



the
Encourager

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 2022

North Park's New Adventure is Here! Ready?!

In approximately 2 years since March of 2020:

- COVID affected all our lives and in March 2020 affected the way we met and we found a way to meet *outside* for, I think it was, 10 Sundays in a row (also must be a record for sunny Sundays in a row for Rockford! Rockford, you are welcome. It's because God wanted us to meet!) And it still affects us halfway through 2022: no communion or contribution tray passing, chair configuration, some in masks, ionic air purifiers, people with sniffles stay home, we still meet less and gather at our building together ...less. :(
- Tim Firm appointed 4 elders in August 2020 after we were without for several years, and they in-turn appointed new ministry leaders and deacons
- In 2021 we slowly crept back from 2 services to 1 service, eventually to judgment-free zone masking policies and the chairs started to magically move closer together again until we settled in at an average attendance of around 125 at Sunday worship services. Thanks be to God that we never had a COVID outbreak from our services, and members that got it elsewhere lovingly stayed home that week. Thank you, God, that we had no members die of COVID so far. Many thanks to the AntiVirus Team ("A-Team") for all the planning, efforts and nudges to sanitize and mask and distance, but only as long as we had to.
- Tim & Cathy Firm retired in 2022 and as of June have moved away to live near their girls after many years of being a strong force in the direction of North Park, helping keeping it alive when many northern, and everywhere else, congregations and churches of all kinds closed their doors.
- Ashley Gregory, who's been our Ministry Assistant and main communication point for the church for about 8 years is migrating to another job outside the church by the end of 2022, being replaced by new Mama Katrina Whaley.
- In June of this year, the elders have hired a new minister who starts August 7th!

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Time for our New Adventure to begin!

Bear with me while I do that thing you should do with your kids before you go to a relative's house for the first time (or every time, act.), which is trying to help set their expectations of what's about to happen, like: "Okay, kids, we're almost to Aunt Agnes' house. She has a cat that doesn't like to be petted. Only sit on the furniture with the plastic covers on them. Take your shoes off on the mat at the door. Use your inside voice unless she says to speak up. Don't run in the house, because you might break something in her nice displays ('nice displays' = a nice way to say 'clutter'). She always has ice cream and cookies and if we're good, she'll offer you some. Say please and thank you." Why should the poor kids get put in time out for not knowing they shouldn't sit on the chair with no plastic cover..."it looked comfy to me and nobody was sitting there!"

No. Obviously, nobody's getting put in time out when Roddy comes, but, in preparation, the elders want us ALL to be thinking and praying about the new opportunities we each have with these changes that have changed our whole leadership and office. We are asking the congregation to pray daily about having your hearts and minds in a gear to be ready to support Roddy as our minister when he starts August 7. There will be things showing up on the church website and in announcement sheets to prepare for his first sermon series. He has a Sunday plan through next February already! As a member of Christ's church since your baptism, commit today to whatever things he and we propose and see what happens. Pray to have an open mind, open heart and openness to change. Open up your schedule to whatever is scheduled and show up. Decide now that you will do all readings or 'homework' given. Volunteer for any things that need volunteers. Don't hide any talents under a bush...even if you think your only talent is showing up! Get out of your comfort zone if asked to help with something different ("I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength", right...so, if I'm not willing to get out of my comfort zone, then who is in control of my life, really?)

Imagine if the things we all decide now to commit to and participate in and say 'Yes!' to actually lead us to a better place in our walks with God and with each other, and then Jesus-seekers show up here and see it and start saying to themselves: "*I know they are all different from each other in age, in talents, in jobs, in where they are from, in what sports teams they like, etc., but their ability to be so devoted to one another in worship and work together is proof that they are Jesus' followers. I need to be part of it and find out how to be one, too!*" (Hint: In John 13:34-35 Jesus says this is what should happen!)

- Ken Maupin

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 –August 7, 2022

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Justin Reese
Preside: Kevin Spaw
Ann/Closing Prayer: Stan Gregory
Scripture Reading: Steve Adkins
Greeters: Weirs
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Usher #1: Jeremy Schulz
Usher #2: Zane Schulz
A/V Booth: Tim Barton
Security: Jaye Lavern
Church Mailbox: Gloria Gregory & Colleen Crown
Nursery: Valerie Nicosia

Those to Serve –August 14, 2022

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Jeremy Schulz
Preside: Scott Seigrist
Ann/Closing Prayer: Stan Gregory
Scripture Reading: Jeff Hagerman
Greeters: Reeses
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady
Usher #1: Joe Nicosia
Usher #2: Joey Nicosia
A/V Booth: Mark Murray
Security: Jerry Gibson
Church Mailbox: Gloria Gregory & Colleen Crown
Nursery: Mignon Soter

Those to Serve –August 21, 2022

Worship Director: Sid Long
Opening Prayer: Joe Nicosia
Preside: Wayne Morris
Ann/Closing Prayer: Stan Gregory
Scripture Reading: Scott Seigrist
Greeters: Soters
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Usher #1: Jose Cervantes
Usher #2: Max Cervantes
A/V Booth: Adam Zomok
Security: Joe Nicosia
Church Mailbox: Gloria Gregory & Colleen Crown
Nursery: Elizabeth Soter

Those to Serve –August 28, 2022

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Scott Weir
Preside: Jerry Gibson
Ann/Closing Prayer: Stan Gregory
Scripture Reading: JJ Whaley
Greeters: Murrays
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady
Usher #1: Wayne Morris
Usher #2: Adam Zomok
A/V Booth: Tyler Zomok
Security: Ken Maupin
Church Mailbox: Gloria Gregory & Colleen Crown
Nursery: Pat Seifert

One Minute After You Die

“Is heaven real?”

