

FIRST WORDS ...

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

*As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved,
but because you were grieved into repenting.
For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered
no loss through us. For godly grief produces a
repentance that leads to salvation without regret,
whereas worldly grief produces death.*

ASH WEDNESDAY, TONIGHT, 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Click [Here](#).

(Zoom ID: 834 5833 0674; Passcode: 338914)

Join us for a 30 minute service of readings, reflection and prayer. Ash Wednesday serves as the start of Lent, a 40-day (not including Sundays) season of remembrance, repentance, and preparation. Ash Wednesday and Lent together help focus our hearts before God as we anticipate the glorious celebration of Easter.

JOIN US FOR A LENTEN JOURNEY

Jos Smolik and I invite you to join us for a journey of repentance this Lenten season. We will be using an online resource called [An American Lent](#) made available through The Repentance Project. This particular Lenten devotional "is a journey through America's history of slavery, segregation, and racism." Its aim "is that through the prayers, reflections, and responses, the Holy Spirit will transform us—individually and collectively—to look more like Christ."

- **5 Min.** – Each day's devotion can be read in less than 5 minutes, although you might find yourself taking longer in order to pause, reflect, and talk with God.
- **Weekly Check-In** – for those wishing to, we will hold a weekly, Wednesday evening check-in starting February 24, via **Zoom, 8:00 -8:30 pm** (for Zoom Link click [HERE](#)).
- **Extras** – we invite you to check out The Repentance Project's [website](#). As you look at each day's devotional you will discover that the authors provide a link to an additional resource for that day's topic.

GRACE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Northminster covenant partner and Hope College junior Grace McConaghie opens a coffee shop for a just cause. Called *A Just Brew*, the coffee shop serves both as a fundraising source for the International Justice Mission and as a source of information and community awareness on the subjects of human trafficking and slavery. Grace was the subject of a recent article in *The Anchor*, Hope College's student newspaper. You can view the article by clicking [HERE](#).

CELEBRATION #1 – HONORING HEROS



We're praying that our Valentine's Day Honoring Healthcare Heroes—a ministry of our Neighborhood Mission Team—has helped to build

bridges with our community and communicated our sincere appreciation for the efforts of first responders and healthcare workers alike. By the numbers:

1100

Candy Bags
Handed Out

30

Medical Offices and
First Responder Sites

13

Drivers/Deliverers

8

Routes Driven

CELEBRATION #2 – VALENTINES COOKIE AND CARD GIVE AWAY

Our Care Ministries sent either cookies or cards to 30 of our more senior members and delivered 15 plates of cookies and cards to residents at the Goodwill Wayne H. Downing Home for Veterans.



To: The Members and Friends of Northminster
From: Bob Jordan, Lead Pastor

 northminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 17, 2021

CELEBRATION #3 – COLLEGE STUDENT MAILING

Northminster college students received a package with a homemade card, *i belong* swag, an embroidered cross made by Kathy Sullivan, and a note of encouragement.

SESSION MET YESTERDAY

Members of our Session gathered via Zoom last night for their February meeting. They devoted their time to prayer and to considering items of ministry and direction. Admin reported a downturn in giving in January, something we had also experienced in 2020. January was a three-payroll month, translating into expenses outpacing income by a factor of 2. Giving in February is trending higher. The Elders also spent time reviewing ECO's National Gathering and sharing what they have heard from the congregation generally, and specifically on the topic of "i belong."

WHEN YOU OR OTHERS NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is suffering (e.g. tested Covid-positive, in need of resources, desires prayer, under quarantine, lonely, afraid, etc.), please contact [Pam Garner](mailto:pam.garner@northminster.org) (309.453.9928) or [Bob Jordan](mailto:bob.jordan@northminster.org) (402.943.8218).

USING THE BUILDING

If you would like to use one of our rooms, please contact [Keith Petran](mailto:keith.petran@northminster.org) (309.691.6322) to reserve space. Keith will provide information on individual room usage.

BASIC NEEDS MISSION

Our Basic Needs Mission Team seeks to connect us with people who have immediate needs—needs which call for a response. Today the ministry in mind are those who are being persecuted for following Christ.

Christian Persecution

Why does Christian persecution happen?*

1. Authoritarian governments who view Christianity as a threat to power
2. Suspicion of anything outside the majority cultural faith
3. Extremist groups who want to destroy Christians
4. Official and cultural domination of a single religion
5. Religious freedom is a disrespected human right

*<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

Read some of the stories for yourself: Click [Here](#).