

the Encourager

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER - 2019

PREPARATION

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." (Exodus 13:17).

Reading through the story of the exodus, I came across this verse some time ago, and thought it interesting that even though Israel had just seen Egypt utterly decimated by the 10 Plagues, God recognized that Israel still needed time to separate itself from Egypt in a peaceful way. Instead of throwing them "from height to height," God gave them rest a time of rest and peace so they could be mentally and spiritually prepared for what was coming. We know they were already physically prepared, since in verse 18 we read "And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle."

Israel had the physical tools necessary to get the job done; God had already seen to that. However they did not have the mental and emotional (and likely – spiritual) tools that were needed. They had been slaves for generations. They were no Spartans, trained for battle from childhood. They were brick makers, bakers, and sheep herders.

(continued...)

Mark Your Calendar

12.2

ROMEO Club

12.7

Helping Hands Pantry

12.10

Blanket Ministry Work Day

12.14

Helping Hands Pantry

12.15

Donut Sunday

12.21

Helping Hands Pantry

12.22

Christmas Caroling

Continued from front page...

And so God took Israel the long way. He destroys the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, He feeds them mana and quail from heaven, He provides water for the nation from a large rock, He meets them on Mount Sinai showing His power and giving His Law. He confirms His covenant and tells them of the conquest of Canaan they are about to embark on. He gives the instructions for building the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant. Then He fills the Tabernacle with His glory and rests on the Ark.

In all these things God takes the time necessary to prepare His people. He shows them what it means to be His chosen people, and does everything necessary to equip them to carry out His will. Rather than throwing them in the deep end, He shows them how to swim, then says “Go.”

We see the same in the New Testament. The Apostles live with and listen to Jesus for 3 years, day in and day out. The entirety of Paul’s life appears as one big preparation before he meets Jesus on the road to Damascus. The church is in near-constant prayer and encouragement together from when Jesus ascends to the Day of Pentecost. We see God prepare His people, then tell them to act.

And act they do! Israel (after a bad miss), takes over Canaan. The Apostles preach and teach no matter what persecution comes. Paul goes across the known world teaching the Gospel. The church grows and spreads.

Things are the same for us. You may be in a time of preparation, or a time of action. It takes a genuine look at things to see which it is. If you are in a time of preparation, be prepared to take action when the time comes. If you are in a time of action, use what God has prepared you with to the best of your ability. But wherever we are, let us be faithful, trusting that God will lead if we will follow.

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 –December 1, 2019

Children's Church: Pat Williams, Gloria Gregory
Communion Trays: Grace/Cathy Sharp, Julie Caval-
laro
Audio/Video: Adam Zomok
Security: Gregorys
Nursery: Delores/Lisa Warkins, Debbie Letsinger
Greeters: N. Jennie Adams S. Murray
Mailbox: Judi Rogers, Pat Williams, Jeanne
Wadsworth
Computer: Brenda Mohler
Worship Director: Sid Long
Prayer: Chris Isom, Russ Lyman
Scripture: Tim Firm
Ushers: Ron King, Jordan Siracusa
Preside: Jerry Gibson
1A John Parker 2A Steve Adkins
1B Peter Gaddis 2B Simon-Peter Broughton
3A Wayne Morris 4A Ed Long
3B John Castree 4B Jim McGowan

Shut-Ins: Adkins
Kingdom Kids: Bret Hagerman

Those to Serve –December 15, 2019

Children's Church: Brenda Mohler, Sara Maupin
Communion Trays: Grace/Cathy Sharp, Julie Caval-
laro
Audio/Video: Justin Reese
Security: Kemps
Nursery: Grace Sharp, Holly Bertram
Greeters: N. Joan Schmidt S. Soters
Mailbox: Judi Rogers, Pat Williams, Jeanne
Wadsworth
Computer: Pam Reese
Worship Director: Ed Long
Prayer: Simon-Peter Broughton, Justin Reese
Scripture: Jerry Gibson
Ushers: Wayne Morris, Jaye Lavern
Preside: Ernie Stubblefield
1A Russ Lyman 2A Ken Lynch
1B Joey Nicosia 2B Bret Hagerman
3A Jose Cervantes 4A Adam Zomok
3B Tim Firm 4B Tyler Zomok

