



the  
*Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

*April 2022*

## ROOM TO GROW

How frustrating it must have been for Jesus to deal with the Pharisees, scribes, and teachers of the law in His day. Seems as if they had all the answers, were superior in their religious convictions (just ask them), and had every right to be arrogant (so they thought). I'm not sure how Jesus kept from completely losing it when having to deal with such arrogance.

Jesus came to open doors: the doors of mankind's hearts, the doors of salvation, and the doors of heaven. His death on the cross and His resurrection cleared the way for any and every person to access the saving grace of God, even the Pharisees.

While Jesus ministry focused on things like forgiveness, prayer, humility, service, compassion, and love; His message wasn't always well-received. He was constantly challenged by those who felt threatened by His ever-increasing popularity and His acceptance of those who society had discarded.

After all, what could the son of a carpenter know that the religious leaders of the day didn't already know? What could someone who hung out with fisherman, tax collectors, and the poor teach the self-proclaimed righteous? (They had so much room to grow, if they would only have listened with an open heart.)

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*...continued.*

*Jesus, are you trying to tell me that I am supposed to associate with and love sinners, the lame, the blind, the uneducated, and even those annoying little children? Look at the things I do . . . here is my resume in case you aren't up to speed on what it means to be among the religious elite.*

*Excuse me, Mr. Pharisee, but I notice a few items missing from your resume, from your list of accomplishments, from the praises that you shower onto one another. I don't see humility. I don't see unselfishness. I don't see a heart for God. Oh, and I definitely don't see unconditional love for all.*

As much as we may not want to admit it, there are times when we can take on the attitude of the Pharisees . . . when we see ourselves as the standard for spirituality, as having all the right answers, as the only ones in line when righteousness was being handed out.

Arrogance isn't going to attract anyone to studying the Bible or choosing to become a follower of Jesus Christ

*“<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

*Colossians 3:12-14*

but love will, humility will, unselfishness will, forgiveness will. But hey, don't believe me; I'm the son of a millworker. Instead, listen to the words of the Son of God in Mark 12: 28-31 (NIV) “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’

‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’”

We can grow by learning from the mistakes of those in the New Testament who saw themselves as superior. We can grow by learning from the example Jesus set when “he made himself nothing by taking on the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:7, NIV).

We all have room to grow when it comes to love, forgiveness, service, compassion, humility, kindness, and living rightly.

~ Tim ~

ATTENTION: If you are listed to serve and are unable to, please contact Wayne Morris to let him know as soon as possible.

Those to Serve –April 3, 2022

Worship Director: Ken Maupin  
Opening Prayer: Tim Firm  
Preside: Chris Youssi  
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia  
Scripture Reading: Scott Seigrist  
Greeters: Jennie Adams & Brenda Mohler  
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady  
Usher #1: Jeremy Schulz  
Usher #2: Joey Nicosia  
A/V Booth: Scott Weir  
Security: Tim Firm  
Church Mailbox: Joan Schmidt, Joan Wadsworth  
Nursery: Mignon Soter

Those to Serve –April 10, 2022

Worship Director: Sid Long  
Opening Prayer: Marcus Cassady  
Preside: Jose Cervantes  
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia  
Scripture Reading: Chris Youssi  
Greeters: Firms  
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern  
Usher #1: Ron Willis  
Usher #2: Justin Reese  
A/V Booth: Mark Murray  
Security: Joe Nicosia  
Church Mailbox: Joan Schmidt, Joan Wadsworth  
Nursery: Valerie Nicosia

Those to Serve –April 17, 2022

Worship Director: Jordan Siracusa  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Gibson  
Preside: Simon-Peter Broughton  
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia  
Scripture Reading: Tim Barton  
Greeters:Gregorys  
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady  
Usher #1: Jeremy Schulz  
Usher #2: Ken Lynch  
A/V Booth: Tyler Zomok  
Security: Jerry Gibson  
Church Mailbox: Joan Schmidt, Joan Wadsworth  
Nursery: Elizabeth Soter

Those to Serve –April 24, 2022

Worship Director: Ken Maupin  
Opening Prayer: Ron King  
Preside: Ken Lynch  
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia  
Scripture Reading: Steve Adkins  
Greeters: Wadsworths  
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern  
Usher #1: Wayne Morris  
Usher #2: Tyler Zomok  
A/V Booth: Adam Zomok  
Security: Jaye Lavern  
Church Mailbox: Joan Schmidt, Joan Wadsworth  
Nursery: Pat Seifert

