



the Encourager

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
NORTH PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST |
JANUARY 2021

WHAT LIES AHEAD

January 1, 2020 . . . did any of you predict just how 2020 would unfold? I know that I did not. In fact, I really did not give it any thought. Well, what a year it was. Rather than review all that took place in 2020 (we all know it, we all lived it), let's turn our attention to the start of a new year.

January 1, 2021 . . . can you predict just how 2021 will unfold? I won't even venture a guess. What I will say is that I HOPE it is a year that is far better for everyone than 2020 ended up being. "Hope" is probably something many people are attaching to their anticipation of 2021. There are many things I am hoping for in the coming year; some I think I have control over and others that I have no control over whatsoever. It still doesn't mean I can't hope for those things too. I will be talking about "HOPE" in my January 3, 2021 message, "Hope Springs Eternal" and my desire (could have said 'hope') is that you will either watch the video message or be in attendance on Sunday, January 3, 2021 at North Park.

While there are many uncertainties in regards to 2021, there is one thing we can count on and can trust that will take place . . .

God is going to give us a number of opportunities to share His love with others; to serve as His ambassadors; to allow His kindness, goodness, forgiveness, patience, and compassion to be seen in us. However, there is a catch . . . we have to be open to those opportunities and willing to seize those opportunities to serve others, to serve one another.

(continued on next page)

You remember the Old Testament account of God speaking to Moses from the burning bush (Exodus 3). I have long been a believer that God speaks to us through burning bush moments designed to call us to action just like Moses's burning bush moment called him to action in regards to freeing the Israelites and leading them out of Egyptian slavery.

Our burning bush moments might come in many forms . . .

- Someone standing on a street corner holding a sign, "Will work for food".
- The elderly man in front of you at the checkout counter who doesn't have enough money to pay for his groceries.
- A child wears the same clothes to school every day.
- You find out someone needs a ride to the doctor.
- A motorist is stranded along the side of the road.
- A co-worker asks if you will pray for her.
- You strike up a conversation with your neighbor and he asks you where you attend church services.
- A church family member is alone and seems a bit depressed.
- An unexpected phone call comes and the person who called is crying.
- Someone you are acquainted with just lost a family member to COVID.

We could easily overlook or ignore any of those burning bush moments, or any others that might come our way . . . some obscure, some glaring. Better yet, we could be listening for God's voice to speak to us through such moments and be willing to respond. While we have no way of knowing how 2021 will unfold, we can count on God sending opportunities our way to serve Him while serving others.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:9-10, NIV)

~Tim~

VERSES TO START YOUR NEW YEAR

- ◇ 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ◇ Jeremiah 29:11
- ◇ Isaiah 43:18-19
- ◇ Ephesians 4:22-24
- ◇ Lamentations 3:22-24
- ◇ Isaiah 40:31
- ◇ 1 Peter 1:3
- ◇ Ezekiel 36:26
- ◇ Philippians 3:13-14
- ◇ Ecclesiastes 3:11
- ◇ Matthew 7:7-8
- ◇ Acts 3:19-20
- ◇ Isaiah 65:17
- ◇ Proverbs 3:5-6
- ◇ Ezekiel 11:19
- ◇ Hebrews 12:1-2
- ◇ Colossians 3:9-10
- ◇ Psalm 73:26
- ◇ Psalm 23:1-3
- ◇ Romans 12:2
- ◇ Romans 6:3-4
- ◇ Isaiah 41:13
- ◇ Philippians 4:6-7
- ◇ Proverbs 16:9
- ◇ Isaiah 60:1-2
- ◇ Psalm 40:1-3
- ◇ Psalm 98:1-3
- ◇ John 3:16-7
- ◇ Revelation 21:4-5
- ◇ Micah 6:8
- ◇ Ecclesiastes 3:15

