summer program as First Presbyterian Church here in Salinas, as a youth ministry volunteer at Eagle Rock Presbyterian Church in southern California and at the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward (ironically located in Castro Valley!)

And so I became a teacher. I taught for six years in the Salinas area, still serving churches, and when my special education position was cut, I headed to work at a camp in North Carolina. While I was at that camp, wondering what I was going to do when the season was over, I got a call from a friend who was now serving a church in Kansas, asking if I was still looking for a job, and if I would consider being their Youth Director. I took that position, and thought that I could make a career serving as a lay Youth Director. Until Bob called me into his office and informed me that he had decided I was going to go to seminary and become ordained.

And so I went to Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, under the care of the Presbytery of San Jose and Northminster Presbyterian Church (I'd been a member here for two years before I left for North Carolina!), and three years later received the call in Iowa. I was ordained here on September 16, 1996, and began my service as a pastor.

When I felt God calling me to be a solo pastor, I looked in several places, including Eastern Oregon and Dodge City, Kansas, but I felt the call to serve here, back in my hometown. The search committee and congregation agreed, and I began my service here. And we've some great times—and some challenging times—together. It's been a great journey, and I'm looking forward to continuing that journey with you!

C.S. Lewis, the author of The Chronicle of Narnia series, and many other books on Christianity, once wrote in his autobiography that he was

brought into the faith “kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape,” ultimately calling himself “the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.” I felt that I entered in the ordained ministry “kicking and screaming,” but I am so happy that God kept after me, and that I have been able to serve God's church for these 30 years.

Please join me after worship on September 20 to celebrate this ordination with a lunch catered by Cocina 1932 Cali Mex Barbecue to share some more stories and look forward to see what the next 30 years will bring!

Your Pastor,
Andy

Coming Up in Early October

World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
Senior Singers Return ~ October 5

