



the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
APRIL 2020

IN GOD WE STILL TRUST

As I sit down on March 16th to write this article for the April ENCOURAGER, our state, our country, and our world are dealing with some uncertain times as a result of the virus that continues to spread. Regardless of whether you believe in or doubt the legitimacy and seriousness of the health concern, our way of life is being impacted, altered, and restricted.

People are anxious, worried, and scared about what is happening and what could happen. The President had declared Sunday, March 15th as a National Day of Prayer to encourage Americans to spend time with God and seek His help and intervention. I supported that and participated in that. It did, however, cause me to think about other situations of crisis that brought people together in prayer to call upon God for His presence to be felt.

My thoughts went back to the Israelites of the Old Testament, who, so many times, went through periods where they abandoned God. They chose to worship other gods, to let sin rule their lives; rebelling against Jehovah God's commandments only to eventually come to the realization that they needed God, His blessings, and His guidance. As I think about the path we have taken as a nation of people, in which taking God's name in vain has become acceptable but any reference to praising, worshipping, and keeping God as an integral part of our lives often gets met with criticism, disgust, and hatred . . . that is until we are faced with a crisis and then we reluctantly take hold of God's hand and cry out, "God save us" from whatever crisis that we are powerless to handle ourselves. Are we that much different from those Israelites?

(continued...)

Church Events

4.4

Helping Hands Pantry

4.18

Helpings Hands Pantry

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In March 2005, the country singing group, Diamond Rio performed a new song at one of its concerts, "In God We Still Trust". When some want to eliminate any reference to God from our money, our monuments, our schools, and our way of life, I continue to be moved to tears any time that I hear that song. As Christians, followers of Jesus and children of Almighty God, we need to remain committed to our faith in God at all times, not just as an act of desperation when life has brought us sadness, pain, uncertainty, and loss. The chorus of Diamond Rio's song is as follows:

"In God, we still trust here in America;
He's the one we turn to every time the going gets rough.
He is the source of all our strength, the one who watches over us.
Here in America, in God, we still trust."

There is no way to predict what the weeks and months to come will bring. Any and all positive attention given to God throughout this difficult time is a blessing and may help to revitalize some people's belief in the Creator. My challenge and my encouragement to each of you who choose to read this is not to lose faith or waver in your commitment to believing in God and keeping Him at the center of your lives at all times. Let's be reminded of the strength, comfort, and reassurance in the words found in these passages from the book of Psalms . . .

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song." (Ps. 28:7)

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Ps. 46:1)

"I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation." (Ps. 118:13-14)

"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands." (Ps. 63:1-4)

Regardless of the situations we may face, the inconveniences we may encounter, or the skepticism we may hear; as Christians let us commit to ensuring our words, actions, service, and faith always indicate our resolve that In God We Still Trust.

--Tim FIRM

ATTENTION BROTHERS: If you are listed to serve (i.e. prayer, preside, communion, scripture, usher, etc.), please meet in the Youth Office (across from the men's restroom) at 10:20 am each week.

Those to Serve –April 12, 2020

Children's Church: Pat Williams, Asha Price
Communion Trays: Wanda Long
Audio/Video: Mark Murray
Security: Ken Maupin
Nursery: Deanna King, Julia Garcia
Greeters: N. Delores Warkins S. Holly Bertram
Mailbox: Brenda Mohler, Colleen Crown
Computer: Sara Maupin
Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Prayer: Ernie Stubblefield, Bret Hagerman
Scripture: Wayne Morris
Ushers: Scott Seigrist, Justin Reese
Preside: Jerry Gibson

1A John Parker	2A Ken Lynch
1B Larry Jones	2B Chris Youssi
3A Ron King	4A Adam Zomok
3B Jeff Hagerman	4B Tyler Zomok

Shut-Ins: Adkins
Kingdom Kids: Elizabeth Soter, Naomi Gibson

Those to Serve –April 19, 2020

Children's Church: Sandi Riffle, Sandy Youssi
Communion Trays: Wanda Long
Audio/Video: Justin Reese
Security: Joe Nicosia
Nursery: Debbie Letsinger, Holly Bertram
Greeters: N. Gibsons S. Joan Wadsworth
Mailbox: Brenda Mohler, Colleen Crown
Computer: Pam Reese
Worship Director: Ed Long
Prayer: Scott Seigrist, Justin Reese
Scripture: Simon-Peter Broughton
Ushers: Doug Soter, Marcus Price
Preside: Sid Long

1A Ernie Stubblefield	2A Jaye Lavern
1B Marcus Cassidy	2B Ken Maupin
3A Joe Nicosia	4A Mark Murray
3B Greg Peck	4B Joe Nicosia

Shut-Ins: Maupins
Kingdom Kids: Cathy Firm, Asha Price

Those to Serve –April 26, 2020

Children's Church: Elizabeth & Mignon Soter
Communion Trays: Wanda Long
Audio/Video: Tyler Zomok
Security: Rick Phillips
Nursery: Delores/Lisa Warkins, Pam Reese
Greeters: N. Liz Willis S. Pat Williams
Mailbox: Brenda Mohler, Colleen Crown
Computer: Mary Riley
Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Prayer: Chris Youssi, Steve Adkins
Scripture: Ed Long
Ushers: Greg Peck, Ken Lynch
Preside: Bret Hagerman

1A Scott Weir	2A Wayne Morris
1B Scott Seigrist	2B Marcus Price
3A Justin Reese	4A Jeremy Schulz
3B Doug Sotger	4B Ron Willis

