



# the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
JULY 2020

## VEGETABLE SOUP

I can remember back to my childhood when my mom always kept a large plastic container in the freezer. After nearly every suppertime meal, if there were 6 peas, 4 Green Beans, a spoonful of corn, or even a sliver of roast beef remaining, mom would put that in the plastic container in the freezer. It was her thrifty and clever way of preparing vegetable soup . . . a little of this, a little of that.

Well, my July Encourager article is going to be my version of “vegetable soup” with a variety of ingredients.

I am excited and thankful that we are going to “re-open” North Park on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> with an outdoor service at 9:30 a.m. It is a beginning, a transition, a process and we will make adjustments accordingly until we move indoors and then again, it will be a process of adjustments for all of us. For those who are not able or comfortable with meeting together starting July 5<sup>th</sup>, that is just fine. We understand. I do hope that every member of the North Park Church of Christ will be prayerful, supportive, cooperative, understanding, patient, and loving as we move forward.

The COVID-19 virus does not look like it is magically going away any time soon. A number of states are experiencing spikes in COVID cases due in some part to either opening too soon, not having the proper safeguards in place, or people ignoring those safeguards of wearing masks and social distancing. Many of us have relatives and friends living in those states so please be prayerful on their behalf as it is still a time of concern, a time for re-evaluating priorities, and a time for seeking God’s intervention and action.

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If you read the contents of the June Encourager, then you read a letter from the Leadership Team in regards to ongoing efforts aimed at moving North Park toward once again having an eldership in place to lead our congregation. Those efforts are continuing and God is blessing our preparation, growth, and progress. Again, please be prayerful. In the near future, the plan is to send a letter to all members with details regarding who is being placed before the congregation to be considered as elders; as well as the process we will utilize in giving our members an opportunity to evaluate those men in relation to Biblical leadership and service.

Along those lines, let me be lovingly blunt . . . we as a church, not just North Park, but universally, have at times become cannibalistic when it comes to selecting elders . . . our actions result in us “devouring” our own by placing unrealistic expectations on those willing to serve and knit-picking to the point that no one wants to serve. That is unfortunate and hinders the effectiveness of the Lord’s church. Now, let me be clear, I am not suggesting we just accept anyone and everyone who raises a hand. We need to examine each person’s body of work—how they live, what they say, if they are sincere in their desire, and how closely they possess the qualities found in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:1-4. Again, be prayerful.

I want to also encourage each of us to be committed to serving as “good sheep” once we do have an eldership in place. Our support, our respect, our cooperation, our love, and our presence in regards to our relationship with those who will be serving as our shepherds can be a significant blessing to them; can help to make their responsibility a little less challenging; and can enable them to focus their efforts on providing spiritual guidance in order to strengthen the Lord’s church.

Finally, I want to encourage each of us to grow in love, compassion, understanding, forgiveness, and in building one another up. Even when we start meeting together, there will still be a significant number of our church family who will not be in attendance. Let’s be our brother’s keeper and continue to reach out to one another to make sure members of our church are safe, healthy, not forgotten, and made to feel valued as a result of our concern and efforts to reach out to them. We all have phones, most have emails, some know how to text, and the US Mail will deliver our letter if we put a stamp on it. Along those same lines, let’s look for opportunities to do good to all people. So many are hurting right now in a variety of ways, so let’s look for opportunities to serve as Jesus’s ambassadors by doing good. Let others experience the love and compassion of Jesus through our efforts.

--Tim--



## GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JULY 5TH:

1. We will be meeting in a designated area outside at 9:30 a.m., weather permitting, and there may or may not be shade. Wear appropriate clothing.
2. Before coming, ask yourself these questions: Are you feeling ill? Do you have a fever of 100.4 or greater? Do you have a cough, which is new? Are you having shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, which is new? Have you traveled internationally in the last month? Have you been in contact with a suspected or lab-confirmed coronavirus patient? If you answer positively to ANY of them, stay home.
3. There will be no Bible Classes or Nursery
4. We will practice social distancing with no hugs or handshakes, but will pray, sing, take communion and hear from God's word together
5. Communion serving will be modified to eliminate multiple handling
6. You must wear your mask from your car until in your seat **and** during singing.
7. You must bring your own lawn/camp chair and be directed where to sit safely apart from others who do not live in your household (at this time, even if you have a group of people who you have “let into your circle” over the past few months, we must ask that everyone who doesn’t live in the same house together sit separately)
8. The building will not be open so there will be no restroom access (but the service will be kept to 45 minutes)
9. There will be designated boxes for you to deposit your contribution
10. Volunteer guides will be assisting you with where to park, set up your seat and with sanitation practices and you are expected to do what they ask

