



# NORTHMINSTER NEWS

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, MS

March 18, 2020



As I write these words, the full weight of the Covid-19 pandemic has begun to settle around us; a germ no one can see, bringing changes no one can escape.

There is much about this about which to be sad: the isolation of separation; the loss, for students and parents, of the structure of school days; the loss, for some, of childcare, and, for others, of work and income; the loss of the fellowship we find in, and the strength we draw from, sitting together in Bible classes, book studies, and small groups; the empty sanctuary which, if only we could gather together, would be filled to overflowing; all of us, unable to be together at the very moment when we most need to hold a hymnal, see a friend, share a pew, and say, with many beloved voices, *“And also with you.”*

Like all other moments, this will pass. Someday, this strangest of seasons will be a memory and a story. But, for now, it is neither. For now, it is here; ours to face and bear.

We will go through this difficult moment which we did not get to go around. And, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will emerge from it more gentle and empathetic, mindful and tender, thoughtful and kind.

In the meantime, what can we do? We can pray for those who are most affected; some by the virus itself, others by the precautions which seek to hasten its containment. We can be especially gentle with one another, for many are feeling vulnerable, uncertain and afraid. We can check on those who may need our help, knowing there will be some needs we cannot meet, content to do only what we can. We can call, write, email and text those who are most isolated. We can remind our children, ourselves, and one another, that all times, good and bad, happy and sad, come to an end. And, this one, hard as it is, will too.

And, until then, we can remember that, though we may not be together, we are not alone. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God who created the universe thirteen billion years ago, the God who raised Jesus from the grave, is with us. And, in love and friendship, thought and prayer, we are with one another in ways which transcend space and time; resting, together, in the light of that ancient and beloved promise, *“Though we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us to comfort us,”* and living, together, in the light of that beautiful old admonition from Colossians chapter three, *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in the one body, and be thankful.”*

-Chuck Poole

## CAREGIVING CONCERNS:

### CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS:

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Maret and Steve Watson, on the death of Maret's father, Tom Sanders. And also to Zack, Conner and Jon-Sanders Watson.

### ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS:

Sue Edwards	Pat Walston	Roxanne Aldridge
Vivian Thompson	Martha Collum	Virginia Hamilton
R. W. McCarley	Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee
Jack Cochran	Nancy Herrin	Robbie Cross

Martha Quarles, mother of Lori Quarles  
Louise Lott, mother of Cindy Griffin  
Hazel Smith, mother of Marcia Poole  
Mary Hendrick, mother of Janet Clark

Remember those in military service: Bartavian Stanton and Chris Spencer

## THIS MONTH/WEEK IN ACTION



### —DEACON OF THE WEEK—

**March 15-21**  
Jo Ann Ratliff

**March 22-28**  
Kirk Sims

**March 29-April 4**  
Nancy Smith

**April 5-11**  
Gray Jackson

**April 12-18**  
Rebecca Wiggs

### —CAREGIVING—

**CAREGIVING CHAIR FOR MARCH**  
Faye Barham

**CAREGIVING CHAIR FOR APRIL**  
Annette Hitt

**CAREGIVING COORDINATOR FOR MARCH**  
Sheila Nicholas

**CAREGIVING COORDINATOR FOR APRIL**  
Jean Welsh

### CAREGIVER(S) OF THE WEEK

**March 15-21**  
Janice Joyner

**March 22-28**  
Amy Williams  
Ann Vickery

**March 29-April 4**  
Nancy Bourn  
Sheila Nicholas

**LITURGIST FOR MARCH**  
Richard Joiner

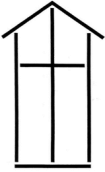
**LITURGIST FOR APRIL**  
Joe D. Rankin

**FLOWERS FOR MARCH**  
Kathryn Davis, Susan Burnham,  
Mary Elizabeth Smith

**FLOWERS FOR APRIL**  
Lisa Kelly, Jan Stewart,  
Kandy Sims, Joe D. Rankin

**USHER CAPTAIN FOR MARCH**  
Nancy Smith

**USHER CAPTAIN FOR APRIL**  
Keith Davis



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### **STUDENT NEWS:**

**Mystery Trip: June 1-5.**

\$250. Sign up before April 15. Space is limited.  
Contact Major to sign up.

**Passport: July 11-17.**

Cost \$425. Contact Major to sign up.

### **Brumfield House**

**March 19**

Anne Guidry

**March 26**

Mike Peters

**April 2**

Chuck Poole

The Worship and Music Committee has prepared a personal and family worship guide for Lent, entitled "*A Lenten Journey, 2020.*" Copies are available throughout the church during the entire Lenten Season.

Please take copies and share them with family and friends for a richer Lenten experience.

# Northminster Birthdays

## April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <i>Paul Buckley            Nolan Jones            Anne Peters            Brock Ratcliff            Lindy Root            Martha Thomas            Jake Williams</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Robert Grenfell Jr.            Lee Parrott</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Mary Phillips Beard            Josie Sones            Steve Walkinshaw            Scott Wilson</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Leigh Aden Box            Steven Burnham            James Jefferson            Graham Levanway            Janie Luter            Ruby McLeod            Sidney Montgomery            Carter Stockett</i>
<b>5</b> <i>Joe M. Rankin            Ozzie Williams            Martha Worley</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Mary Sue Douglas            Fred Krutz            Dawn Warrington</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Janet Clark            Eric Welsh</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Emily Benzenhafer            Stone Caver</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Parkes Denton            Elizabeth Prestel</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Missy Caver            Rocky Crocker            Norman Perkins            Sam Sanders            Madeleine Wylie</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Pamela Clark            Robin Harvey            Margery Van Meter            Clay Wooley</i>
<b>12</b> <i>Lucy Davis</i>	<b>13</b> <i>J. W. Caver            Michelle Hardge            Julie Wooley</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Mims McLennan</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Lexii Murphy            Stephen Smith</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Andrew Mahaffey            Elizabeth Peters            Ella Jane Simmons</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Harriet Brewer            Blakely Fender            Mary Fox            Janice Gilreath</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>Gloria Montgomery            Kate Walkinshaw</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Marilee Cleveland            Todd Everett            Ginny Lloyd            Anna Mitchell Peters            Michael Williams</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Kay Hedglin</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Beverly Lawrence            Sandra McDaniel            Van White            Dudley Wooley</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Jimmy Allen            Mona Evans</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Gray Bridges            Reynolds Clark            Brooks Elfert            Elta Johnston            Dianne Metzner            Suzan Thames</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Dave Peterson</i>
<b>26</b> <i>Wright Daniels            Dawn Perkins            Mallie Thomas</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Cori Ely            Christopher Hedglin</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Amanda Clark</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Dowling Guyton            James Guyton            Dolores Watkins</i>	<b>30</b>		