

NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

Order of Worship, Sunday, December 4, 2022, 10 AM

“The name ‘Mary’ is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Miriam, the sister of Moses. It means ‘exalted one,’ a fitting description of the soon-to-be mother of the Messiah.”

–Pate

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – red hymnal #124

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

THE WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Irvine Family

Today, we relight the green candle of Creation, which represents life. This candle reminds us of God’s great blessings while we are here on this earth. It also reminds us of the future gifts we will share because of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Now we light the violet candle representing royalty. We are reminded that Jesus, though an infant, is our King.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Spoken Responsively)

Leader: Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

PEOPLE: WE ARE CALLED TO ACTION RATHER THAN REACTION.

Leader: Open your hearts to God’s word and God’s will.

PEOPLE: HELP US TO BE WORKERS FOR GOD RATHER THAN OBSERVERS.

Leader: Come, draw near to God in faith.

PEOPLE: LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE THE WONDROUS GIFTS OF GOD. AMEN.

*PROCLAIMING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
“I Wonder as I Wander”**

*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 – red hymnal #164

“One Small Child”

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 141

THE WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

THE MESSAGE

“The Birth of Jesus Foretold”
–The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

SCATTERING TO SERVE OUR RISEN SAVIOR

*THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 123

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Emmanuel”

No. 134

THE POSTLUDE – Michael Card

“Immanuel”

*Please stand if you are able

“Is it not proven that he is great? Conquerors are great, and he is the greatest of them. Deliverers are great, and he is the greatest of them. Liberators are great, and he is the greatest of them. Saviours are great, and he is the greatest of them.” –Spurgeon

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

-*Pianist:* Margie Shoop

-*Online Filming:* Marcy Korb

-*Nursery:* Candice Gourley

-*Greeter:* Rebekah Gribble

-*Praise Band Leader:* Kevin Rudolph

-*Liturgist:* Jack Miller

-*Sound & Production:* Eli Irvine & Ed Heintz

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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 Aliese, a member of Bible Bunch.

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLES this week is the Irvine Family. Leah and her children: Eli, Ezra and Eden, are extremely involved at NHPC! Leah teaches Sunday School for our youth, leads an after school middle school youth group, leads Bible Bunch, and volunteers in our nursery. Eli will help run the sound and production for worship services on Sundays, and is also involved in Sunday School and middle school youth group. Ezra and Eden both also attend Sunday School and are members of Bible Bunch. Thank you for lighting our candles this morning.

THE SECOND COLLECTION today is for the Food for Families Fund. Monies collected today will provide grocery store gift cards for those in need at Christmas. We currently have eight families we are serving, and we want to thank all of you for your generosity which allows us to do so!

NEXT WEEK'S sermon text and title will be: Luke 1:39-56, "Mary's Song"

MASON JARS: The Allegheny Family Network after school program is in need of 12 mason jars and lids for a craft. If you have some extra jars at home and would be willing to donate them, please let Pastor Rick, Doug Deemer or Marcy Korb know. Thank you!

BIBLE BUNCH will NOT be meeting on December 8th, 22nd or 29th. Thank you!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL will NOT meet on December 18th, 25th or January 1st.

ANGEL TREE: Check out the ornaments on our Angel Tree and consider picking one up to purchase gifts for! Without our help, these children might not have presents under

their tree on Christmas morning. Please make sure you sign your name next to the ornament number on the sheet provided. Gifts need to be returned wrapped, with the ornament attached, no later than Sunday, December 11th. Want to help out, but are unable to shop? Contact Jen Rigatti to get her your donation and she will shop for you! You may also drop a donation in the offering plate labeled "Angel Tree" and she will get it! Thank you for your help this holiday season.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR AN ANGEL: Kristen Wyant at Highlands School District (she provides us with the ornaments for our angel tree) reached out and asked if we could help with one more gift: a 24 inch bike and helmet for a girl in need. If you are able to donate this gift, please contact Jen Rigatti at 724-681-6035! Thank you!

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT, to benefit Allegheny Valley Association of Churches Food Bank, will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 7 PM. Join us in celebrating the holiday season with local musical groups at NHPC. Admission is FREE, but we do request that you please bring a nonperishable food donation or a monetary donation for the food bank.

COOKIE DONATIONS NEEDED: If you are able to bake some cookies for the reception following the concert on the 10th, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you for your help in making our reception possible!

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!

FINANCES: In hopes of answering any possible questions, and to keep you up-to-date about the finances, a question and answer will be listed in some of the bulletins throughout the year. See our first question below:

"What is the 'Weekly Finances to Budget' chart in the bulletin?"

- Each week when donations are received, you will find this chart. The date of the donations is listed, next is the budget and what NHPC requires weekly to "run" and the Receipts column is how much money was donated by all of you for that particular week.

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!

CAM MALCOLM BOOKS: The sequel in the five-book “A Divine Christmas Ghost Story” series is in print and available for sale. Orders are being taken in the church office (724-224-7338 or nhpcsecretary@aol.com) for all three of the Reverend Malcolm’s books: “Mary Magdalene: New Testament Eve,” “A Divine Christmas Ghost Story: Book I,” and “A Divine Christmas Ghost Story: Book II.” The Christmas Ghost story books are faith-based novellas hauntingly set in the Christmas season. All books sell for \$19.95.

WINTER OUR DAILY BREADS are now available!

COMING UP: Saturday, December 10th – Community Christmas Concert at 7 PM
 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>
11/27	\$ 4,079.98	\$3,649.80

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 11

TODAY:

- 9:00AM – Youth Sunday School
- 9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00AM – Worship Service
- 11:00AM – Christmas Tea Party
- 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

FRIDAY:

- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary Group

SATURDAY:

- 7:00PM – Community Christmas Concert

NEXT SUNDAY, December 11th:

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