



# NORTH MINISTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

## 2025: A YEAR OF GRACE

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There are still a couple of gift tags left on the church's Angel Tree in the Family Room that need to be adopted. Please take one of these tags on Sunday. Gifts need to be returned to the church by December 21st.

**It's that time again!**

## Annual P.W. Cookie Sale

Calling all bakers! Donate a few dozen homemade cookies to the Presbyterian Women's annual cookie sale!

December 14th after church service  
\$5 per dozen

**Dog Treats!**

Don't forget your fur babies! Homemade dog treats for sale on Sunday at the annual PW Cookie Sale. Look for Anita! \$5 dozen- pay in the kitchen

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Did You Know?

**Northminster  
Presbyterian Church**

6800 Tezel Road  
San Antonio, TX 78250  
210-680-4825

Email:

[npcoffice@npcsatx.org](mailto:npcoffice@npcsatx.org)

Website:





## This Week at Northminster

### For Further Information check the calendar on the church website at

#### Calendar

##### Sunday, Dec 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 A.M. - Sunday School (All Ages)  
10:30 A.M. - Worship: Choir Christmas Cantata  
Children's Church  
11:45 A.M. - Annual PW Cookie Sale  
Fellowship Hour  
Property Management Ministry Meeting

##### Monday, Dec 15

10:00 A.M. - MMG Bible Study via Zoom  
7:00 P.M. - Helotes Area Community Band Concert

##### Tuesday, Dec 16

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. - WorldSchool SA Homeschool  
6:30 P.M. - Line Dancing Class

##### Wednesday, Dec 17

10:00 A.M. - PW Meeting and Christmas Potluck  
2:30 P.M. - Soundbath Class

##### Thursday, Dec 18

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. - WorldSchool SA Homeschool

##### Friday, Dec 19

11:30 A.M. - Men's Luncheon - BJ's Alamo Ranch

##### Saturday, Dec 20

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. - Church Workday

##### Sunday, Dec 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 A.M. - Sunday School (All Ages)  
Breakfast With Santa - Youth

10:30 A.M. - Worship Service

Children's Church

11:45 A.M. - Fellowship Hour



#### Prayer List

##### Members:

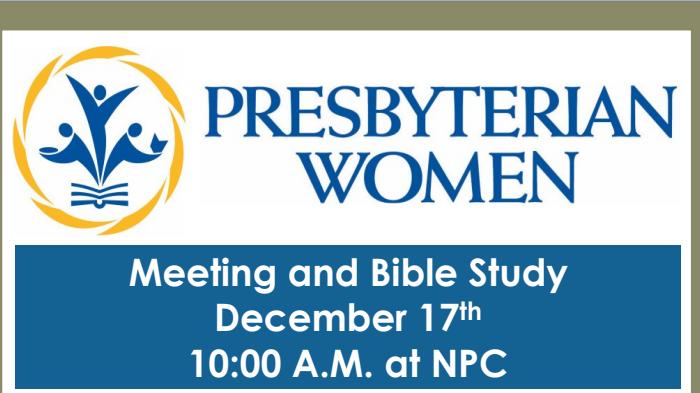
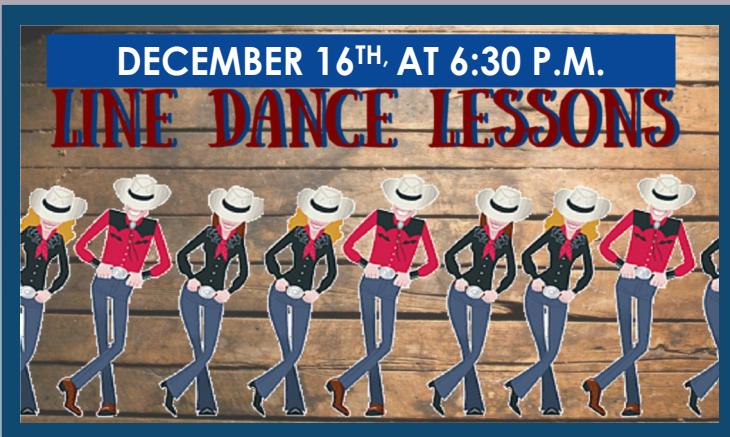
- ◆ Georgia Hale
- ◆ Eunice Damon
- ◆ Bill & Louise Bischoff
- ◆ Guy Greene
- ◆ Myron Leet
- ◆ Nancy Moore
- ◆ Margie Brown
- ◆ Ken & Carol Polsz
- ◆ Karen Currie
- ◆ Cynthia & Jack King
- ◆ Deborah & Phil Starr
- ◆ Family of Jim Clark

##### Friends

- ◆ Gretchen Lewis
- ◆ Zach McManus
- ◆ Letha Adams (Suzanne's Mom)
- ◆ Mary Rand (Hip Surgery)
- ◆ William Smith (nephew of Mike Moore)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



# A Joy the World Cannot Steal

Joy is a beautiful word, but we often misunderstand it. We frequently pair it with happiness—as though joy is the result of everything going smoothly and life unfolding just as we planned. Yet the scriptures for this third Sunday of Advent tell a different, deeper story. Joy is not rooted in our circumstances; it is anchored in the God Who saves, Who restores, and Who is faithful even when the light seems slow to dawn.

