



the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUNE 2020

FACES

“Faces in the Crowd” has long been a section found in Sports Illustrated magazine. In this small but interesting section of each edition, people from all walks of life and all parts of the country are highlighted for some significant athletic accomplishment. It could be the sixty-year old cab driver who set the world record for most sit-ups in 5 minutes or the 10 year old girl who had three hole-in-ones at a national youth golf tournament. The idea of recognizing a few people each month from all the millions of people seems to underscore the intent of “faces in the crowd”.

I appreciate how good Jesus was when it came to recognizing “faces in the crowd” during His ministry and how He set a great example for His disciples and for us today. From little children to lepers to fishermen to a woman at a well to a couple of guys walking down a road to His own mother, Jesus demonstrated the importance of acknowledging people and touching their lives at just the right time and in just the right way.

It can be easy for us to get so singularly focused on “the mission at hand” that we don’t notice anyone or anything. We go from Point A to Point B and sometimes don’t even remember how we got there. In my first job after college, I got a bit troubled when I would speak to the “big boss” walking down the hallway, only to have him walk right passed me and say nothing. You’ve got to admit when that happens consistently, it can have an impact on your self-esteem. Finally, one day I went into his office and got up the courage to ask him about it. His response was that it was nothing personal toward me but that he is always focusing on what is next on his daily schedule and often doesn’t take the time to see or hear what is going on around him. That combined with the fact he was six feet, six inches tall and I was 5 feet, 10 inches tall seemed somewhat logical in regards to him not seeing me or speaking to me when we passed in a hallway.

(continued...)

(continued from previous page...)

Thankfully, Jesus wasn't that way and He doesn't want us to be that way either. Admittedly, right now when I go into a store, I am focused on getting in, getting what I need, and getting out (plus everyone is wearing a mask so not the most conducive environment for striking up a conversation with someone). However, if under normal circumstances, we don't make the effort to see the faces in the crowd then how will we ever have a favorable impact on any one? How will we ever share a smile or a kind word or a word of comfort or a gesture of thanks or even remotely resemble Jesus in our actions if we don't embrace our opportunities to demonstrate our care and concern for others, for one another? Also, people are good at wearing a mask even when they aren't wearing a mask. Follow me? On the surface, people may smile or wave or seem okay when really deep inside they are hurting or desperately longing for someone to see them, to make an effort to get to know them. We can be that "someone" simply by acknowledging their faces in the crowd, taking the time, and making the effort to see those around us, those God may have put in our path.

Matthew 9:35-38 has become one of my favorite passages. *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'*

I think you and I may just be some of the workers that the "Lord of the harvest" may be counting on to see the faces in the crowds and have compassion on them.

--Tim--



North Park Church Family,

We continue to be prayerful on your behalf that God is blessing you with safety and good health. We are now in the early days of June and while we desire to get to a point where we can all worship together again, that time has not yet arrived. We will be considering options in the weeks ahead that align with the restrictions we are currently facing.

By way of encouragement and good news, we want to make you aware that Tim has been leading a small group of North Park men in a study on leadership/eldership during this time of separation. Based on preliminary work Tim did in consulting with some North Park members and talking with a few men whose names were frequently mentioned in regards to possible elders, the study began in mid-March and is continuing on a weekly basis. We tell you this because we are committed to once again having North Park led by an eldership and we are in support of Tim's ongoing efforts. We also covet your prayers on behalf of this study and the men participating. At the right time, the plan is to make the body aware of those who we would like you to consider as elders and we will make sure you have ample time to not only consider these men but to talk with them and pray for them specifically. Satan would have preferred that we sit idly by but that was not what was on our hearts, or those of Tim and the men engaged in the study. Please be prayerful and supportive.

The June Encourager is published and is available on North Park's website and is also being mailed along with this update letter to those members who do not have email or internet access. They were delayed a few days so that we could share with you the most recent and relevant news and information possible.

Tim's messages continue to be available each week on the church website and North Park's Facebook page. The website is located at www.northparkchurchofchristil.com. Since it is possible to meet in groups of 10 or less, perhaps you might consider including family members or close friends when you watch Tim's message as well as other services you may be viewing on line (using wise distancing and sanitizing practices, of course). Tim also sends out a mid-week devotional message each week by email. If you have an email address but are not receiving emails from North Park, please call the church office or Tim to make sure we get your email updated.

The Helping Hands Pantry is open on regularly scheduled days by using a "drive up" approach to receiving items. Also, if you are unable or fearful of going to the grocery store and need some food, please call the church office (815-633-4253).

Thank you for making regular contributions to North Park so that our ongoing financial obligations can be met. If you are able to give, you can do so by mailing your contribution to the church address. Even during these challenging times, God is at work and your generous giving is enabling several ministries of North Park to serve as a blessing to others.

Your spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional well-being is important to each of us. If there is any help we can provide to you, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us or the church office. We love all of you and miss you. We encourage you to remain strongly connected to God and to find ways to encourage each other with cards, emails, texts, phone calls, posted messages on social media sites, or even a "driveway chat".

We are once again planning two remote fellowship opportunities by way of ZOOM meetings in June. On Thursday, June 11th and Sunday, June 28th (both at 6 p.m.) we will have an opportunity to log in via the internet and enjoy seeing some faces and hearing some voices from North Park. If you have not tried this, please contact Ashley and she can explain how to do this.

Rejoice in the Lord Always,

The North Park Church of Christ Leadership Team

Prayer List

· **Anneka Broughton** **Ken Maupin** **Jason Willis**
Mary Enfield **Lea Schorer** – no visitors at this time please **Andrew-James Broughton**
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 Gouvert – 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.
Tony Nicosia – recovering from infection after knee surgery
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
Donna Fincher – Is dealing with multiple health issues - seems to be doing much better!!
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
Tracy Meinert & her roommate Annie— They have both been cleared after having tested positive for COVID-19
Chris Isom— This 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

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

Jericho

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

animals

ark

commanded

fire

first

gold

Israelites

Jericho

Joshua

killed

kindness

marched

priests

quiet

Rahab

rams horn

roof

saved

scarlet cord

Seven

shout

silver

six

spies

trumpets

two

walls

window

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Donna Fincher's bday	2 Breanna Reese's bday McClain-Smith's ann.	3 Dustin Arreguin's bday J/L Nicosia's ann.	4	5	6 Alexander Jones' bday Pantry 10:00am
7	8 Alise Reese, Katie Hagerman, Larry Borrison & John Castree's Bday	9 Janice Adkins' bday	10 HHP Food Delivery	11 Lee McVay & Tonya Rodden's bday Church Zoom meeting @ 6 pm 4-3 pm Pantry	12 Bill Morrow's bday	13 Yameli Cervantes' bday
14	15 Kevin Gillis & Helen Holland's bday Riffle's ann.	16 Aysie Kulpa's bday Firm's ann.	17 Bobby Lettinger's bday	18 Castree's ann.	19 Judi Rogers & Tony Nicosia's bday	20 Sheila Peck's bday Pantry 10:00am
21	22 Kylee Whittire's bday G/R Gregory's ann.	23 Phillips' ann.	24 Simon Peter Broughton's bday HHP Food Delivery	25 6-8 pm Pantry	26	27 Jennie Adams' bday Price's ann.
28 Church Zoom meeting @ 6 pm	29	30				


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, contact-less 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 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

CONTACT US:

Phone—815-633-4253

Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com