

MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Evening Service 6pm		MS VALLEY PRESBYTERY WIC PRAYER TIME 7 pm		LADIES' BIBLE STUDY 1 pm	THE READERS GAME NIGHT 6 pm	GRAMMER BABY SHOWER 10 am
8 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am MOTHER'S DAY Evening Service 6pm	YOUTH FELLOWSHIP 6 pm	MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am CC FIELD TRIP 10AM -1PM SESSION MEETING 6 pm				
15 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	MEN'S BOOK STUDY 7 pm	MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am WIC PRAYER TIME 7 pm			PARENT'S NIGHT OUT 6 pm	MEN'S MINISTRY SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY 8 am
22 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm		MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am				MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST 8 am
29 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am FIFTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIPS	MEMORIAL DAY	MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am				

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May 2022

From the Pastor

This month we close with our series on The Order of Worship as we consider the closing benediction. I want us to notice three things about the benediction this month.

First, it is a good word. Benediction comes from the Latin “bene” which means “well/good” and “dicere” which means “to speak” It is quite literally “a good word.” It is a good word from the Lord to his people. It is God through his duly ordained minister pronouncing a “good word” on his people. In John 6:63 Jesus says: “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Then in v 68 Peter will say: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” It is no small thing that God gives us his “good Word.” Those that receive the good word by faith receive life itself.

Second, the benediction is a pronouncement of blessing. The most famous benediction in Scripture comes from Numbers 6:24-26: “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” And then God will say: “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” Notice in the benediction the subject is Yahweh (the LORD in all caps). The benediction is nothing short of God blessing us with himself. In the benediction God places his name upon his people.

The name is the covenant name of the Lord which conveys intimate personal fellowship. The benediction is God binding himself to his people with the blessings of the covenant which flow from his very being. In the New Testament, before Christ ascends to heaven Jesus says to his disciples: “Go and baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Jesus’ parting words are a command to the disciples to place the name of the Triune God upon his converts throughout the nations. With that monumental name given by Christ before he ascends in mind, we consider Paul’s benediction at the end of 2 Corinthians 13:14: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” The name of God that is fully revealed with the coming of the Son, “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” is placed upon God’s new covenant people. God in the benediction is blessing us with all the blessings that flow from the Triune God in and through the New Covenant established and inaugurated by the Son.

Third, we are to receive the benediction in faith. We are to open our ears to the benediction that God brings his people and receive and rest upon it in faith. The blessings of God are for those who receive and rest upon God in and through his Son by the Spirit. It is meant to bring assurance to the con-

gregation of God’s love, kindness, goodness, grace and mercy. It is meant to inspire and incite joy and thanksgiving as the people of God depart to their homes. In other words, it’s not just the indicator that the service is over and we can tune it out. It is God’s good Word to us that is to be received by faith, filling our hearts with the wonder of God’s goodness and grace toward us. What’s more, for us as New Covenant Christians, we receive this parting blessing at the end of the service, but at the beginning of the week. A new Sabbath has dawned with the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week. The beginning of our week is no longer working toward Sabbath blessings at the end, but it rather begins immersed in Sabbath blessings. We are a new creation, the light has dawned, and we go forth with the countenance of God upon us and the benediction of the resurrected Christ to his disciples given to us: “Peace be with you.”

Northpointe Presbyterian Church
920 Windmill Drive
Meridian, MS 39305

MISSIONS MINUTE

*A note from Basaam Chedid
Children of Abraham*

Dear Friends,

If there is one single distinctive of our faith that sets it apart from every other religion is the fact that we have an empty tomb to proclaim to the whole World. I was encouraged recently by reading a book titled: ‘God’s Peoples’ in which the author wrote these encouraging words, and I pray they will encourage you as well:

“Jesus’ death left his band of followers without a leader and without hope. His resurrection and ascension changed them forever, but these earliest Christians still faced the difficult task of surviving in a hostile world. How would they keep Jesus’ message alive? From their meetings with the resurrected Jesus, they concluded three things: 1. Jesus was, in fact, equal to God as he had asserted, and he has dominion over all creation. 2. His ministry of salvation was not finished in his death; rather, it was just beginning. 3. He would continue to communicate to the disciples, not face to face, but through the Holy Spirit.”

Peter said: “Praise to be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). I am confident that all the disciples and early believers can echo the same doxology.

Nothing is changed today: the same Gospel of the Resurrection of Christ can and will prevail today. Therefore, let us be encouraged and continue faithfully to serve our Living Christ.

