



the Encourager

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
NORTH PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST |
DECEMBER 2021

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

As a boy, I once received a Christmas gift from an aunt and uncle of mine and excitedly opened it, only to find a pair of socks. (I'm hoping my facial expression and my verbal response didn't reveal my disappointment.) Looking back, I'm embarrassed to have been so ungrateful. I've since come to realize that there are those who would have cherished that gift of socks as "priceless" because their feet were freezing. [Not to turn this into an advertisement but the company Bombas donates a pair of socks to those who need them for every pair they sell; so I have been purchasing Bombas socks for my family as gifts the past few years. The company has now expanded its line to include t-shirts, underwear, and slippers and continues its mission of "one purchased = one donated". To date, over 50 million items have been donated to homeless shelters by Bombas.]

My hope is that as Christians we don't find ourselves disappointed or ungrateful when it comes to God's gifts. After all, He has given us many, many gifts that should be appreciated, embraced, humbly accepted, and shared. Still, there are times when we may find ourselves wondering, "Why am I getting this?" or "What does God expect me to do with this? I don't want it, need it, didn't ask for it, and I'm doubtful that I will ever use it." However, even within our ungratefulness, we should realize that there are others who may need us to share our gifts in order to make their lives better, more enriched.

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God gives us the gift of forgiveness; but do we reject that gift by holding grudges or in some cases “hating our brother”? He gives us the gift of patience but is our response intolerance and criticism? He gives us the gift of peace but do we leave it wrapped because we are having too much fun sowing seeds of discord and spending time tearing down instead of building up? God gives us the gift of His Word but are there times when we choose to use only the parts that support some personal agenda. God wants to give us the gift of sight so we can seek and find wisdom and knowledge but do we remain blinded by the beam in our own eye while pointing out the speck in someone else’s eye and fail to appreciate the gift?

God also gave us the gift that keeps on giving if we 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 way to joy unendingly. What is our daily response to that gift? Do we acknowledge the gift of God’s Son, cherish the gift of God’s Son, and share the gift of God’s Son? Do we shove it in the drawer of indifference or do we play with 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 with righteousness, and save our souls.

God also wants us to share the gifts we receive with those who are in need . . . the lost, the hurting, the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten. What would happen if we take a similar approach as Bombas . . . for every gift we receive, a gift is given to someone in need. Collectively, as a church, we already do some of this through the Helping Hands Pantry, God’s Hand Gift Shop, and The Giving Tree. We have also been recently challenged to apply this through the “Bring, Teach, Keep” approach to ministry.

May the eyes of our hearts always be open to receiving and appreciating God’s gifts; and may we look for the opportunities to share those gifts with others who desperately need them. It’s quite possible that God’s intention for blessing us is so that we can be better equipped to bless others.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of 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)

Let’s show our gratitude with an attitude that includes sharing what we have been given.

~Tim~



DECEMBER

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Day 1 - Isaiah 7:14

Day 2 - Genesis 12:3

Day 3 - Isaiah 11:2

Day 4 - Isaiah 9:6-7

Day 5 - Jeremiah 33:14-16

Day 6 - Micah 5:2-4

Day 7 - 2 Samuel 7:12-13

Day 8 - Galatians 4:4-5

Day 9 - Luke 1:26-31

Day 10 - Luke 1:32-33

Day 11 - Luke 1:34-45

Day 12 - Luke 1:46-56

Day 13 - Matthew 1:18-21

Day 14 - Matthew 1:22-25

Day 15 - Matthew 2:1-2

Day 16 - Matthew 2:3-6

Day 17 - Matthew 2:7-10

Day 18 - Matthew 2:11-12

Day 19 - Matthew 2:13-14

Day 20 - Matthew 2:19-23

Day 21 - Luke 2:1-7

Day 22 - Luke 2:8-12

Day 23 - Luke 2:13-14

Day 24 - Luke 2:15-18

Day 25 - Luke 2:19-20

Day 26 - John 1:1-5

Day 27 - John 1:14

Day 28 - John 3:16

Day 29 - 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Day 30 - Titus 3:4-6



Those to Serve –December 5, 2021

Worship Director: Jordan Siracusa
Opening Prayer: Chris Youssi
Preside: Jeff Hagerman
Ann/Closing Prayer: Ken Maupin
Scripture Reading: Simon-Peter Broughton
Pre-Class Greeter: Kim & Holly Bertram
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Pre-Worship Greeter: Nicosias
Usher #1: Joey Nicosia
Usher #2: Joe Nicosia
A/V Booth: Mark Murray
Church Mailbox: Naomi Gibson, Gloria Gregory, Colleen Crown

Those to Serve –December 12, 2021

Worship Director: Sid Long
Opening Prayer: Marcus Cassady
Preside: Scott Weir
Ann/Closing Prayer: Ken Maupin
Scripture Reading: JJ Whaley
Pre-Class Greeter: Simon-Peter Broughton, Delores Warkins
Class Attendance: Ken Maupin
Pre-Worship Greeter: Liz Wills & Julie Cavallaro
Usher #1: Ron King
Usher #2: Scott Siegrist
A/V Booth: Tyler Zomok
Church Mailbox: Naomi Gibson, Gloria Gregory, Colleen Crown