Knowing your forever can shape your today.

When you think about the afterlife, what do you wish you knew?

Is there life after death? What's it like?

What is Heaven like? Will I know people there?

What does the Bible say about Heaven and Hell? This could change everything, forever.

You don't have to know the answers to your questions about life after death, but you can have faith in what happens *One Minute After You Die*.

****New series starts August 7.

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	Liz Willis	815-494-0595
Maxine Bowers	815-494-2512	Brenda Mohler	815-505-7205
Joan Schmidt	815-708-3993		
Pat Seifert	815-871-7236		

Prayer List

***Those with ongoing health issues

Prayer List

Jason Willis	Donna Fincher	Sue Ann Diaz	Lucy Chamberlain
Wendy Williams	Helen Holland	Earline Nipps	Mike Trank
Myrtle Williams	Joan Wadsworth	Gregory Willis	Kevin Sircloumb

The families and the victims of the shootings in Uvalde, TX, Laguna Woods, CA, and Buffalo, NY and Highland Park, IL

People of Haiti

People of Ukraine

Anneka Broughton – At home, recovering from surgeries (7-27-2022)

Brandi Ostergard – friend of Wendy Williams who is recovering from cancerous tumor surgeries (7-27-2022)

Lindsey Farley – friend of Katrina Whaley's, in therapy for cognitive issues following an accident (7-27-2022)

Jan Lavern – leg is doing better and she is back to work. Still in therapy (7-27-2022)

John Parker – having low dose treatments every 3 weeks to shrink cancerous lymph nodes (7-27-2022)

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

Ellie Krepfle – daughter of a former student of Gloria Gregory, born with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome and recently found out that she has cancer in her kidneys and is now done with her first round of a 6 month course of treatment (7-27-2022)

Marsha Herndon – will begin immunotherapy and chemo on June 23rd (7-27-2022)

Cathy Oswald – friend of Gloria Gregory, at home but remains under hospice care after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (7-27-2022)

Billee Jo Schmidt (Tracey Meinert's friend) - father has prostate cancer that has spread to his bones (7-27-2022)

Bonnie Cole – in a nursing home with multiple health issues (7-27-2022)

Hans Hausfeld – husband of a close friend of Sara Maupin's who has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma and is in the hospital after a recent cardiac arrest. Doing better every day, coming out of coma and off the ventilator (7-27-2022)

Dustin Arreguin – has been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ROMEO Club	2 Duilane Willis & Karen Erdman's bday	3 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Meet @ building to visit Tammy Weir's bday Murray's ann.	4	5 Stan & Gloria Gregory's 50th Anniversary Open House 5 - 8 pm Olivia Circinacione & Ken Rodden's bday Stan & Gloria Gregory's ann.	6 Pantry 10 - noon
7 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Podluck after morning Worship	8	9 Blanket Ministry Grant Gregory's bday Garcia's ann.	10 10:00 am Bible Study HHP Food Delivery Letzinger & Broughton's ann.	11 6-7 pm Pantry	12	13
14 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	15	16 Eva Mae Hagerman's bday Reese's ann.	17 10:00 am Bible Study	18 Earline Nipp's bday	19 Ken Lynch's bday Lynch's ann.	20 Pantry 10-noon Brent Garcia's bday
21 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	22	23 Drake Nicosia's bday	24 10:00 am Bible Study HHP Food Delivery	25 6-7 pm Pantry Valerie Nicosia's bday	26 Linda Castrae & Chris Youser's bday	27
28 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	29	30	31 10:00 am Bible Study			



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/donate/>

- Everyone is invited to an Open House celebrating Stan and Gloria Gregory's 50th anniversary this Friday, August 5th from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at The Twisted Tulip located at 7901 Burden Road in Machesney Park

- This summer, everyone is invited to meet at the church building on the first Wednesday night of the month at 6:30 pm and we will visit members we haven't been able to see in awhile

- We will be having a potluck after worship on Sunday, August 7th to welcome Roddy and Corina Tate to North Park.

- Congratulations to Katrina and JJ Whaley at the birth of their new daughter, Isla Faye Whaley. Isla was born Tuesday, July 26th at 2:36 in the afternoon. Everyone is home and doing great!!

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

CONTACT US:

Phone—815-633-4253

Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com