Shut-Ins: Lynch
Kingdom Kids: Julie Cavallaro, Debbie Letsinger

Prayer List

· Anneka Broughton
Mary Enfield

· Jason Willis

Ken Maupin

Lea Schorer – no visitors at this time please

Andrew-James Broughton

Pat McRill · Dar Hinrichs Frances Hughes

· Larry Borrison John Parker · Becky Zomok Jan Morris

· Brenda Hill—friend of the Cervantes family who was diagnosed with cancer

Sonya Puentes – friend of the Cervantes family; has cancer

Bolen's nephew Tim – dealing with chronic knee issues and scoliosis

Donny Hoffman- Chuck Mausehund's nephew who has cancer and is going through chemo treatments

Pete Denby – friend of the Lyman's who is awaiting a liver transplant

Sabrina Freter – a friend of Katie Schulz who was diagnosed with acute myelogenous Leukemia

Lisa Broege – friend of Dar Hinrichs, diagnosed with MS

Kate Marschang – daughter of a friend of Jackie Garcia who is being treated for ovarian cancer

Brandi Ostergard – friend of Wendy Williams who has cancer

Steve Burdge – Sally Battha's nephew; liver transplant

Dave Bogenschutz – friend of Dustin Arreguin who is dealing with a rare form of cancer

Charlene Govert – friend of Gayle Bolen who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Frank Lott – is now under hospice care

Earline Nipps – is back at home after having been hospitalized for a mini-stroke

Lonny Fortin – Lonny has been having some back pain

Chris Isom – in room 108 at Rock River Healthcare

Myrtle Williams – fell and broke bones in her leg/ankle

Tony Nicosia – recovering from infection after knee surgery - is now at home

Dean Aske – having nose bleeds and high blood pressure issues

Larry Borrison's step daughter Keisha – having surgery in March

David Hagerman – Jeff Hagerman's brother, was in a car accident and broke several bones

John Anderson – fell on some ice and injured his leg

Dulane Willis – recovery is going as expected

Maddison Zomok – fell and broke her foot

Michelle Hutchison – Tammy Weir's sister in law, recently diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatment

Tim Loos— friend of Jeff Hagerman who has a very rare lung disease and needs a transplant but is having a hard time finding a transplant center to work with. Is currently dealing with

Kathy Hagerman— in the hospital with kidney and bladder infection

Pantry Sub List

Justin Reese	815-299-0762	Jaye Lavern	815-608-4465
Elizabeth Soter	815-721-0405	Jeremy Schulz	630-418-0371
Cameron Maupin	815-978-3362	Ken Maupin	815-262-1487
Mary Riley	815-988-7440	Sara Maupin	815-262-0303
Tammy Weir	815-751-0866	Naomi Gibson	815-742-2291
Katie Schulz	630-418-0372	Cathy Firm	815-298-6341
Maxine Byrne	815-494-2512	Liz Willis	815-494-0595
Joan Schmidt	815-708-3993	Brenda Mohler	815-505-7205
Pat Seifert	815-871-7236	Tim Firm	815-914-1782

U I Z V D X J D Z M L V C Y Q W X R K D R W Q X
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JONAH	ABRAHAM	ADAM	DAVID
DINAH	EVE	GOLIATH	ISAAC
JEHOVAH	JESUS	JONATHAN	JOSEPH
MARY	MOSES	NOAH	REBEKAH
SAMUEL	SARAH		

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Gloria Gregory's bday	3 Soyler Nicolsa & Gayle Bolten's bday	4 Parity to-noon
5	6 Adkins & McGowan's ann.	7 Linda Lynch's bday	8 7 pm Bible Study HHP Food Delivery Ed Long's bday	9 4:3 pm Pantry	10	11
12 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Debbie Letsinger's bday	13	14 Tim Seifert's bday	15 7 pm Bible Study Jim McGowan's bday King's ann.	16	17	18 Pantry 10-noon Marcus Price & Michael Kemp's bday
19 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	20 Scott Weir's bday	21	22 7 pm Bible Study HHP Food Delivery	23 6-8 pm Pantry	24	25
26 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	27 Carter Whitmire's bday	28 Parker's ann.	29	30 Berglund's ann.		

Happy Easter

NEWS & EVENTS

--The church email has officially converted to NorthParkCofC@gmail.com The old address won't be checked for much longer so make sure you have changed it in your address book

--Please remember that if you have donations for Essentials you can drop off on the first Thursday of every month from 5—6 pm.

-- The Helping Hands Pantry is considered an essential service and will continue to operate during the Governor's Stay at Home order but changes to the pantry day operations have been made so that we are able to operate with fewer volunteers.


For those of you who usually work at the Pantry on our open dates: Please email Sandy Youssi (1st Saturday) or Jerry Gibson (3rd Saturday) to find out what is needed from you for your normal date.

--Ashley is working on a project and would LOVE any old pictures you have with people from North Park in them. They could be pictures of events at North Park, at RCC, or just a group of friends fellowshiping with each other. If you have them in digital form, you can send them to npcc@sbcglobal.net but if you only have hard copies, you can bring them to church and she will scan them and get them back to you asap. Trying to get a good sampling from every decade so any help is greatly appreciated!!!

--It makes me sad to say that we are going to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt this year.

--A reminder to everyone that if you or a loved one is hospitalized for any reason and you would like the church family to know, please contact the church office (or Tim or Ashley directly on the weekends) to let us know, the hospitals won't necessarily contact us for you.

--Bobby, Debbie, Dylan, and Braydon Letsinger have a new address: 6078 Torch Lite Trail Loves Park, IL 61115



The North Park Church of Christ is committed to sharing Jesus with our community and the world; while encouraging the spiritual development of our youth, strengthening the bond of our families, and serving the needs of our senior adults to build a church known by its love and message that flows from the very heart of God.

Where Friends Learn to Live and Love Like Jesus

MINISTER

Tim Firm - cell phone: 815.914.1782

CONTACT US:

Phone—815-633-4253

Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com