

NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

Order of Worship, Sunday, December 18, 2022, 10 AM

“To live the life of a disciple of Christ is to live always in Advent time, knowing that the light has come and awaiting the light that has yet to shine in its fullest measure.”

–Elizabeth Webb

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – red hymnal #152

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

THE WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Brenner Family

Today we relight the green candle of creation which represents life. We relight the violet candle of the incarnation which represents royalty. We relight the red candle of the crucifixion which represents sacrifice. Now we light the blue candle of the resurrection which represents eternal life—the life we have through the coming of, the death of and the raising of God’s son, Jesus Christ.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Spoken Responsively)

Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

PEOPLE: THAT SIGN IS IN THE ONE TO COME--THE ONE THAT GOD IS SENDING.

Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God’s care.

PEOPLE: AND SO WE CRY TO THE HEAVENS IN OUR DISTRESS. OUR CRIES ARE HEARD! GOD IS RESPONDING IN LOVE AND HOPE.

Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

PEOPLE: LET US BE READY TO RECEIVE THE BLESSED GIFT OF THE SAVIOR. AMEN.

*PROCLAIMING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman”

“What Child Is This”

*THE TIME OF CHRISTIAN GREETING

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION

THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

(Please pass the friendship pads down the pew. We invite all to sign names and write down contact info. Please pass the book back to the middle aisle when you’re finished. Thanks!)

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY – Michael Card

“Immanuel”

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 131

THE WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:57-80

THE MESSAGE

“John the Baptist Is Born”

–The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

SCATTERING TO SERVE OUR RISEN SAVIOR

*THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

No. 128

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Emmanuel”

No. 134

THE POSTLUDE – red hymnal #144

“How Great Our Joy!”

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*Please stand if you are able
.....

“As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, we need to be reminded that we are the ones who need to be delivered from the shackles of sin and death. The promise is Christ comes to unlock our prison doors and set us free. The question is: Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone and let Jesus be Lord of your life?” –Dr. Philip W. McLarty

Chancel Flowers

Chancel Flowers

**In Loving Memory of
Floyd J. and Virginia L. Hepler
And Donald F. Hepler
Given by: Janet Darrell**

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

-Pianist: Margie Shoop

-Praise Band Leader: Kevin Rudolph

-Online Filming: Marcy Korb

-Liturgist: Jack Miller

-Nursery: Jen Goldberg

-Sound & Production: Eli Irvine & Ed Heintz

-Greeter: Phyllis Natskakula

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to NHPC! Thank you for joining us for worship during this season of advent.

THE BULLETIN COVER was created by Marshall Carrier, a member of Bible Bunch.

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLES this week are Mark and Amy Brenner, and their three granddaughters: Molly and Ryleigh Delaney and Maci Hitchens. Mark and Amy have been members of NHPC for quite some time, and are involved in connect groups here. They have both sang with the Praise Band, as well as for other events at our church. When asked, they lend a hand where it is needed! Their grandchildren are all wonderful little girls who attend Sunday School and Bible Bunch. They are also all wonderful sisters/cousins to their newborn brothers/cousins! Thank you for lighting our candles this morning.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE sermon text and title will be: Luke 2:1-21, "Jesus Is Born." Join us for this beautiful candle lighting service on Saturday, December 24th at 7 PM.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who made the Community Christmas Concert possible! The event was absolutely beautiful and a wonderful way to celebrate the season. \$460 was raised for Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Food Bank as well as many food donations.

BIBLE BUNCH will NOT be meeting on December 22nd or 29th. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER - Marianna's Hoagies & Pizzas: You again have an opportunity to bless two ministries in the church with one fundraiser. First the proceeds of your purchase will go to the Youth Group Mission trip fund. And secondly you can purchase additional hoagies to donate to the Women's Conference This is Us...On the Rock that will be held on January 21st. We provide a soup and sandwich lunch and these will be our sandwiches. The cost for hoagies and pizzas are \$9. Orders and money are due 1/10/23. Pick up will be 1/19/23 11:30am-12:00pm & 5pm-5:30pm. There is an order form in the narthex or you can email Toni at nhpcyg@yahoo.com with your order and for Venmo or Zelle payment options.

DONATIONS for 2022 need to be in the office no later than December 31st to be included on your statement for this past year. Thank you for your help with this!

MARRIAGE RESTORATION/REFRESHMENT MINISTRY: You made a commitment to your spouse and to God when you got married and marriage is not easy. But a marriage done God's way is the most fulfilled and successful marriage you can have. If you would like more information, please email MarraigeRefreshment@yahoo.com.

THIS IS US...ON THE ROCK: Sat, January 21, 2023, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM - Doors open at 8:30! Join us for our 6th annual women's conference as we stand firmly on the Rock of Ages together! This year we are going to give Him all the glory, honor and praise! We will be remembering what God has done for us in the past, share what God is doing in the present and celebrate what God is going to do in the future. Come see what God will do this year through the power of the Holy Spirit. He never fails to show up!

- Live Worship Band throughout the Day • Morning Refreshments and Lunch Provided (Please let us know dietary restrictions.) • Bible Based Speakers • Breakout Sessions • Relaxed Environment Full of Christian Fellowship, Love, and Support.

Scan the code or talk to one of our team members to register:

- Denise Baker
- Amy Brenner
- Toni Brooks
- Marcy Korb
- Margie Shoop



WINTER OUR DAILY BREADS are now available!

PLEASE NOTE: There will NOT be an informal service on Thursday, December 22nd or Thursday, December 29th. Please join us on Sunday for worship instead on these days!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL will NOT meet on December 25th or January 1st.

FINANCES: This past year has been a struggle for so many people, and like many of you, NHPC has also struggled financially. We are greatly “in the red” for 2022 regarding receipts to budget. We would like to first thank everyone who has donated to our church. Your donations are keeping us going, and it is so greatly appreciated. We also would like to ask for your help. In order to continue running, to provide updates to the building and grounds, to keep our lights on, and to continue running all of our programs, we need your assistance. No donation is too small—any amount we are truly grateful for. If you are unable to help us financially, please think about donating your time. Volunteers are always needed to help things run smoothly at NHPC. Lastly we ask for prayers. Pray that we will be blessed in finances and volunteers to keep going, pray that we will be able to bring people to Christ, and pray that we would make a difference in the world for the glory of God. Thank you!

COMING UP: Saturday, December 24th – 7 PM Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 25th – 10 AM Christmas Day Service
Sunday, January 1st – 10 AM New Year’s Day Service; Communion

CLERK OF SESSION: Deb Lehew – 724-664-1256

ELDERS: -Mike Lassinger – 724-316-1665 -Doug Deemer – 412-335-0185
-Chad Gourley – 412-443-0682 -Jon Bouchat – 724-681-8881
-Kevin Gourley – 724-596-2169 -Phil Grove – 724-224-4245

SCAN THE QR CODE to make a donation from your phone!



WEEKLY FINANCIAL BUDGET TO RECEIPTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NEEDED</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
12/11	\$ 4,079.98	\$2,019.80

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 25

TODAY:

9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
10:00AM – Worship Service
6:00PM – Youth Group
6:00PM – Men’s Group

MONDAY:

3:00PM – AFN High School Group
4:00PM – AFN Elementary Group
6:30PM – Couples Connect Group

TUESDAY:

3:00PM – AFN High School Group
4:00PM – AFN Elementary Group

WEDNESDAY:

3:00PM – AFN High School Group
4:00PM – AFN Elementary Group
6:30PM – ONE

NEXT SUNDAY, December 25th:

10:00AM – Worship Service