# Women of the Bible

Y M I V P B M A F P I F X S J V B F M C D H J S  
 O S A R A H N W A U Q U C R U S L P H Z L L Q F  
 W W K R R N J H A K E B E R N L A V Y V Y V L C  
 U S O E A X C V Z X V Z B H M C V C Z M N S L T  
 L W F M O H H W Y H M A R T H A Q R F K I V R  
 Q Q F O C G C H Y U B V B Z S U Z D R O X R Y L  
 L W F G X M H K F F I B S S W U R P O E D E M L  
 I M X M O A D X R Z O R B A T H S H E B A L A T  
 D M Y A L X T E Q C Z R A H A B P H H R Q I R D  
 J F P I P V I N B L N E T I T Y T A C J U Z Y Q  
 V Z L R T U Z S V O V D W E G R R L C Q E A H J  
 A E G I O B F K W T R H K U O O E T Q D E B D L  
 D J C M C M B V H R Q A D J P B P E T U N E D Z  
 O L B M I X E X B V L P H P E E R J D F O T W C  
 I E T W L G U I R M C H I Z V P K I D Y F H E R  
 Q A Q L U H X N E Z T Z E B C S N U U C S Z C L  
 L H G L E Y L K H T B J Y A I A J S K E H U L C  
 T Y A K S U H W T A I O G Q H X Z E Y P E R I A  
 U R I M O A N Q S M G S Q D M Y O V J M B E Z R  
 E B J Y N U I I E Z U F C M I H S E M I A I Z U  
 S W M N M V A B G U X X I I S L E H C A R C B I  
 I O A X L D Q U L E I P E R Q P M K S U K P F L  
 Q H V X Y M A R Y M A G D A L E N E E Y O L E P  
 K N K M F C M Y D A P N Y X T X M B L H O K P M

Zipporah	Hannah	Esther	Deborah
Dorcas	Eve	Martha	Sarah
Bathsheba	Mary Magdalene	Mary	Miriam
Rachel	Rebekah	Leah	Gomer
Elizabeth	Dinah	Delilah	Anna
Jezebel	Rahab	Queen of Sheba	Naomi
Ruth			

## 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

# Prayer List

**Jason Willis**

**Anneka Broughton**

**Donna Fincher**

**Sue Ann Diaz**

**Helen Holland**

**Lucy Chamberlain**

**Wendy Williams**

**Brandi Ostergard** – friend of Wendy Williams who is recovering from cancerous tumor surgeries

**Mike Trank** – Melanie Lavern's dad, being treated for cancer

**Kevin Sircloumb** – tumor on his brain stem

**Gregory Willis** – Ron Willis's brother, diagnosed with Myeloma

**Earline Nipps** – has started chemo treatments

**People of Haiti** – please continue to keep Haiti in your prayers as the political strife in the country continues

**Lindsey Farley** – friend of Katrina Whaley's, recovering after a bad car accident

**Jan Lavern** – leg is doing better and she is back to work. Still in therapy

**Deckard family** – friends of the Morris/Zomok family who are going through a lot after a cancer diagnosis and a job relocation

**Myrtle Williams** – recovering from surgery

**Greg Jines** - friend of the Morris's who is being treated for stage 5 kidney disease

**Sherry McKuen and Dr. Rigsby** - two of Lisa Warkins' friends who were recently diagnosed with cancer

**Joan Wadsworth** – dealing with an auto-immune flare up

**John Parker** – recent lymph node biopsy came back cancerous

**Jan Morris** – dealing with a lot of pain

**Mary Spohnholz** - home from the hospital

**Kim Bertram's father** – in the hospital

**Mary Ann Sircloumb's niece** – being treated for severe burns

**Family of Michelle Hutchison** – Tammy Weir's sister in law who recently passed away

**Lynn Rivard** – friend of Richard & Maxine Bowers who was recently diagnosed with cancer

**Melinda Willis** – awaiting results of a biopsy

**Pat Williams** - cracked rib from a fall and other issues

# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Pantry 10:00am Gloria Gregory's bday
3 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Soyer Nikosia & Gayle Boten's bday R/T Hageman's ann.	4 ROMEO Club	5	6 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Devot/Singing Adkins & McGowans ann.	7 6-7 pm Pantry	8 Ed Long's bday	9
10 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship LIFE Group Sunday	11	12 Debbie Letsinger's bday Blanket Ministry workday @ 9am	13 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Devot/Singing HHP Food Delivery	14 Tim Selfert's bday	15 King's ann.	16 Pantry 10:00am
17 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Linda Lynch's bday	18 Ryleigh Voligs & Marcus Price's bday	19	20 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Devot/Singing Scott Weir's bday	21 6-7 pm Pantry	22	23
24 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship LIFE Group Sunday	25	26	27 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Devot/Singing HHP Food Delivery	28 Parker's ann.	29	30 Berglund's ann.

Happy  
Easter



## NEWS & EVENTS

- If you would like make a donation to RCC to help with raising funds for the cabin siding, you can write a check made to RCC or you can go to this website <https://rockfordchristiancamp.org/cabin-keepers/>
- If you are able to help Bret and Jerrica with moving, painting, organizing, etc. as they help the family they are working with, please let them know
- **Reminder that there will be no LIFE Groups on Sunday, March 27th**
- The 2022 Directories are now available and on the tables in the hallway. For now, please only take 2 per household
- The elders have formed a Minister Search team and have begun the process. If you know of a candidate that would want to be considered, please provide them with the email address for them to request more information. The email address is: [NPCoCMinisterSearch@gmail.com](mailto:NPCoCMinisterSearch@gmail.com)
- **The dates for the 2022 season at Rockford Christian Camp**
  - Memorial Day Retreat (ages 10-14) - May 27th - May 30th
  - Senior Week (7th –12th grade) - July 8th - 16th
  - Junior Week (2nd - 6th grade) - July 16th - 23rd

Elder's Group E-Mail Address  
northparkcofcelders@gmail.com

Steve Adkins  
eldersteveadkins@gmail.com

Jeff Hagerman  
elderjeffhagerman@gmail.com

Joe Nicosia  
elderjoenicosia@gmail.com

Ken Maupin  
elderkenmaupin@gmail.com

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***

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Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com