Those to Serve –December 19, 2021

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Steve Adkins
Preside: Ron King
Ann/Closing Prayer: Ken Maupin
Scripture Reading: Marcus Price
Pre-Class Greeter: Wadsworths
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady
Pre-Worship Greeter: Weirs
Usher #1: Doug Soter
Usher #2: Marcus Cassady
A/V Booth: Adam Zomok
Church Mailbox: Naomi Gibson, Gloria Gregory, Colleen Crown

Those to Serve –December 26, 2021

Worship Director: Sid Long
Opening Prayer: Jeremy Schulz
Preside: Wayne Morris
Ann/Closing Prayer: Ken Maupin
Scripture Reading: Ken Lynch
Pre-Class Greeter: Gregorys
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Pre-Worship Greeter: Gibsons
Usher #1: Steve Adkins
Usher #2: Jaye Lavern
A/V Booth: Justin Reese
Church Mailbox: Naomi Gibson, Gloria Gregory, Colleen Crown

Worship Usher #1 (inside auditorium main doors)

- greet latecomers and encourage sanitizing and help with finding seats (if there are none, ask elders to give up seat)
- may lock/unlock outer doors during worship
- take attendance on sheet provided and give to Ken/leave in Tim's office after worship
- put attendance up on attendance board

Worship Usher #2 - floating in the middle of the auditorium to help people find seats or add remove seats

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

Sue Ann Diaz

Larry Borrison

Helen Holland

Wendy Williams

Brandi Ostergard – friend of Wendy Williams who has cancer

Michelle Hutchison – Tammy Weir's sister in law, undergoing cancer treatment

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

Freda Izzard – Simon-Peter Broughton's Aunt who recently had a mild heart attack

Santos family - relatives of the Castrees whose youngest daughter was diagnosed with DIPG, a rare type of brain cancer

Lucy Chamberlain – trying to schedule time with a heart specialist

Nicole Washington – mother of a friend of Simon-Peter's who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Leota Mann – Katie Schulz's grandmother, recently hospitalized after a TIA

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

Jan Lavern – recovering after surgery to repair a broken femur, back at home now

Donna Fincher – back at home

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

Ken Lynch – awaiting results for tests on his heart

Adam Zomok – found some blockages that they are hoping to treat with medication

Bonnie Cole – going through a lot of major life changes and could use our prayers as she adjusts

Family of Karen Morris – Ken Lynch's sister in law who passed away recently

Linda Lynch – Ken Lynch's wife, fell and broke her shoulder

Myrtle Williams – was recently in the hospital due to pneumonia, on December 22nd she will have surgery to remove a few cysts from her spine

Sheila Peck – at home now, doing much better

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10 am Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm	2 Katrina Weir's bday	3 Crosby Gregory & Zane Schulz's bday	4 <small>Partry 10-room</small>
5 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am Weir's am.	6 Josephine Nicosia, Angelina Cervantes, & Nancy Berglund's bday ROMEO Club	7 Rhonda Long's bday Blanket Workday 9am	8 Bible Study 10 am HHP Food Delivery Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm	9 <small>6-7 pm Partry</small>	10	11 God's Hand Gift Shop 8am - 4pm
12 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am LIFE Groups	13	14 Tyler Zomok & Sandy Allen's bday	15 Bible Study 10 am Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm	16	17 Parker Rodden's bday	18 Partry 10 noon
19 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am	20 Kaylin Reese & Mark Murray's bday	21 Mignon Soter's bday	22 Bible Study 10 am Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm Carol McCowan's bday HHP Food Delivery	23 <small>6-7 pm Partry</small>	24 Geighton Kujpa's bday	25 Ava Reese's bday
26 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am LIFE Groups	27 Elizabeth Soter's bday	28 Max Cervantes' bday	29	30 Irene Graham & Julie Murray's bday	31	

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/>
- The final Simply Give campaign of the year will run from October 3rd - January 1st. The cards are available on the rack by the women's bathroom. ***Double Match day is December 11th
- Every Wednesday: Bible Study at 10 am Devotional & Singing service at 6:30 pm
- **God's Hand Gift Shop will be happening on December 11th from 8 am—1 pm. Thank you so much for signing up!! Please make sure that if anything comes up for you between now and then that you find someone who can take your place.**
- If anyone knows a family who could use some help buying presents this Christmas, please have them call the church as soon as possible
- As a reminder, please do not give out the personal phone numbers of anyone from church without speaking to that person first. If you know someone who could use help with anything, please have them call the church building (or the pantry, if it is pantry related) and Ashley will coordinate getting the person's information to the appropriate person
- With the holiday season well underway, we will be needing some extra help at the pantry to fill in for some regulars who will be out of town. If you can help, please show up at the pantry at 9 am on Saturday December 4th or December 18th. We will need help with jobs both inside and outside so anyone can help out!!

Elder's Group E-Mail Address
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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:

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www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com