Isaiah proclaims a joyful vision to a weary people: “*The desert shall rejoice and blossom*” and “*joy and gladness will overtake them.*” This promise is spoken NOT when Israel is comfortable, but when they are longing for redemption and waiting for God to act. Joy blossoms not because the desert is gone—but because God is coming into it.

Psalm 146 echoes this hope: joy rises in remembering Who God is—the One Who keeps faith forever, gives justice to the oppressed, and lifts up those who are bowed down. Our joy is not wishful thinking; it is trust in a God Who has acted, Who continues to act, and Who will fulfill every promise.

In James’ epistle, we are reminded that joy grows through patience: “*Be patient, therefore... until the coming of the Lord.*” Like farmers who wait through seasons of uncertainty, we wait with hope. Joy doesn’t deny the struggle—it endures within it, confident that God is already at work in ways we cannot yet see.

And then we meet John the Baptist in Matthew’s Gospel. Even he—faithful, fiery, devoted—wrestles with questions and doubts from his prison cell: “*Are you the One Who is to come?*” Jesus responds not with frustration but with assurance: look at what is happening—blind eyes open, the poor hear good news, the kingdom is breaking in. Joy is not the absence of the prison cell; it is the presence of Christ within our questions.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy—not a joy that denies hardship, but one that stands firm in the midst of it. The world may feel dry, weary, anxious, or divided—but Advent joy says the desert will bloom. Advent joy remembers that God keeps His promises. Advent joy looks for signs of the kingdom breaking through in unexpected places. Advent joy believes that Jesus is still Emmanuel—God with us.

As we move closer to Christmas, may our hearts be renewed with the joy that does not fade with changing emotions or uncertain futures. For joy has a name, and His name is Jesus. And wherever He is welcomed, joy takes root—quietly, gradually, faithfully—until it blossoms into life that cannot be taken away.

May we carry this joy into a world that deeply needs it. Joy that listens, serves, forgives, and hopes. Joy that lifts others up and points always to the Savior Who has come and is coming again.

Rejoice—Christ is near.

[Phil Wickham - Joy To The World \(Joyful, Joyful\) \(Official Music Video\)](#)

[Chris Tomlin - Joy To The World \(Unspeakable Joy\) \[Lyric Video\]](#)

LADIES, JOIN US FOR OUR  
**CHRISTMAS  
POTLUCK**

DECEMBER 17, 2025 AT 10 A.M.

Presbyterian Women's  
luncheon after our Bible Study.  
Please bring hygiene products  
to donate to CAM!

Full-size items needed:  
shampoo, soap, body wipes,  
deodorant, toothpaste, tooth  
brushes, lotion, body wash.

**SIGN UP SHEET IN THE FAMILY ROOM**



# WEEKLY STANDINGS

Sunday Saints Fantasy Football League Week 14 Results



## Division 1

Jay's Rad Team (Jay Young)  
 Bill Young's Awesome Team (Bill Young)  
 Big Ed's Swell Team (Eddie Pope)  
 Maxwell Kirby (Maxwell Kirby)  
 Ann's Astounding Team (Ann Strautman)  
 Holly's Primo Team (Holly Perry)

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Jay's Rad Team (Jay Young)	11	3	0	1703.02	2
Bill Young's Awesome Team (Bill Young)	9	5	0	1683.06	4
Big Ed's Swell Team (Eddie Pope)	7	7	0	1567.72	5
Maxwell Kirby (Maxwell Kirby)	6	8	0	1414.18	8
Ann's Astounding Team (Ann Strautman)	5	9	0	1669.38	9
Holly's Primo Team (Holly Perry)	2	12	0	1481.76	12

## Division 2

Ja`Marr You Not Entertained? (Sara Young)  
 Glitz and Blitz (Danielle Courchesne)  
 Fantasy Failures (Michael Moore)  
 Brian's Cheeky Champs (Brian Perry)  
 Action Jackson (Jackson Young)  
 Fire Drill Maddie (Maddie Young)

Ja`Marr You Not Entertained? (Sara Young)	12	2	0	1677.50	1
Glitz and Blitz (Danielle Courchesne)	10	4	0	1606.70	3
Fantasy Failures (Michael Moore)	6	8	0	1647.46	6
Brian's Cheeky Champs (Brian Perry)	6	8	0	1560.32	7
Action Jackson (Jackson Young)	5	9	0	1594.30	10
Fire Drill Maddie (Maddie Young)	5	9	0	1429.38	11