Shut-Ins: Kings
Kingdom Kids: Elizabeth Soter & Naomi Gibson

Those to Serve –December 8, 2019

Children's Church: Mignon & Elizabeth Soter
Communion Trays: Grace/Cathy Sharp, Julie Caval-
laro
Audio/Video: Scott Weir
Security: LIFE Groups
Nursery: Deanna King, Julia Garcia
Greeters: N. Simon-Peter Broughton S. Nicosias
Mailbox: Judi Rogers, Pat Williams, Jeanne
Wadsworth
Computer: Sara Maupin
Worship Director: Jordan Siracusa
Prayer: Joe Nicosia, Jeremy Schulz
Scripture: Marcus Price
Ushers: Greg Peck, Ken Lynch
Preside: Bret Hagerman
1A Jerry Gibson 2A Stan Gregory
1B Larry Jones 2B Ken Maupin
3A Justin Reese 4A Jaye Lavern
3B Ron King 4B Jeff Hagerman

Shut-Ins: Sharps
Kingdom Kids: Cathy Firm

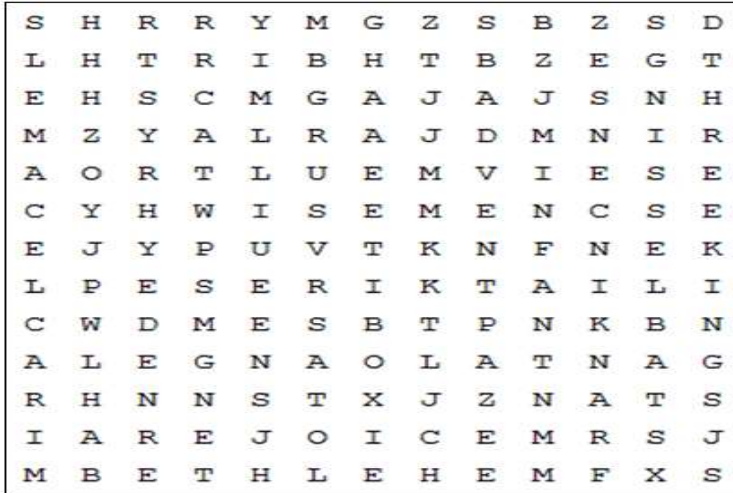
Those to Serve –December 22, 2019

Children's Church: Grace Sharp, Julia Garcia
Communion Trays: Grace/Cathy Sharp, Julie Caval-
laro
Audio/Video: Tyler Zomok
Security: LIFE Groups
Nursery: Mignon & Elizabeth Soter
Greeters: N. Joan Wadsworth S. Gregorys
Mailbox: Judi Rogers, Pat Williams, Jeanne
Wadsworth
Computer: Mary Riley
Worship Director: Tim Firm
Prayer: Jeff Hagerman, Wayne Morris
Scripture: Scott Weir
Ushers: John Castree, Ken Maupin
Preside: Jason Willis
1A Ernie Stubblefield 2A Mark Murray
1B Scott Seigrist 2B Joe Nicosia
3A Jeremy Schulz 4A Greg Peck
3B Marcus Price 4B Doug Soter

Shut-Ins: Lynch
Kingdom Kids: Debbie Letsinger & Kathy Hager-



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

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

- **Anneka Broughton**
- **Lea Schorer** – no visitors at this time please
- **Pat McRill**
- **Larry Borrison**
- **Becky Zomok**
- **Brenda Hill**—friend of the Cervantes family who was diagnosed with cancer
- **Kevin Eley** – Bolen’s neighbor who is battling cancer
- Sonya Puentes** – friend of the Cervantes family; has cancer
- Andrew-James Broughton**—suffering complications from cancer treatments
- 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
- Clara** – friend of the Kemp’s who is undergoing tests for a mass found in her abdomen
- Kate Marschang** – daughter of a friend of Jackie Garcia who is being treated for ovarian cancer
- Dennis Ritlinger**– Danielle Kemp’s Uncle who is being treated for prostate 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
- Mary Enfield** – had surgery on her fractured vertebrae and is now at home recovering
- Charlene Govert** – friend of Gayle Bolen who was recently diagnosed with cancer
- Frank Lott** – is now under hospice care
- Earline Nipps** – is being monitored by her doctor to figure out why she has dizzy spells, passes out sometimes, and has yo-yo-ing blood pressure
- Family of Jack Ward**—Jan Lavern’s brother in law who passed away last week
- Family of Marlin Holt**—Marlin passed away last week; there will be a private family memorial service
- Family of Russ Cochran**—Russ Cochran passed away Monday evening



God’s Hands Gift Shop is on December 14th this year and we need elves!!! We’ve got something for everyone to do whether it’s shopping for presents and decorating beforehand, to wrapping presents and helping people shop the day of the event. Please get your name on the sign up as soon as possible!!!

