



# the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
DECEMBER 2020

## GOD GIVES

As a child, it was tough for me to get excited about unwrapping a present and finding a pair of socks. However, for someone whose feet are freezing because the one pair of socks they own is thin and full of holes, well that pair of socks I got would be a priceless gift. Once I received a used book from my parents that was a “do it yourself home repair” book. I remember just staring at it and thinking, “Are you kidding me?” I had as much chance, ability, and desire to become a home handy man as I would becoming the next champion of NASCAR, SPRINT CUP, or whatever it is now had I received a matchbox car with the number 48 on it and Jimmie Johnson’s autograph. Seems to me that we often take a similar approach to the gifts we receive from God . . . Why am I getting “this”? What does God expect me to do with it? I don’t want it, don’t need it, didn’t ask for it, and am doubtful I will ever use it.

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Are we ever guilty of being ungrateful for the gifts God gives to us?

God gives us the gift of forgiveness. Do we use it if we hold grudges or in some cases “hate our brother”?

God gives us the gift of patience. Is our response intolerance and criticism?

God gives us the gift of peace. Do we leave it wrapped and unopened because we are having too much fun sowing seeds of discord and spending our time tearing down instead of building up?


God gives us the gift of His Word. Do we choose to use only the parts of it that help further an agenda or that we personally agree with?

God wants to give us the gift of sight so we can seek and find wisdom and understanding. Instead, do we choose to remain blinded by the beam in our own eye while pointing out the speck in someone else’s eye?

God gives us one more gift, if we will choose to accept it . . . His Son Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-21) With that gift, we have been given a pattern for living unselfishly, an example for loving unconditionally, and the path to joy unendingly. What is our daily response to that gift? Do we shove it in the drawer of “indifference” or do we consider it for a while only to leave it collecting dust in the corner of “inconvenience”? God wants us to see the gift of Jesus Christ as priceless and allow Him to live in us, work in us, clothe us, and save us.

***“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.” (James 1:17-18, NIV)***

~Tim~



The set up for God's Hand Gift Shop has begun! With the changes in how the gift shop will operate this year, we have already started the process of getting everything set up and ready to go. This year, the gift shop will be set up in the basement (in the Fellowship Hall, two of our children's classrooms, and the Children's Church room) and will remain set up at least through December 22nd. Everything will be organized into very specific areas and we ask that you don't move any tables, chairs, or gifts while the shop is set up. Thank you so much for supporting this outreach every year and even though we're sad we won't be able to have the big one day event with all of you volunteering to help the day be merry, please know that your donations are appreciated and continue to pray that we are able to help as many families as possible during this crazy year!

- Ashley

\*\*\* if you have any questions about what kind of gift you can donate or how you can make a monetary donation, please let me know

Please remember to get Ashley any changes or new information that you would like included in the church Directory. We hope to have a new Directory ready to be sent out in December or early in 2021. Ask yourself, since April of 2019...

- Do you have a new family picture?
- Do you have a new phone number?
- Did you get rid of your landline?
- Have you moved?
- Do you have a new email address?
- Do you have a new family member?

Ashley does her best to catch the changes but if you know for sure something is different, you can let her know to make sure your information is accurate!!

## 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 · **Jason Willis**  
**Larry Borrison** · **Dar Hinrichs** **Chris Isom** **Ernie Stubblefield**  
**Bolen's nephew Tim** – dealing with chronic knee issues and scoliosis  
**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  
**Michelle Hutchison** – Tammy Weir's sister in law, undergoing cancer treatment  
**Donna Fincher**— dealing with multiple health issues, specifically she has asked us to pray about the pain she is feeling in her leg  
**Ashley Raddenbach**— The Bolen's granddaughter who was recently diagnosed with PoTS  
**Axel Diaz**— Young man who attends the Waukegan Church of Christ who is battling cancer  
**Sara Cancagallo**- friend of Louise Crouch who will be having surgery soon as part of cancer treatment  
**Chad Lane** – Matt Lane's nephew who was in a bad accident and has a long recovery ahead of him  
**Myrtle Williams** – had her shoulder surgery and that went well. She fell again, which caused some inflammation in her bad foot that will have to resolve before they do surgery again on her foot  
**Joyce Heckelmiller** – ongoing health issues  
**Lonny Fortin**—is now at PA Peterson  
**David Bennett**—the Parker's grandson was in a very serious motorcycle accident  
**Cora Parker** - Fell and broke her wrist  
**Sue Ann Diaz**— ongoing health issues  
**Carol McGowan**— recovering from shoulder surgery  
**Joan Wadsworth**— diagnosed with an autoimmune disease  
**Becky Zomok**— still struggling Covid 19  
**Wendy Williams**— awaiting biopsy results  
**Leda Phillips**— ongoing health issues  
**Kevin Gillis**— dealing with multiple serious health issues  
**Kemp Family**— Covid 19  
**Family of Walt Reinhold**— Pat Williams' daughter in law's father who recently passed away  
**Family of Horace Thomas**— Colleen Crown's father in law recently passed away  
**Family of Regina Schulz**— Jeremy Schulz's mother passed away very unexpectedly last week

# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Katrina Weir's bday	3 Crosby Gregory & Zane Schurz's bday	4	5 Weir's am. Pantry 10:00am
6 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am Angelina Cervantes, Josephine Nicolsa & Nancy Berglund's bday	7 Rhonda Long's bday	8	9 HHP Food Delivery	10 6:30 pm Pantry	11	12 God's Hand Gift Shop
13 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am	14 Sandy Allen & Tyler Zomok's bday God's Hand Gift Shop	15 God's Hand Gift Shop	16 God's Hand Gift Shop	17 Parker Rodden's bday God's Hand Gift Shop	18 God's Hand Gift Shop	19 Pantry 10:00am God's Hand Gift Shop
20 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am Kailyn Reese & Mark Murray's bday	21 Mignon Soter's bday God's Hand Gift Shop	22 Carol McCowan & Dylan Letslinger's bday God's Hand Gift Shop	23 HHP Food Delivery	24 Craigton Kulpa's bday	25 Ava Reese's bday 	26
27 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am Elizabeth Soter's bday	28 Max Cervantes's bday	29	30 Irene Graham & Julie Murray's bday	31		

# NEWS & EVENTS

- Meijer is running the last Simply Give program of the year now through January 2, 2021. The double match days are December 1st and December 12th. Please let Jerry Gibson know if you need any cards.

- December is here and you are encouraged to still make donations for God's Hand Gift Shop. We can take unused and unwrapped gifts, money, gift cards, anything that can be used to provide presents!! Please contact Ashley for more information or to set up a time to drop off a donation

--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 or the elders directly on the weekends) to let us know, the hospitals won't necessarily contact us for you.

--Ashley will be taking her usual time off between Christmas and the New Year, this year that will be December 24th—January 3rd. During that time, if you send anything to the church email or leave a message on the church voicemail, please expect a longer than usual response time. If something is time sensitive, it would be best to call or text her directly.

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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Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com