



# the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAY 2020

## PATIENCE

“April Showers bring May Flowers” . . . not sure who came up with that catchy little saying, just like I am not sure exactly what the month of May is going to bring to us (other than perhaps May flowers). Here is what I do know . . . our patience will continue to be tested. We are used to having things when we want them, the way we want them, and as much as we want them. We are tired of being told we can’t go here or there and we can’t do this or that. I get it. There are so many things I miss doing and want to do; not the least of which is being able to worship together as a church family, see people I have not seen in nearly two months, and be uplifted by the energy of fellowship. However, we can’t expect to have a life that is easy and comfortable every day just because we are Christians. We must patiently endure hardships, heartaches, and even some temporary inconveniences; in doing so, we develop patience.

A woman sees a father shopping with a fussy two-year-old in his grocery cart. “Be patient, Billy,” he whispers. “You can handle this, Billy. It’s okay, Billy.”

The woman said to him, “I don’t mean to interrupt your shopping, but I just had to tell you how wonderfully loving and patient you are with little Billy.”

The man replied, “Actually, my son’s name is Patrick. My name is Billy.”

James writes about patience in James 5:7-12. In that passage James describes a familiar scene using a simple but practical example of the farmer to help us better grasp “patience”. The hard working farmer can prepare the soil, plant the seed and keep the field weeded but he cannot make his crop grow. Still, what was planted is worth waiting for.

To emphasize the farmer's helplessness and his need for patient dependence on God, James points out that the farmer must wait for the early and late rains. The weather is completely beyond the farmer’s control. Rain is needed to get the crop to come up and grow. Too much rain causes disease or the crop to rot, and too much sun can burn it up. The weather helps the farmer develop patience, like trials help believers develop patience.

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James goes on to remind his readers of the perseverance shown by the prophets who often had to suffer while serving as God's ambassadors; as well as highlight the blessings that come to those who do exert patience and place their trust in God by using Job's suffering and eventual reward as a powerful example of patience in times of great suffering and difficult times.

All blessings come from God's goodness and without God's mercy and compassion toward us we would be at Satan's pleasure. The challenges and difficulties of life can tax us to the very limits of our strength, making it easy to give up.

The endurance of Job under severe trial is legendary. Circumstances were against him; God permitted the devil to cause the loss of his wealth, his health, and his beloved children. Job's wife told him to "Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9). Even his friends accused him of some terrible hidden sin, deserving the judgment of God.

However, in Job's example, we find encouragement and the power to persevere in life's darkest hours . . . power rooted in God, who is compassionate and merciful. Even, when life is painful and hard, we can persevere because God is there. CONSIDER THIS:

If there is nothing to endure we cannot learn patience.

We cannot persevere unless there are trials in our life.

There can be no victories without battles.

There can be no peaks without valleys.

There can be no joys without sorrows.

There can be no blessings without sufferings.

If we want the blessing, we must be prepared to carry the burden and fight life's battles.

God first humbled righteous Job then He honored him with blessings.

Like the farmer, we look ahead with hope and patiently wait; like the prophets, we do God's will and in spite of strong opposition, we stay the course; and like Job, we don't let life's circumstances cause us to change who we are or in whom we place our trust. All are rewarded for their patience.

David wrote in Psalm 40:1-3, ***"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord."***

In the coming month, let us each hold strong to the hope found only in God and let us put our trust in His compassion and mercy. Better days are ahead, in this life and in the life to come.



# We Miss You!!!

We're going to try something new this month! A lot of us consider ourselves lucky that we live in a time where technology is so widely available... whether it be through a computer or tablet or phone, we don't have to work TOO hard to connect with our friends and family. So, we're going to try and take advantage of the technology we have over the next month to "get together" and see each other's faces. We are going to use a popular video conferencing platform called Zoom to have a group video chat. Ashley will send out more details, including step by step instructions, in the next week or so but please set some time aside **Thursday, May 14th at 6 pm** and/or **Sunday, May 24th, also at 6 pm**. We will not be using this as a time of worship (for those of you who are familiar with Zoom you know that would be a little chaotic) but we are going to use it as a time of Fellowship and to see some faces that you might not have seen in quite some time. Anyone who has a computer, tablet, or smartphone will be able to join us!! Ashley will send out the instructions closer to the first meeting and will be able to answer any questions that you have about how to join us.

# Prayer List

· Anneka Broughton                      **Ken Maupin**  
**Mary Enfield**                              **Lea Schorer** – no visitors at this time please  
**Andrew-James Broughton**              · **Jason Willis**  
**Pat McRill**                      · **Dar Hinrichs**              **Frances Hughes**  
· **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  
**Dave Bogenschutz** – friend of Dustin Arreguin who is dealing with a rare form of cancer  
**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** – fell and broke bones in her leg/ankle  
**Tony Nicosia** – recovering from infection after knee surgery - is now at home  
**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  
**John Anderson** – fell on some ice and injured his leg  
**Donna Fincher** – Is dealing with multiple health issues and not feeling at all well  
**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

## 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>



## Noah's Ark - Genesis 5:32-10:1

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

ANIMALS  
ARK  
BOAT  
COVENANT  
DOVE  
FLOOD  
HAM  
JAPHETH  
PERISH  
RAIN  
SHEM  
TIMBER

ARARAT  
BIBLE  
BUILD  
DESTROY  
FAMILY  
GENESIS  
INSTRUCTION  
NOAH  
PRESERVE  
RAVEN  
SINFUL  
WICKED





# MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Julia Garcia's bday	2 <small>Parity 10:00am</small>
3 <small>Wyllin Long's bday</small>	4	5 <small>Lucy Gregory &amp; Naomi Gibson's bday</small>	6 <small>HHHP Food Delivery</small>	7 <small>Borrisson's ann. 5-3 pm Parity</small>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 <small>Church Video Chat @ 6 pm</small>	15	16 <small>Parity 10:00am</small> <small>Linda Kelleck's bday</small> <small>McKinney's ann.</small>
17 <small>Atheena Nicosia &amp; Becky Zonok's bday</small>	18	19	20 <small>Vikki Hatcher &amp; Doug McClain-Smith's bday</small> <small>Soter's ann.</small> <small>HHHP Food Delivery</small>	21 <small>Leda Phillips' bday 6-8 pm Parity</small>	22	23 <small>Jill Nicosia's bday</small>
24/31 <small>24th—Church Video Chat @ 6 pm</small> <small>24th—Maddison McClain Smith's bday</small> <small>24th—Cornstock's ann.</small>	25 <small>Lucy Chamberlain's bday</small>	26	27 <small>Braydon Letsinger's bday</small>	28	29 <small>Michaela McClain-Smith's bday</small>	30 <small>Rob Foster's bday</small>

# NEWS & EVENTS

--The church email has officially converted to [NorthParkCofC@gmail.com](mailto:NorthParkCofC@gmail.com) The old address won't be checked for much longer so make sure you have changed it in your address book


--We will not be having VBS in early June as we have in the past. We would love to be able to work something out at some point in time over the summer but it will probably have to look a little different than what we typically do so we'll keep you posted on that as we work out what we're going to do.

--Please remember that if you have donations for Essentials you can drop off on the first Thursday of every month from 5—6 pm.

-- The Helping Hands Pantry is considered an essential service and will continue to operate during the Governor's Stay at Home order but changes to the pantry day operations have been made so that we are able to operate 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 [npsc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:npsc@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:

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Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

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

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

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