\*\*\* Brothers and Sisters – You probably had the same reaction we did as we discussed all of the precautions needed for us to come together, but adhering to all of these steps are necessary to have a safe and meaningful worship experience. Thanks for your patience, your understanding, and your love. We want to begin meeting again and this is necessary for our present circumstances. **Remember, this is the beginning of a transition and that flexibility will be important.** We expect that not everything will flow perfectly this first time back together and please be prepared for things to change from week to week as we continue to work to make our time together as uplifting and safe as possible. We have many of our number who also want to come back but cannot at this time due to risk factors. If that is you, we want you to know, that is okay! For those who are unable to gather together, we will continue to provide Online Worship through the YouTube lesson by Tim Firm. To the rest of us, please remember them and be attentive to their needs during the coming weeks.

\*\*\* In the case of inclement/possibly inclement weather, a decision will be made by 8 am whether or not we will have service. For those of you with email, please check your email in the morning to make sure service has not been cancelled. For those who do not have email, you will receive a phone call.

## Prayer List

· **Anneka Broughton**                      **Ken Maupin**  
**Lea Schorer** – no visitors at this time please                      **Andrew-James Broughton**                      · **Jason Willis**  
**Pat McRill**                      · **Dar Hinrichs**                      **Frances Hughes**                      **John Anderson**  
· **Larry Borrison**                      **John Parker**                      · **Becky Zomok**                      **Jan Morris**  
· **Brenda Hill**—friend of the Cervantes family who was diagnosed with cancer  
**Sonya Puentes** – friend of the Cervantes family; has cancer  
**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  
**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  
**Charlene Govert** – friend of Gayle Bolen who was recently diagnosed with cancer  
**Frank Lott** – is now under hospice care  
**Lonny Fortin** – Lonny has been having some back pain  
**Chris Isom** – in room 207 at Rock River Healthcare  
**Myrtle Williams** – her shoulder surgery went quite well. Once she has healed from that, she will have to have surgery again on her foot that she injured over the winter.  
**Dean Aske** – having nose bleeds and high blood pressure issues  
**David Hagerman** – Jeff Hagerman's brother, was in a car accident and broke several bones  
**Michelle Hutchison** – Tammy Weir's sister in law, undergoing cancer treatment  
**Tim Loos**— friend of Jeff Hagerman who has a very rare lung disease and needs a transplant but is having a hard time finding a transplant center to work with.  
**Pat Williams' neighbors** - they are asking for prayers for their entire family but most specifically their daughter. She is 18 and pregnant and has moved out of their house and is not making very wise choices  
**Corrine Furman**— friend of the Morris family who was recently diagnosed with cancer  
**Mac Milam**— Wanda Long's brother who was recently diagnosed with cancer  
**Crouch family**— Louise Crouch's grandson Ron is out of the ICU and is now going through physical therapy as he recovers from his stroke  
**Chris Isom**— Chis is asking that we keep him and all the staff and residents at Rock River Healthcare in our prayers as they have a resident who recently tested positive for COVID-19  
**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  
**Vernon Ray Jr.** — Gloria Gregory's brother, currently hospitalized battling COVID-19 \*\* as of this morning, the plan was for him to be released from the hospital today to continue his convalescence at home