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ROMEO Club Hadlen Kemp & Katrina Weir's bday	3 Crosby Gregory & Zane Schultz's bday	4	5 Weir's aniv.	6 Josephine Nicolsia, Angelina Cervantes & Nancy Beiglund's bday	7 Pantry 10:noon Rhonda Long's bday
8 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	9	10 Blanket Ministry Work Day	11 7 pm Bible Study HHHP Food Delivery	12 1-3 pm Pantry	13	14 God's Hand Gift Shop Tyler Zornok & Sandy Allen's bday
15 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship DONUT SUNDAY	16	17 Parker Rodden's bday	18 Au Brien's bday 7 pm Bible Study	19	20 Annie Allen, Kaylin Reese & Mark Murray's bday	21 Pantry 10:noon Mignon Sotter's bday
22 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Christmas Caroling starting @ 8:30 pm Carol McCowan & Dylan Lettinger's bday	23	24 Creighton Kulpa's bday	25 No Bible Study Ava Reese's bday	26	27 Elizabeth Sotter's bday	28 Cervantes' bday
29 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	30 Julie Murray & Irene Graham's bday	31				
				SET UP FOR GOD'S HAND GIFT SHOP		



NEWS & EVENTS

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

--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!!!

--Please sign up for God's Hand Gift Shop as soon as possible!!

--SAVE THE DATES

Light Up the Parks Parade—November 24th – the parade starts at 4:45 pm, there will be people at the building starting at 3:30 pm (if you are interested in helping hand out hot cocoa/snacks to the people in the neighborhood, talk to Stan Gregory)

God's Hand Gift Shop—December 14th

Donut Sunday – December 15th

Those to Serve –December 29, 2019

Children's Church: LeAnne Douglas, Sandi Riffle
Communion Trays: Grace/Cathy Sharp, Julie Cavallo

Audio/Video: Mark Murray

Security: Wayne Morris

Nursery: Pat Williams, Pat Seifert

Greeters: N. Delores Warkins S. Reese

Mailbox: Judi Rogers, Pat Williams, Jeanne Wadsworth

Computer: Sara Maupin

Worship Director: Ken Maupin

Prayer: Ron King, Ed Long

Scripture: Scott Seigrist

Ushers: Jerry Gibson Russ Lyman

Preside: Sid Long

1A John Parker

2A John Castree

1B Larry Jones

2B Steve Adkins

3A Chris Youssi

4A Ron Willis

3B Jordan Siracusa

4B Jeff Hagerman

Shut-Ins: Adkins

Kingdom Kids: Deanna King & Taylor Siracusa

November 24th, 2019

Hide Me Away

Welcome

We Praise Thee, O God

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Prayer

The Glory-Land Way

Nearer, Still Nearer

Lord's supper

Giving

I Will Call Upon the Lord

(dismiss for Children's Church)

Romans 3:21-26

Sermon

When He Comes In Glory By and By

Family Time

Prayer

Those to Serve -November 24, 2019

Children's Church: Sandy Youssi, Sara Maupin

Communion Trays: Naomi Gibson, Brenda Mohler

Audio/Video: Ken Maupin

Security: Dave Sharp

Nursery: Grace Sharp, Pam Reese

Greeters: N. Liz Willis S. Pat Williams

Mailbox: Joan Schmidt, Joan Wadsworth

Computer: Mary Riley

Worship Director: Jordan Siracusa

Prayer: Scott Seigrist, Stan Gregory

Scripture: Ron King

Ushers: Justin Reese, Dave Sharp

Preside: Tim Firm

1A Joe Nicosia

2A Joey Nicosia

1B Chris Youssi

2B Jeff Hagerman

3A Wayne Morris

4A Tyler Zomok

3B Jerry Gibson

4B Adam Zomok

Shut-Ins: Sharp

Kingdom Kids: Julie Cavallaro, Cathy Sharp

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

Jared Kemp Office Hours Monday from 9 am—5 pm

***all other times by appointment**

CONTACT US:

Phone—815-633-4253

Email—npcc@sbcglobal.net

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com