

# WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Thursday, August 15, 11 AM @ Depot Grill

Please join us at Depot Grille on Thursday, August 15th for book club. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. and share lunch as we discuss our latest book. The book for August is "the little liar" by Mitch Albom.

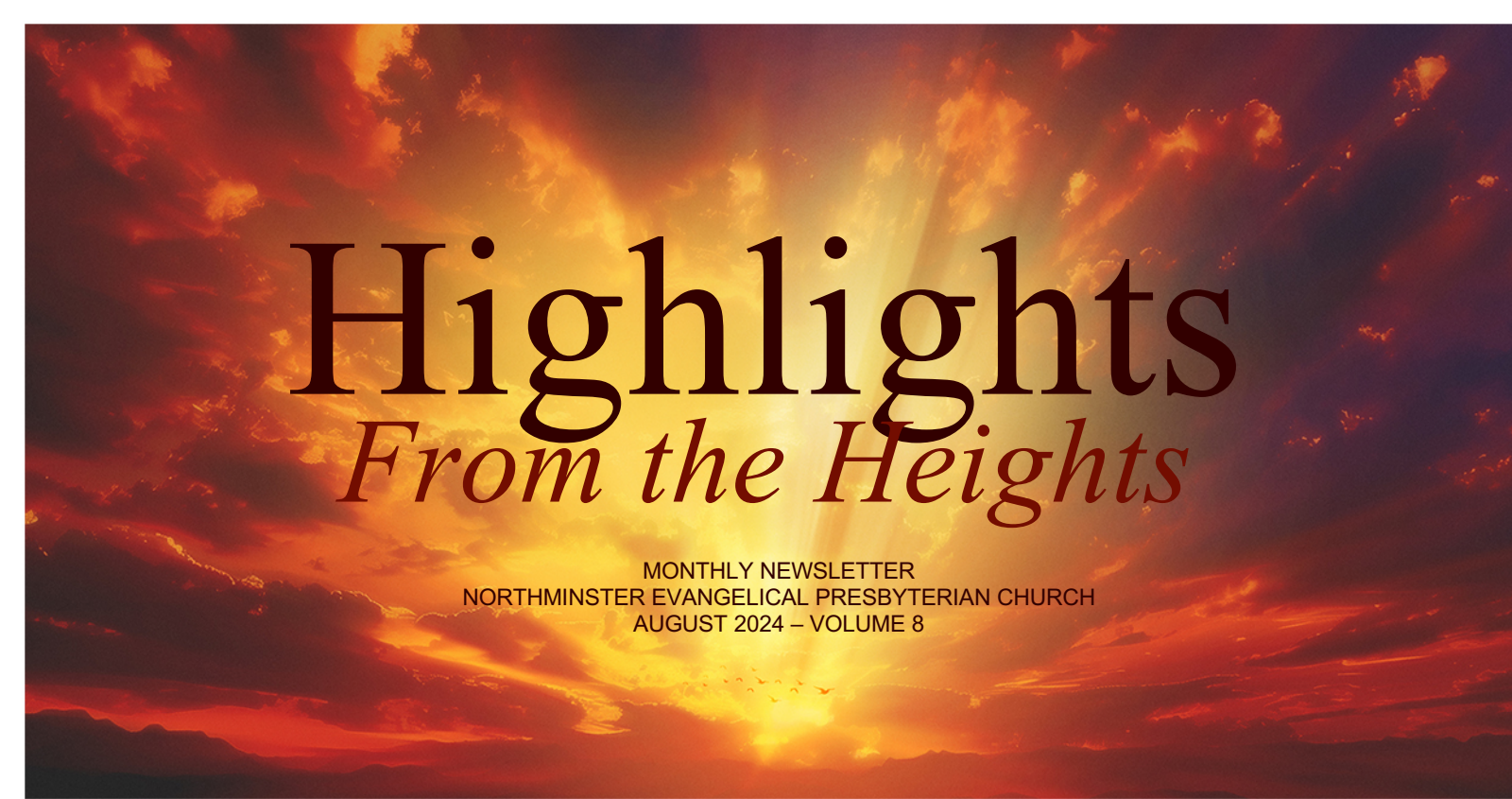
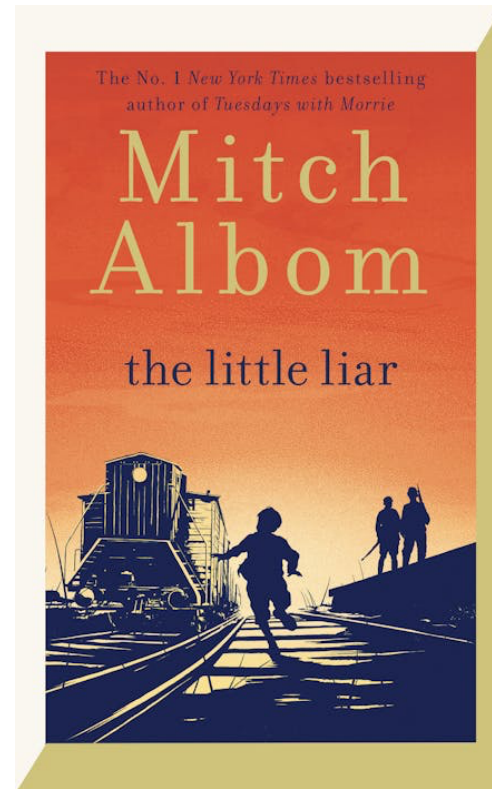
*This is an unforgettable story of truth and lies set during the Holocaust. Eleven year old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading "north" where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a*

*cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day.*

*But when the final train is loaded, Nico sees his family being herded into a boxcar. Only then does Nico discover that he has helped send them – and everyone he knows and loves – to their doom in Auschwitz.*

Join us on Thursday, August 15th for a great time! Come whether you have read the book or not, come if this is your first time, come and enjoy fellowship and a delicious lunch!

Any questions call Sharon Bryant at 434-942-8566.



## PASTOR'S CORNER — A Threat to Our Very Existence?

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. — 2 Cor. 4:7-12 ESV*

In a few months we will have the opportunity to exercise our civic duty and vote for who serve as president of our country for the next four years, along with a slew of other national, state and local offices. Those who are running for office, regardless of party affiliation or anything else, have pretty much one message: My opponent is a threat to our very existence, so vote for me. Usually there's a bit more nuance to that statement, but that's the effect. However, there's been little to no nuance about it of late. One candidate is painted as a threat to democracy, the other as a threat to your freedom. To elect the other is to choose the path of destruction of all that we hold dear. It all sounds pretty scary and dire, which is what it's trying to do. Fear is a powerful motivator and very, very effective.

However, we are reminded in 2 Timothy 1:7 that "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." Those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ no longer need to be afraid for several reasons. First, we don't need to be afraid because God is fully in control of all things. In the book of Job, Satan has to ask permission in order to persecute Job. In the prophets, Israel's enemies are only allowed to attack her when God permits it. In the book of Revelation, Satan and his evil forces are bound by the Lord in what they are allowed to do. On this side of glory, there's much we don't understand about why God allows the things He does, but we can trust that He knows what He's doing and that He's always in control.



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Secondly, we don't need to be afraid because "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12) At first glance, that kind of actually seems scarier. But not when we remember two things: 1) that Jesus has already defeated the spiritual forces of evil on the cross and 2) when Jesus Christ comes back, all of the forces of evil and darkness will be eradicated completely. Evil might seem to have the advantage for a moment, but ultimately the victory has already been decided and won.

Finally, we don't need to be afraid because the Christian exists in the ultimate win-win situation. That's the point of the Scripture passages above and below. In the passage from 2 Corinthians, Paul reminds us that no matter how bad things might get, we will not be crushed, nor despairing, nor forsaken, nor destroyed because Jesus is with us, strengthening and encouraging us at all times. The passage below from Philippians reminds us that even if we die, we will then see Jesus face-to-face. So if we live, we become more like Jesus, and if we die we get to be with Jesus. I'm not saying it's always going to be fun and smooth sailing, because that's certainly not true. I am saying that we don't need to be afraid of whatever comes our way, even if it's suffering and especially if it's death.

The politics of fear are powerful and effective. But when we step out of the fear cycle and live in the peace and security we have in Jesus Christ, we bear witness to something far greater and stronger than fear: the amazing grace and love of God the Father, made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and made effective through the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit. As we move through the next few months, may the grace of God comfort and strengthen all of us, reminding us that no matter the rhetoric, we don't need to be afraid.

