

Welcome to Northminster

Frederick Buechner once wrote: *“The grace of God means something like: ‘Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It’s for you I created the universe. I love you.’”*

No matter what brought you in today, we are grateful you’re here, because we have a fuller glimpse of God’s face through you – your gender, your race, your sexuality, your theology, your stories... everything that makes you uniquely you. You are gifted with an inherent worth and dignity, and here we seek to honor that. Here, you are loved.

If this is your first time, we hope you’ll feel free to participate in each element of our service today, including communion. All are welcome at God’s banquet table. We tune ourselves to God’s presence through sacred story, majestic music, thoughtful liturgy, and open-hearted prayer. Whether you’re just passing through or you’ve lived here a long time, we’d value the opportunity to get to know you more, so we hope you’ll stay for a few minutes after the service to talk to some of our members or the ministers at the front door.

Welcome to Northminster!

Children at Northminster

Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary with family and take part in worship. If you should choose, there are also child-care and children’s education opportunities available:

- **For infants through age two**, a Nursery is provided during Sunday school and Worship.
- **Preschool age children** are invited to attend the "Extended Session Sunday School" during the 10:45am worship hour. Pre-kindergarten children will be engaged in a Bible lesson, periodic musical education lessons and play.
- **Children up to age 8** are also invited to attend their Sunday School during the 10:45 am worship hour with Bible lessons, art projects, periodic musical education and play.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 29 at 5:30pm: Winter Book Study.

Thursday, January 30 at 6pm: *Men Singing Aloud*. Free concert in Brown Auditorium at ULM.

February 1,8,15,22,29: Daughters of Eve Rehearsals

Tuesday, February 11 at 7:30pm: *The Music of André Thomas*, composer and conductor. Free concert in Brown Auditorium. See Debi for tickets to the Conductor’s Gala following concert.

Wednesday, February 26 at 6pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Announcements

January Mission Trunk: Humane Society

The Humane Society Adoption Center of Monroe is dedicated to the welfare of all animals because of their intrinsic value and rights. If you would like to contribute to their work, please leave your donation in the mission trunk. Their needs include: Dog treats (no rawhides), pet food, all stock livestock food, pine sol, Lysol spray, dry shampoo, first aid supplies, and old towels and blankets.

Northminster Book Club: *Educated*

The Northminster Book Club meets every 6 weeks or so in homes for a friendly discussion of new or timely literature over a potluck meal. The next meeting will be Feb. 6, hosted by Mark Windham, to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. All are welcome.

Northminster Book Study: *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved*

Join us for the next four Wednesday nights as we gather at the church to discuss Kate Bowler’s *Everything Happens for a Reason*, a readable memoir of personal grief and the pain that bad theology can pile on top of it. The study will run through Feb. 19. (See newsletter for other important info on the book.) *Reading for this week: Preface – Ch. 3.*

Adopt-A-Bed

The Properties Commission invites you to look at the sign-up sheet in the hallway to (individually or as a group) adopt a flower bed to maintain around the property. Taking part in this initiative is an opportunity to invest in this place and be more responsible with our resources.

Northminster Youth

Youth meet each Sunday from 5pm – 6:30pm. *(This is a safe place for LGBTQ+ teens.)*

Holy Ideas Board

Have an idea for how we might respond to the Spirit of Love in this community? Post it on the board in the hallway. Check the **Work of the People** board for ideas in progress.

Floral Offering

If you would like to give flowers in someone’s memory or in honor, contact the church office.

Northminster Podcasts

Sermons are available online and can be easily found on our Facebook page or our website.

Help Support our Mission

If you would like to contribute financially to our community mission to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, simply open your phone’s camera and point it at the QR code to give your gift through PayPal. We rely entirely on the support of the community, so please consider taking a moment to give.



For more information about the goings on in the life of the church, see The Work of the People bulletin board or the newsletter posted in the hallway.