

NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

Order of Worship, Sunday, December 10, 2023, 10 AM

In speaking of Isaiah 53: "This chapter foretells the sufferings of the Messiah, the end for which he was to die, and the advantages resulting to mankind from that illustrious event.... This chapter contains a beautiful summary of the most peculiar and distinguishing doctrines of Christianity." –Spurgeon

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – red hymnal #160

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Brenner 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 benefits 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

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"
"Mary Did You Know"**

*THE TIME OF CHRISTIAN GREETING

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S CHURCH – Children ages 3 through 12 may go upstairs to the Sunday School room for Children's Church.

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

"Immanuel"

–Michael Card

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 123

THE WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 53

THE MESSAGE

"The Unexpected Messiah"

–The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

SCATTERING TO SERVE OUR RISEN SAVIOR

*THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 132

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Emmanuel"

No. 134

THE POSTLUDE – red hymnal #124

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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*Please stand if you are able
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“Do not say, ‘It is useless to preach down there, or to send missionaries to that uncivilised country.’ How do you know? Is it very dry ground? Ah, well, that is hopeful soil; Christ is a ‘root out of a dry ground,’ and the more there is to discourage the more you should be encouraged. Read it the other way. Is it dark? Then all is fair for a grand show of light; the light will never seem so bright as when the night is very very dark.”

–Charles Spurgeon

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

-Pianist: Margie Shoop

-Praise Band Leader: Kevin Rudolph

-Online Filming: Marcy Korb

-Sound & Production: Ed Heintz

-Nursery: Donna Crowe

-Greeter: Karen Van Den Heuval

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, and thank you for joining us as we worship on the second Sunday this Advent season.

THE BULLETIN COVER was created by Jesse Ankney, a member of youth group.

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLE this week is the Brenner Family. Mark and Amy have been members of NHPC for quite some time now. You can see them volunteering at VBS or singing during our worship services. They have two daughters, Amber and Megan, as well as a son, Mark. Mark and Amy have also been blessed with many grandchildren: Molly, Ryleigh, Jameson, Parker, Maci, Olivia, and Colton.

NEXT WEEK’S message title and scripture: “The Three Kings,” Matthew 2:1-12.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS are due today! If you have forgotten yours at home, please contact Jen Rigatti at 724-681-6035 today to make arrangements to bring in your gift. Thank you again for participating in this wonderful opportunity to give back to our local kids.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS ON SUNDAY this year and we are planning some wonderful opportunities for worship both in the morning and evening. It is our hope that you will join us for both services. For the morning service we are looking to do something special and share in the beauty of the season. We will be sharing "Christmas Memories" together as well as a Hymn/Carol Sing together. You can be a part of this special service

by sharing your favorite Christmas memory with our church family and guests. If you would like to share your special Christmas memory with the church, please let Pastor Rick know. We would like to have five or six memories with our singing in between and are excited to have you share yours with us!

GIVE A GIFT FROM THE HEART this holiday season! “A gift is pure when it is given from the heart to the right person at the right time and at the right place, and when we expect nothing in return.” Your gift doesn’t have to be from a store, it can come directly from your heart.

THE WINTER OUR DAILY BREAD is now available on our tables throughout the church.

A DIVINE CHRISTMAS GHOST STORY’s third book has just been released. The first three books of the six titles in the holiday series can be ordered through the church office. These books, written by Rev. Cam Malcolm, are similar in genre to Charles Dickens’ *Christmas Carol*. Also, copies of Cam’s book “Mary Magdalene: New Testament Eve” can be ordered through the church office. All four books can be purchased for \$19.95 apiece.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS are held on Sunday evenings for those in 5th through 12th grades. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Brooks at 724-766-1950.

- 12/17 – Christmas Party
- 12/24 & 12/31 – No Youth Group—Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

THERE IS NO INFORMAL Service on Thursday, December 28th. Thanks!

ALL DONATIONS FOR 2023 must be received by the office no later than Sunday, December 31st. Any donations received after this date will be credited to your 2024 statement. Thank you for your understanding.

OFFERING ENVELOPES will be set out soon! If you do not currently receive envelopes, but would like to, please contact the church office at 724-224-7338 or nhpcsecretary@aol.com. 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 help our youth to be able to help pay for their portion of retreat and activity fees. And secondly you can purchase additional hoagies to donate to

the Women's Conference *This is Us...Armed with Praise* that will be held on January 27th. We provide a soup and sandwich lunch and these will be our sandwiches. The cost for hoagies and pizzas are \$10. Orders and money are due 1/7/24. Pick up will be 1/24/24 10:00am-10:30am and 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. Thank you for your support of our ministries here at NHPC!

JOIN US IN PRAISING OUR GREAT GOD! This year we are going to arm ourselves with the power of praise. Come expecting to experience the presence of God and the love of Christ that is palpable in the presence of your sisters in Christ at the *This Is Us Women's Conference* January 27th, 2024. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/this-is-usarmed-with-praise-registration-684794868887?aff=oddtcreator>



COMING UP: Sunday, December 24th – 10 AM Worship; 7 PM Christmas Eve Service
 Thursday, December 28th – No Informal Service
 Saturday, January 27th – Women’s Conference

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

ELDERS: -Donna Crowe – 724-882-5003 -Kevin Gourley – 724-596-2169
 -Doug Deemer – 412-335-0185 -Marcy Korb – 412-334-1173
 -Chad Gourley – 412-443-0682 -Jack Miller – 724-272-4787

WEEKLY FINANCIAL BUDGET TO RECEIPTS:		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>NEEDED</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
Dec. 3	\$ 3,486.59	\$ 2,534.80

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



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 17

TODAY:

*ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY!

- 9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00AM – Worship Service

6:00PM – Youth Group Caroling

MONDAY:

- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary
- 6:30PM – Couples Connect

TUESDAY:

- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary

WEDNESDAY:

- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary
- 6:30PM – ONE Group

THURSDAY:

- 3:00PM – Middle School After-School Youth Group
- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary
- 5:15PM – Bible Bunch
- 7:00PM – Informal Service

FRIDAY:

- 4:00PM – AFN Elementary

NEXT SUNDAY, December 17TH:

- 9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00AM – Worship Service
- 6:00PM – Youth Group Christmas Party