***HAPPY
NEW YEAR!!***

Recent update from Lucner in Haiti

Dearest Family in Christ,

Thank you is not enough to tell you all for the sacrifices you have been making to support the Lord's ministry in Haiti. Life is very hard everywhere in the world. However, you have always done all you could to strengthen the kingdom of God not only in my country but everywhere you have access. In the past year, many people died in the world and especially in the US. We, Haitian Christians are so sad for that. But we are also happy for those who went to heaven to live with Jesus forever. We need to ask a question in the beginning of this new year. What can we do more to bring more souls to Jesus? Please understand, this is not the work of the politicians. I firmly believe this the work of all Christians in the world. Please remind us in Haiti in your prayers so that the Lord may continue to open the doors for his gospel to be preached with more freedom. It is important to remind you that you have a big responsibility to keep helping us to catch more fish for the Lord. It is also very important to inform you that due to your support in the past year, 1679 people have been baptized for the remission of their sins. These souls came from 36 congregations. I would like to remind you these new born babies in Christ are not your work. They are not either my work with other Haitian preachers. This is only the work of the God, His son Jesus and the Holy Ghost. However, it would be ungrateful if I ended this report without telling you all Thank you so much for the your contribution to the this work. You are very important to us in Haiti. You have a big impact on us. I hope you will do your best to keep up the good work.

May this new year be bright and bring for you all HEALTH, peace, love, compassion, generosity and more passion for the work of the Lord.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Again, thank you so much to you all and may God receive the glory in all we will be doing this year. With love and prayers,

Brother Lucner

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 · **Jason Willis**

Lea Schorer – no visitors at this time please

Larry Borison

Dar Hinrichs

Ernie Stubblefield

Bolen's nephew Tim – dealing with chronic knee issues and scoliosis

Brandi Ostergard – friend of Wendy Williams who has cancer

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

Donna Fincher— dealing with multiple health issues, shot for the pain in her leg is working

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 has cancer; has been moved to a nursing home

Chad Lane – Matt Lane's nephew who was in a bad accident and has a long recovery ahead of him

Myrtle Williams – waiting to have surgery again on her foot

Joyce Heckelmiller – ongoing health issues, has many tests coming up

David Bennett—the Parker's grandson, no longer in a coma but still recovering from a serious motorcycle accident

Sue Ann Diaz– ongoing health issues

Carol McGowan– recovering from shoulder surgery

Wendy Williams– will have a PET scan on Monday, January 4th.

Leda Phillips– ongoing health issues

Kevin Gillis– dealing with multiple serious health issues

Chuck and Ruth Mausehund– dealing with multiple health issues

Cherokee Thompson – Dean Aske's great granddaughter/Bill and Ida Thompson's granddaughter, suffering from cancerous spot on her brain causing seizures

Mary Spohnholz – health issues

Chris Isom – recovering from surgery for a broken hip, currently struggling with his blood pressure and blood sugar

Cecil Isom – is in bad health, recovering from a recent surgery

Family of Steve Burdge – Sally Batha's nephew who recently passed away

Friends and Family of Lonny Fortin – Lonny passed away last night

Gerald Harbach – Katie Schulz's grandfather whose cancer has metastasized and will be entering into a new course of treatment

Carol Phillips – Joan Wadsworth's sister who was recently diagnosed with Covid-19

Steve and Amy Morrow – Bill Morrow's son and daughter in law who were recently diagnosed with Covid-19

Debbie Boles – Scott Weir's sister who was recently diagnosed with Covid-19

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rick Comstock's bday	2 NO PANTRY
3 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am	4	5 Julie Cavallaro's bday	6	7 6-7:30 pm Pantry Jason Willis's bday	8	9
10 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am	11	12 Wayne Duckamnt's bday	13 HHP Food Delivery	14	15	16 Pantry 10-noon Joan Schmidt's bday
17 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am Ryan Gregory & Wayne Morris's bday	18 Leanne Douglas & Alma Smitth's bday	19	20	21 6-7:30 pm Pantry	22	23
24/31 Worship @ 9:30 & 11:00 am 24th Maggie Kemp & Jodi Long's bday 31st Mary Riley & Deanna King's bday	25	26	27 HHP Food Delivery	28 Britany Garcia's bday D/J Nicosia's ann.	29	30

NEWS & EVENTS

- Since the shutdown last March, the pantry has basically been operated exclusively by a small group of people every week, some of whom have had to go back to work and aren't able to help as much. We could use help each week bagging meat and boxing food. If you are able to help with this, please call Gloria Gregory to set up a time.

- The choice was made to start every family off with one 2021 Directory, to keep costs down since they were being mailed. If you would like an additional one, please let Ashley know and she will get it to you.

--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.

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:

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Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com