## Week Fourteen Results

Jay's Rad Team - 103.80 def Holly's Primo Team - 97.90  
 Ann's Astounding Team - 179.16 def Maxwell Kirby - 111.34  
 Glitz and Blitz - 127.78 def Fantasy Failures - 106.14  
 Brian's Cheeky Champs - 147.86 def Action Jackson - 100.06  
 Big Ed's Swell Team - 97.18 def Bill Young's Awesome Team - 92.56  
 Ja'Marr You Not Entertained? - 119.04 def Fire Drill Maddie - 83.76

## Playoff Matchups - Quarter Finals

Maxwell Kirby vs Ja'Marr You Not Entertained?  
 Big Ed's Swell Team vs Bill Young's Awesome Team  
 Glitz and Blitz vs Fantasy Failures  
 Jay's Rad Team vs Brian's Cheeky Champs

# NPC HAPPENINGS



The NPC Music Ministry's annual Christmas party was held on Friday, December 5th, at the home of Charlie and Marcia Hare.



These are some of the types of instruments used in our recent Sound Bath session. The next session will be next Wednesday, December 17th at 2:30 P.M. in the sanctuary. Come check it out!



The Bells of Northminster handbell choir rehearses for upcoming December worship services they will be ringing for.



A small but mighty group from the SonShine Singers visited Blue Skies of Texas on December 3rd.



The NPC SonShine Singers visited Seasons Memory Care on Sunday, November 30th where NPC member, Georgia Hale resides.



NPC Dinner 6 group hosted by Jay & Melynn Young met at Mare e Monte Italian Restaurant in November. This fall semester NPC had six different Dinner 6 groups that met once a month for dinner and fellowship. This semester will conclude with a joint potluck dinner at NPC on January 2nd. Be on the lookout for sign-ups for the spring semester in January. Dinner 6 is a fun way to get more involved and get to know the people at NPC!

# 2025 SERVING OF GRACE



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

## Monday Morning Group Bible Study via Zoom

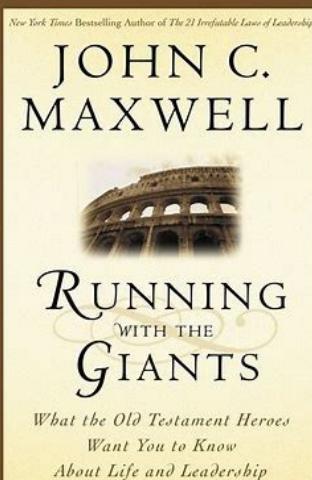
Monday Morning Group  
(Recurring every week on Monday at 10:00 A.M.)

[Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671038799?  
pwd=NGdrdlZNM2FXQWpudVlaYTdSSzhvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671038799?pwd=NGdrdlZNM2FXQWpudVlaYTdSSzhvQT09)

Meeting ID: 896 7103 8799

Password: 018474



### *Running With the Giants*

After taking a break for the holiday season, this book study, led by Jay Young, will resume in January. The group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Pastor Dana's house.

The next meeting will be on January 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

## KiDS KORNER



Click for the CE December Newsletter:

<https://app.smore.com/n/wz3vt>

# WORSHIP

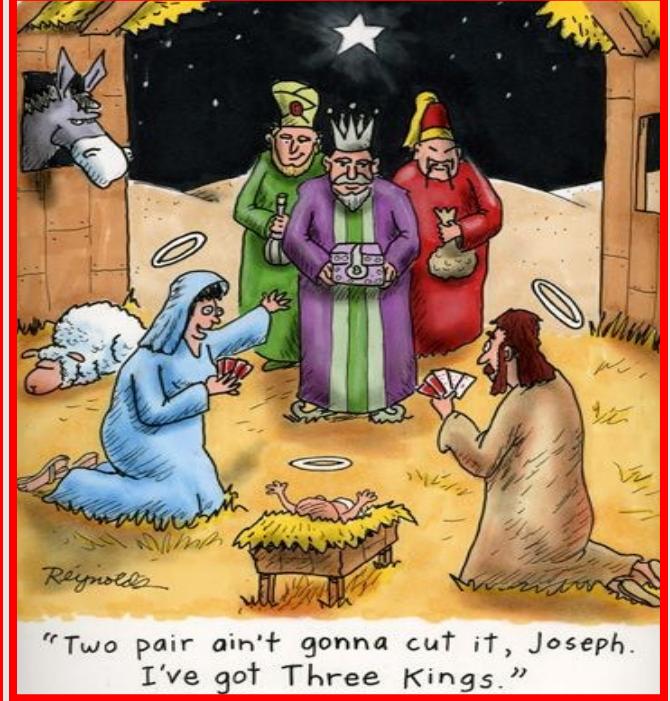
If you're unable to attend Northminster Presbyterian Church's weekly worship service in person, you can view it on NPC's YouTube channel on Sundays at 10:30 A.M.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVyafEQzKv7Vol235zQ8Qw>

The YouTube livestream of the worship service can be conveniently accessed from the homepage of our website. Just click on the button "Live Stream Services."