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

### Philippians 1:18-24

*Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

# LIFE TOGETHER

Keeping in touch with one another

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 21 Jackie Hodges
- 21 Bob Mills
- 25 Emmalynn Kidd
- 27 Kristin Kidd



### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

John & Linda Lange – August 4, 1973

### PRAYER REQUESTS

*I sought the Lord, and He answered me;  
He delivered me from all my fears.*  
– Psalm 34:4

**Several members** have asked for prayers for needs that they'd prefer not to share publicly. Please lift up these prayers, knowing that God knows for whom you pray and what they need.

**Karey Garrison** is healing from outpatient surgery.

**Pam Tinsley** is healing from foot surgery.

**Debbie Irvine** is healing from a recent dental procedure.

**Anne Wilkins** is healing from ankle surgery.

**Jude Nyanzi** asks for prayers for his wife **Vivian** as they discern how best to treat her clogged fallopian tubes.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Pat Callahan, Arlene Horton, Margie Seal, Dot Stinnett, and Dolores Wright.**

**All active servicemen and women, law enforcement personnel, first responders.**

# SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE'S "DANIEL" IN LYNCHBURG!

Sight & Sound is broadcasting LIVE into movie theaters nationwide! It's brand-new original production, DANIEL, goes from the big stage to the big screen in a special movie theater event.

Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled inside the perilous kingdom of Babylon. As he navigates this new life, will his trust in God remain steadfast through every test of faith? From the fiery furnace to the infamous lion's den, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family.

Gather your loved ones and witness one of the Bible's most powerful stories as it comes to life in movie theaters across the country in a live broadcast, Friday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. (Additional taped showtimes are August 31, September 1, and September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.)

Some members and friends of our congregation have been blessed to visit the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA, to see biblical plays performed live. Now there is an opportunity to see this live broadcast of DANIEL at Regal River Ridge. So if you aren't able to travel all the way to Lancaster, you can take advantage of this opportunity right in our back yard!

For more information or to reserve tickets, visit <https://www.danielevent.com/tickets>. If you have additional questions, check with Liz Boothe.

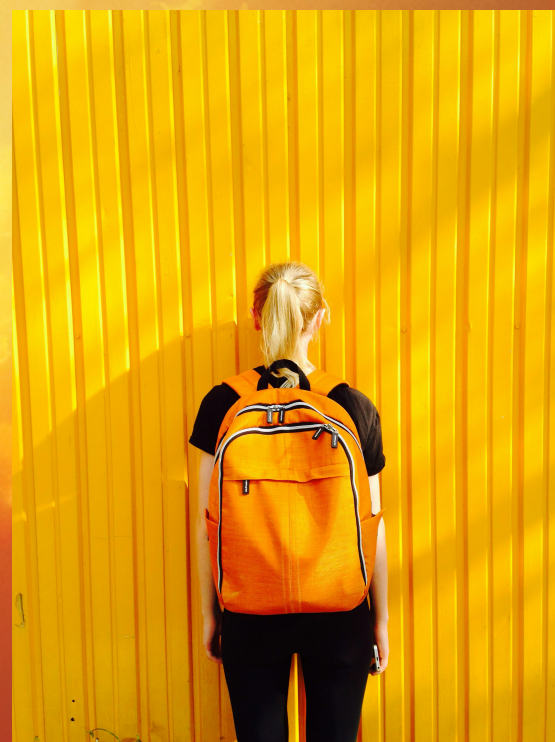


## AUGUST 2024 MISSION FOCUS: Amherst Cares

Amherst Cares or "The Backpacking Program" is our mission focus for this month. Started in September 2010, Amherst Cares is the collaborative effort of school, community, churches, and individuals to provide weekend, holiday, and summer food to the neediest students in the Amherst County School System.

This program provides food for hundreds of needy students. As a result, the people in Amherst are making a connection with the message of love and caring in ways that are relevant to the present challenges in life. Amherst Cares is an advocate for our neediest students, an advocate for collaboration between our churches, and an advocate for church, school and community as well.

Amherst Cares is very grateful and thankful for the support received. When the students ask where the food comes from, the school personnel reply, "from people who care."



### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2024 GENERAL FUND

	June	Year To Date
Income	\$13,857	\$65,590
Expenses	\$10,212	\$68,315
Balance	\$ 3,645	\$ -2,725