



NORTHCROSS

C H U R C H

Loved. Equipped. Sent.

Senior Pastor - Dr. Gary Purdy
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Worship Director - Ben Chapman
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Administrator – Angela Howard
angela@northcrosschurch.com

Children’s Director –
Emma Chapman
emma@northcrosschurch.com

Elders (*Ministry Oversight*)
Damon Anderson (*Children & Youth*)
Mark Andrews (*Missions/Outreach*)
Hudson Belk (*Life Groups*)
Matt Estler (*Deacons*)
Matt Seiter (*Sunday morning*)
Scott Tew (*Calendar & Curricula*)
Dean Whitehill (*Men & Women*)

Deacons

Mark Bankert
Justin James
Reuben Vandezande
Joel Campanella, Treasurer

Women Shepherds

Pat Andrews, Jean Edwards,
Holly Stone, Lynn Whitehill

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Cornelius, NC

northcrosschurch.com

Welcome to NorthCross Church!

Whatever your spiritual disposition
- skeptic, seeker, follower -

we are glad you are with us today and pray that you
experience the grace of our Lord.

Our desire is to have our hearts strengthened
by the grace of Christ and to share that grace with the
community of Lake Norman.

Our Mission

NorthCross Church exists to facilitate a gospel movement
throughout the communities that make up Lake Norman
for the glory of Christ.

Our Vision

To be a people who are Loved by God,
Equipped by the Gospel, and Sent into our communities.

Loved: Experiencing God’s love and the love of one another
in community

Equipped: Growing in our knowledge of the gospel and
strengthened to share it with others

Sent: Engaging in the mission of God within our local communities

Sunday Morning Children’s Ministry Information:

Sunday School: 9:30 am (children age 3 – high school)

*All children are welcome to stay with their parents in the
worship service! Also available:*

Nursing room: adjacent to the sanctuary. Turn on the
speaker to hear the sermon.

Nursery: provided during the worship service for babies and
children up to age 2

Children’s church: ages 2 & 3 in the toddler room
ages 4 - 2nd grade in the early elementary room

**Children will be dismissed from the service during the Passing of
the Peace. They will return before Communion. The teachers will
bring the children to the sanctuary and help find their parents.*

Wifi Network: NCC **Password:** #northcrosschurch1

WORSHIP SERVICE

March 3, 2024

Meditation

“Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life more marked by routine than by reflection. After a lifetime of mundane regularity or unconsidered adherence to the trappings of faith, Lent requires me, as a Christian, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on in me. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out.”

- Joan Chittister
The Liturgical Year

Call to Worship

Read Together

*Book of Common
Prayer*

All: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Preparing for Worship

With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to quiet ourselves and prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship

God calls us to worship because God exists and speaks first. Therefore, our worship is answering God. We answer him by offering what we are to who God is. The Call to Worship is a way to proclaim God as he is, while also challenging what we worship daily.

GOD'S PEOPLE WORSHIP

Songs of Worship

See The Conqueror
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Confession of Sin

The prayer of confession invites us to speak words that are remarkably honest about how our thoughts, feelings, actions and words can curve inwards. This kind of honesty does not come naturally in our relationship with God or with others. But confession is liberating when we sense the greater power of Jesus' love.

Confession of Sin

Read Responsively *Belgic Confession*
Article 15

Leader: We believe

All: that by the disobedience of Adam original sin has been spread through the whole human race.

Leader: It is therefore so vile and enormous in God's sight that it is enough to condemn the human race,

All: seeing that sin constantly boils forth as though from a contaminated spring.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Leader: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Assurance of Pardon

This is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession. These are God's affirming words, his forgiveness of us because of Jesus Christ.

Song of Thanksgiving

God Be Merciful to Me

LIFE TOGETHER

Passing of the Peace

**Children ages 2 through 2nd grade dismissed for Children's Church*

Announcements

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Tithes and Offerings

We give as an act of faith, remembering his faithfulness as our provider and joining with God's people in expressing our dependence on him, in obedience to be generous with all we have as he is generous to us.

CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:26-39

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dr. Gary Purdy

Lent – Facing Fallenness in Evil Forces

Sermon

The sermon is teaching based on the Scripture Reading. The role of the sermon is to explain the truths of the Bible and apply them in our lives. This is not just an intellectual function; our hearts are to be affected by the words of God preached.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Song of Response

*Create in Me a Clean Heart/
Create in Me*

The Lord's Supper

Belgic Confession (1561), Article 17

Leader: So then we confess

All: that God fulfilled the promise made to the early fathers and mothers by the mouth of the holy prophets when he sent the only and eternal Son of God into the world at the time appointed.

The Son took the "form of a slave" and was made in "human form," truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation.

And Christ not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order to be a real human being.

For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, Christ had to assume them both to save them both together.

Song of Receiving

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Benediction

The Lord's Supper

Jesus Christ promised to meet (or commune) with his people in a special way through this "sacrament" - from the Latin word meaning mystery. We experience Christ's spiritual presence as we eat in faith. The Lord's Supper points us to the finished work of Christ at the cross and in the resurrection on our behalf.

Benediction

"Benediction" means "a good word" or blessing. In this blessing God gets the last word, promising to be with us as he sends us out into the world, carrying the hope, joy and love of Christianity's central message (the gospel).

This Week's Calendar

- 3.3 Daybreak Prayer, 7:30 am
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service, 10:30 am
Congregational Meeting, after worship
- 3.6 Women's Bible Study, 9:30 am
Youth Life Group, 7:00 pm
- 3.7 Women's Bible Study

Announcements

Women's Small Table - Women are invited to upcoming Small Tables and enjoy a meal and intentional fellowship:

3/11, 6:30 pm @ Jean Edward's home

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - March 23, 3:00 pm at the Edwards home (14001 McCord Rd., Huntersville).

Communicants Class - Offered the 4 Sundays in April during the SS hour for children in 3rd-5th grades who have expressed an interest in their faith and church membership.

Life Groups meet regularly for fellowship, prayer, service and study.

Contact one of the leaders if you would like to attend.

Huntersville: Sunday

Hudson Belk, hudsonbelk2@hotmail.com

West Lake Norman: Sunday

Matt Estler, mdestler5@gmail.com

Greg Howard, gwhow1961@gmail.com

East Huntersville: Sunday

Roger Edwards, roger.edwards55@gmail.com

RUF Davidson is hosting a forum with British author and apologist, Rebecca McLaughlin entitled, "Why Bother with Easter?" This will deepen your confidence in Jesus' resurrection and offer an opportunity to bring your friends who may not believe in Jesus' resurrection. This free event is at 7 p.m. Wed., March 13 in the Chambers Building Lilly Gallery on Davidson's campus.

This week's Mission + Outreach Organization Paths of Hope Ministries, Peru Billy & Kate Greenman

Connect Card - If you are new to NorthCross and want to connect, or if you have a prayer request, use this QR code and fill out the form online.



Daybreak Prayer at 7:30 am:

The session invites us to join in prayer for NorthCross during this time of transition. Please join us Sunday mornings at 7:30 am via Zoom (link is in the Weekly News).

Cornelius: Sunday

Jonathan Skolrood, jonathan.skolrood@gmail.com

Cornelius: Sunday

Cole Beardsley, coleb96@vt.edu

Davidson: Sunday

Matt Seiter, matthew.seiter@gmail.com

NorthCross Church YTD Financial Summary

(for fiscal year 2023/2024; as of January 31, 2024)

Congregation Giving - Actual \$187,234 vs. Budget \$196,457

Expenses (less Missions, Deacons & Facility) - Actual \$149,946 vs. Budget \$199,674

Missions expenses \$15,345 Deacon's Fund expenses \$1,552

Worship Facility Received \$227,642 | Non-restricted cash position \$629,355