# Joke of the WEEK



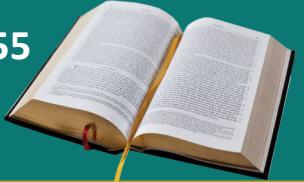
Lectionary Readings for the week of December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

Matthew 11:2-11



# Weekly Meditation Time

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER

Holy God, at the dawning of this day  
new life blossoms like the crocus,  
and fresh promise wells up like a spring.

As I go forth in Your presence,  
confirm my resolve to worship You,  
strengthen my hands to serve Your people,  
and keep me always in Your holy way;  
through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## Questions for Reflection

What does the kingdom of heaven have to do with the signs that Jesus describes for John's disciples: "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them" (Matt. 11:5)?

Where have you seen or heard such things?

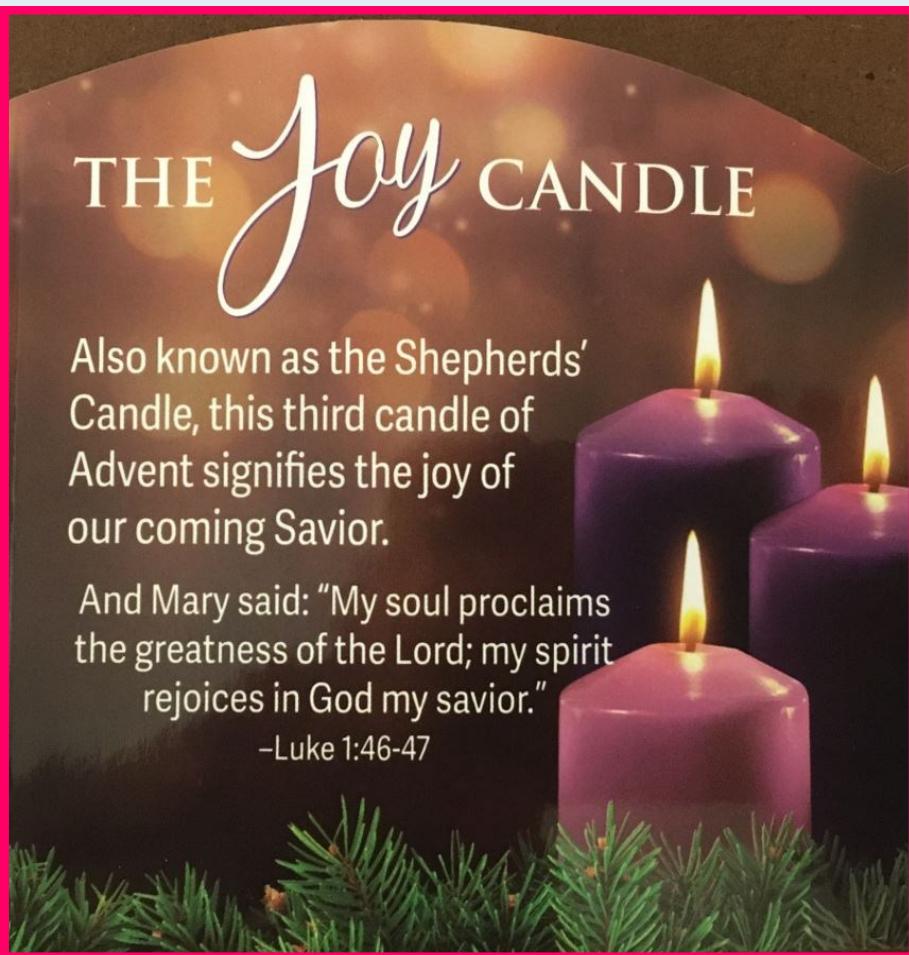




# CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.npcsatx.org](http://www.npcsatx.org)

## Weekly Food For Thought



Did you know?

**Did You know** that each year during Advent, NPC hosts two special music events and both of them occur this week? This Sunday during the 10:30 A.M. worship service, the NPC choir will perform a Christmas Cantata with orchestra. Then, on Monday, December 15th, at 7:00 P.M. the Helotes Area Community Band will perform a free Christmas concert at NPC. You don't want to miss these special holiday events. Invite your friends and family and make plans to come enjoy the sounds of the season.



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