It becomes an annual joyful experience when my dear Muslim brother, who embraced the Gospel after we moved to Colorado 12 years ago, called me early Easter morning and joyfully and with a resounding voice said: “Christ is Risen.” Of course, I replied with the historic Christian affirmation, “He is Risen Indeed.” This greeting is more than music to ear; it is a joy to my heart and an encouraging declaration of my love for Christ and His call to reach the unreached.

Your Prayers are certainly cherished:

- We are encouraged as we have seen more Arabs and Muslims asking for the Arabic Study Bible. There is an opening opportunity to ship more Bibles to different countries in the Middle East.
- Please continue to pray for wisdom as we contact the Arabic community in Colorado and across the nation. Over 3 million Arabs reside in the US. We are planning to send a special letter to over 20,000 households. Again, please pray for wisdom and opportunities to share Christ and for divine appointments.
- The digitizing of the ASB for worldwide distribution continues to progress. Please pray that all goes well, including some technical challenges.

Thank you, dear partners, for your prayers and continual sacrificial support.

In Christ,

Basaam Chedid

FIFTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

May has five Sundays, so we will be gathering within our Shepherding Groups for times of fellowship, Sunday, May 29. Please watch your email inboxes for details.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Ladies, mark your calendars for our women’s retreat on **August 20** at the Mason Boutique Hotel in Louisville. More information to come.

FALL MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Northpointe will be hosting a marriage conference led by Ed and Emily Hartman beginning Saturday morning, **September 24**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

MEN’S RETREAT

A Men’s Ministry Retreat is being planned for **October 21-22** at Lake Forest Ranch, Macon MS. More details to follow.

REMINDERS

- The Lord’s Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, **May 1**.
- There will be a Session Meeting on **May 10**, at 6:00 pm.
- Women’s Prayer Time date this month is at 7 pm, on **May 3 and May 17** in the home of Carmel Madeja [420 Eastwood Street].

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast dates for this month are **May 7 and 14 @** 6:30 am.
- Parents’ Night Out will be **May 20** from 6-9 pm. Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.
- The Men’s Book Study is scheduled for **May 16** at 7 pm. [Mason Kiple Home]
- The next Reader’s Game Night is **May 6** at 6 pm.

GRAMMER BABY SHOWER

Ladies, you are invited to a baby shower for Stacey’ Grammer at 10am on Saturday, **May 7**, in the home of Stacey Joransen (8720 B Hwy 39 North; Meridian). We are going to have a little game that we need your help with, even if you can’t make it to the shower in person. We ask that you send me one sentence of the best advice you have been given or want to give? Try to keep it to one sentence, then email or text to Emily Elliott at hardeemily@gmail.com or 316-217-4128. Thank you so much for helping make this shower special for Stacey and baby Anastacia.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Northpointe Youth!! It is time to celebrate our seniors! Parents of seniors I will need 10 facts about your senior and a special note of advice for them. We will meet on **May 9**, in the Elliott home (5323 Linmoor Drive, Marion) have dinner, games, and a devotional on Acts 8 and 9. We’ll start at 6 and go to 8:45.

MEN’S MINISTRY - CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Men, mark your calendars for Saturday, **May 21**. We’ll begin with breakfast together at 8:00am at church and then head out into groups to complete cleaning and maintenance projects for the upkeep of our building and grounds. Come enjoy men’s fellowship over food and work. We’ll plan to be finished before noon.

MEN’S MINISTRY - MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Men, please mark your calendars. There will be a monthly men’s fellowship breakfast on the last Saturday of each month at 8am. An article will be emailed for you to read prior to each meeting that will be discussed. The first meeting is schedule d for **May 28**. We hope you will plan to join us for this time of fellowship and study.

OFFICER TRAINING

The officers recently nominated to serve as deacons are David Milling, Smokey Ethridge, Tommy Clark, and Ben Ausbrooks. Training for these men will begin Sunday, **May 15** during the Sunday school hour and last 16 weeks. Please be praying for them as they begin this journey to become deacons here at Northpointe.

YOUTHIVERSITY 2022

Northpointe Youth, mark your calendars for Youthiversity 2022, happening **July 25th-29th**. Each evening, we’ll gather for food, games, and teaching on the theme, “It’s OK to be Weird: A Study of Life, Not of the World.” Begin inviting your friends. Families, if you are able and willing to host the youth one night that week, please let Pastor Kevin know (601-503-4574).

MAY BIRTHDAYS

4	Ben Thaggard Justus Grammer
12	Dalton McIlwain
14	Liv Joransen
18	Alec Thaggard Burke Thaggard Julia Thaggard
25	Christopher Stevens
27	Smokey Ethridge
28	Katie Morrow