## Pantry Sub List

<b>Justin Reese</b>	<b>815-299-0762</b>	<b>Jaye Lavern</b>	<b>815-608-4465</b>
<b>Elizabeth Soter</b>	<b>815-721-0405</b>	<b>Jeremy Schulz</b>	<b>630-418-0371</b>
<b>Cameron Maupin</b>	<b>815-978-3362</b>	<b>Ken Maupin</b>	<b>815-262-1487</b>
<b>Mary Riley</b>	<b>815-988-7440</b>	<b>Sara Maupin</b>	<b>815-262-0303</b>
<b>Tammy Weir</b>	<b>815-751-0866</b>	<b>Naomi Gibson</b>	<b>815-742-2291</b>
<b>Katie Schulz</b>	<b>630-418-0372</b>	<b>Cathy Firm</b>	<b>815-298-6341</b>
<b>Maxine Byrne</b>	<b>815-494-2512</b>	<b>Liz Willis</b>	<b>815-494-0595</b>
<b>Joan Schmidt</b>	<b>815-708-3993</b>	<b>Brenda Mohler</b>	<b>815-505-7205</b>
<b>Pat Seifert</b>	<b>815-871-7236</b>	<b>Tim Firm</b>	<b>815-914-1782</b>

## Esther

A	S	U	S	N	O	I	T	C	U	R	T	S	N	I
N	N	O	B	L	E	S	F	A	S	T	O	A	A	T
O	B	G	A	L	L	O	W	S	S	C	L	C	T	H
B	E	A	E	L	A	Y	O	R	O	I	E	K	I	S
R	N	T	A	R	M	E	B	O	R	D	R	C	O	A
A	J	E	S	N	B	E	G	A	R	E	A	L	N	V
H	A	T	H	A	C	H	R	O	O	B	T	O	A	I
A	M	N	E	M	O	W	M	C	W	A	E	T	L	L
D	I	P	S	A	L	I	F	E	Y	N	M	H	I	E
A	N	L	D	H	J	O	Y	Q	M	Q	E	E	T	V
S	W	O	I	G	N	I	R	U	E	U	H	S	Y	O
S	E	T	N	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	C	T	K	R
A	J	X	E	R	X	E	S	E	E	T	S	A	I	P
H	S	E	R	E	Z	S	T	N	E	L	A	T	N	P
I	A	G	E	H	G	N	A	H	O	R	S	E	G	A

ANGER

APPROVE

ASHES

BANQUET

BEG

BENJAMIN

DINE

EDICT

ENEMY

ESTATE

FAST

GALLOWS

GARDEN

GATE

HADASSAH

HAMAN

HANG

HARBONA

HATHACH

HEGAI

HORSE

INSTRUCTIONS

JEW

JOY

KING

LIFE

MEMUCAN

MERCY

MORDECAI

NATIONALITY

NOBLES

PLOT

QUEEN

RAGE

RING

ROBE

ROYAL

SACKCLOTH

SCHEME

SORROW

SUSA

TALENTS

TOLERATE

VASHTI

VILE

WOMEN

XERXES

ZERESH

# JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Colleen Crowr's bday Siraclusa's ann.	2 Vickie Williams' bday	3 Jala Pricke's bday	4 <b>NO PANTTY</b> Ken Boien's bday
5 WORSHIP @ 9:30 Sid Long's bday	6 Peyton Nicosia's bday	7	8 <b>HHP Food Delivery</b> Foster's ann.	9 1-3 pm <b>Pantry</b> Bret Hagerman's bday Erdman's ann.	10 Maxine Byrne & Ken Maupin's bday	11
12 WORSHIP TBD	13	14	15	16	17 JD Hagerman's bday	18 <b>Pantry 10-noon</b> Ana Lee Hagerma & Wes Long's bday
19 WORSHIP TBD Terrie-Lyn Broughton's bday	20	21 Schmidt's ann.	22 <b>HHP Food Delivery</b>	23 6-8 pm <b>Pantry</b>	24	25 Joyce Heckemiller's bday
26 WORSHIP TBD Lisa Nicosia's bday	27	28	29	30	31 Annika Broughton's bday	


# NEWS & EVENTS

--Rockford Christian Camp will, unfortunately, not be having our regular summer sessions in July. The board will continue to discuss options that might come available throughout the summer to have some camp sponsored events.

-- The Helping Hands Pantry remains open under a drive thru, contactless basis and with fewer volunteers. **For those of you who usually work at the Pantry on our open dates: Please email Sandy Youssi (1st Saturday) or Jerry Gibson (3rd Saturday) to find out what is needed from you for your normal date.**

--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](mailto: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!!!

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



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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Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

[www.helpinghandspantry.com](http://www.helpinghandspantry.com)