

NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

Order of Worship, Sunday, December 3, 2023, 10 AM

“Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven.”

–Greg Laurie

GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – red hymnal #137

“What Child Is This?”

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Gourley Family

Today we begin the Advent season by lighting the green candle of creation, which represents life. May it serve to remind us of God’s great promises to humankind and heighten our expectation of the return of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, to Earth.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: If only the heavens would tear open and God would come down!

PEOPLE: THE MOUNTAINS WOULD SHAKE AND TREMBLE — ALL EARTH WOULD STAND IN AWE!

Leader: People have turned their backs on God, believing that they, under their own power, can right all wrongs.

PEOPLE: WE HAVE FAILED MISERABLY WHEN WE DEPEND ONLY ON OURSELVES.

Leader: Be with us, O Lord. Tear open our hearts and pour your love into our lives.

PEOPLE: GIVE US CONFIDENCE IN YOU, FOR YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH US. AMEN.

*PROCLAIMING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

“Light of the World”

“We Three Kings”

*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

“We Will Glorify”

–Twila Paris

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Once in Royal David’s City”

No. 155

THE WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:1-20

THE MESSAGE

“The City of David”

–The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE COMMUNION SERVICE

The Gracious Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Administration of the Elements

The Prayer of Appreciation

SCATTERING TO SERVE OUR RISEN SAVIOR

*THE HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 141

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

No. 623

THE POSTLUDE – red hymnal #167

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

*Please stand if you are able

“The birth of Jesus is the grandest light of history, the sun in the heavens of all time. It is the pole-star of human destiny, the hinge of chronology, the meeting-place of the waters of the past and the future.” –Charles Spurgeon

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

- Pianist: Margie Shoop
- Praise Band Leader: Kevin Rudolph
- Online Filming: Marcy Korb
- Sound & Production: Ed Heintz
- Nursery: Candice Gourley
- Greeter: Phyllis Natskakula

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

LIGHTING OUR ADVENT CANDLE this week is the Gourley Family. Chad is an Elder at NHPC, Candice volunteers in our church nursery and their daughters, Ashlyn and Addison, will also help in the nursery when it’s needed. They are all very involved and dedicated members of our church family and we welcome them to light the first candle on our Advent Wreath!

THE SECOND COLLECTION today is for the Food for Families fund. The monies donated today will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards for families for Christmas. We thank you in advance for all of your donations to help out families with food.

NEXT WEEK’S message title and scripture: “O Come Emmanuel,” Isaiah 53.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT: It is with heavy hearts that the difficult decision was made to cancel our Community Christmas Concert this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are unable to host the event. If you would still like to make a donation or bring in a nonperishable food item for the Allegheny Valley Association of

Churches Food Bank, please leave your items in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate with “AVAC” on the envelope or in the check memo.

ANGEL TREE: Our Angel Tree has been put up again this year! We are asking for your help to make Christmas extra special for students in Highlands School District. Simply pick an ornament, sign the form with your name and phone number next to the ornament number you have chosen, and return wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 10th (this is to ensure the kids receive their gifts on Christmas day). If you’d like to help but are unable to shop, consider making a donation and we can shop and wrap for you; contact Jen Rigatti at 724-681-6035 (text or call) to set this up. We thank you for your help with this project and appreciate you helping the children in our very own community.

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!

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.

- 12/10 – Caroling
- 12/17 – Christmas Party
- 12/24 & 12/31 – No Youth Group—Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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.

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 10th – Angel Tree Gifts Due Today
 Sunday, December 24th – 10 AM Worship; 7 PM Christmas Eve 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>
Nov. 26	\$ 3,486.59	\$ 1,184.80

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



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 10

TODAY:

9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
 10:00AM – Worship Service
 6:00PM – Youth Group Meeting

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; Communion

FRIDAY:

4:00PM – AFN Elementary

NEXT SUNDAY, December 10th:

*ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY!

9:00AM – Adult Sunday School
 10:00AM – Worship Service
 6:00PM – Youth Group Caroling