



the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
NOVEMBER 2020

TIME TO PUSH THE RESET BUTTON?

Per Google, “Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set **your clocks back** one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to “fall **back**.”

If it were only that easy! If it was just a matter of turning our clocks back in order to take us to a better time in our lives . . . maybe pre-COVID, maybe pre-sickness, pre-loss of a spouse, pre-retirement, pre-adulthood. Turning back time to find that perfect point in our lives where looking back now, “was the best time of our life”.

Well, we do get to turn back time, but only an hour; not a year, or a decade, or even a lifetime. So where does that leave us? In the present, dealing with whatever our past may have created for us; experiencing whatever our present chooses to offer us; and wondering what our future may hold for us.

I recently shared a message entitled “24” which focused on how we spend the 24 hours that make up our day and just how much God is included in each of the 24 hours we are given. So I won’t re-visit that subject. Rather, since we can’t “turn back time” or “put time in a bottle” as some singers have lamented, I’m just wondering what our plans are for the time we do have.

Recently, I ran into a North Park member at COSTCO (free advertising for COSTCO) who was thinking that perhaps this period of ongoing isolation and continued restrictions may serve as a much needed “re-set” for people when it comes to our approach to God, our relationships with one another, and the condition of our hearts.

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There's the saying, "absence makes the heart grow fonder" and I can only hope that is true when it comes to our relationships with one another and the condition of our hearts. We haven't been able to see our church family like we once did; we haven't been able to worship together like we once did; we haven't been able to enjoy the full fellowship of the saints like we once did. Do we miss that; I mean really miss that?

Do we miss seeing our church family members to the point of being compelled NOW to find ways to reach out on a daily basis to those we are missing—phone calls, drive by visits, texts, emails, cards, letters, in home worship?

Do we miss being able to worship together to the point of feeling such a strong desire in our hearts to worship God in any manner possible even if it would mean attending a worship service at North Park limited to a max of 25 attendees? While the entire congregation won't be there at once, God will be. I truly believe that.

Do we miss the full fellowship of the saints to the point of longing for the opportunities to have people into our homes, to engage with them beyond just once a week, to embrace and support them?

Once restrictions are lifted and isolation is no longer a mandate, what will we do?

Will we be eager to become more active in the work of the church?

Will we express to the elders our desire to get "plugged in" and engaged in helping wherever we are needed?

Will we be more intent on sharing Jesus with others through our words and our actions?

Will our commitment to serving God and living like Jesus become stronger and more purposeful because we will finally have the ability to openly do that?

Will our attendance and engagement at worship services and church activities increase to mirror our decision to fan into flame our desire to be drawn closer to God?

Clearly, we can't go back in time and right now "our present" may limit what we are able to do; but let's not let our future, as it unfolds, be apathetic, complacent, indecisive, and stagnant in our level of service. Let's use this time of the pandemic as the "re-set button" for our lives spiritually, so our commitment to the Lord and to one another is stronger than it ever has been. To God be the glory!

~Tim~



North Park family,

Unfortunately, the Illinois guidelines tightened again on 10/22 for our region due to an increase in cases. The restrictions now prevent meetings of more than 10 inside or outside.

This is disappointing because we had a plan all ready for us to meet in groups of 25 inside the building starting November 1 and even had a 'dress rehearsal' scheduled for last Sunday, but will now have to put all that on hold for now.

We will continue to monitor how long this restriction will be in effect and provide periodic updates.

Please continue to worship God in your homes until we can gather again and, well, always, actually!! And let's keep in touch with each other by phone and social media.

In the meantime, Tim Firm will continue to video lessons for us to watch from Facebook and YouTube.

God is in control!

Sincerely,

Antivirus Team

*** As always, if you have any needs or anything you would like to have the congregation pray about, please let Ashley or Tim or any of the elders know.

Jo Maupin has expressed her desire to be a member of North Park and would like to communicate the following:

I've decided to place membership again with the Church of Christ. I went to the Baptist church because my children were in its school. And I wanted to know what the children would be taught. I ask forgiveness from anyone whom I may have offended when I did that.

I have asked God for forgiveness and anyone else. Please accept me as a member of the Church of Christ.

Her home phone number is 815-633-3995, cell is 815-243-2770 and her address is 1402 Juniper Lane Machesney Park, IL 61115

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

Frances Hughes

Lea Schorer – no visitors at this time please · **Jason Willis**

Pat McRill · **Dar Hinrichs** **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

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

Frank Lott – is now under hospice care

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.

Corrine Furman— friend of the Morris family who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Donna Fincher— dealing with multiple health issues, specifically she has asked us to pray about the pain she is feeling in her leg

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

Sandy Allen- dealing with severe back pain

Sara Cancagallo- friend of Louise Crouch who will be having surgery soon as part of cancer treatment

Chris Isom

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

Myrtle Williams – had her shoulder surgery and that went well. She fell again, which caused some inflammation in her bad foot that will have to resolve before they do surgery again on her foot

Joan Wadsworth - has been battling with a virus for awhile now that they haven't been able to figure out yet

Joyce Heckelmiller – having an MRI to help diagnose some neck pain she is having

Louise Crouch – at Van Matre rehab facility after having a fall

Ernie Stubblefield - Ernie is in the hospital and is in very grave condition. Please keep him in your prayers and that the doctors are able to find a way to provide him with some peace and ease his pain

Lonny Fortin—Lonny is having some major health issues

David Bennett—the Parker's grandson was in a very serious motorcycle accident

Family of Gordon Hicks - Gordon passed away recently

Cora Parker - Fell and broke her wrist

Sue Ann Diaz– has been in the hospital for over a week with some health issues

Reagan Riley– had her tonsils and adenoids removed

Carol McGowan– will have shoulder surgery on November 5th

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Kallyn Willis's bday	2	3	4 Ashley Gregory, Stephany Cervantes, & Steve Adkins' bday	5 J/V Nicolas's ann	6 Joan Letsinger's bday	7 Partny 10:00am
8	9	10	11 HHP Food Delivery	12 6-7:30 pm Partny	13 Cathy Firm & Justin Reese's bday	14
15	16	17 Mary Enfield's bday	18 Sandi Riffle's bday	19 Melissa Price's bday	20	21 Partny 10:00am Jerry Gibson's bday EW Long's ann
22 Maddison Zomok's bday	23	24	25 Katie Schulz's bday HHP Food Delivery	26 Marry Ann Cornstock's bday  Happy Thanksgiving	27 Maushehund's ann	28 Chris Isom's bday
29 Reagan Riley's bday	30					

NEWS & EVENTS

--We still need monetary donations and donations of gifts for God's Hand Gift Shop. Those can be mailed to the building along with your weekly contribution or you can get in touch with Ashley and arrange a time to stop by

--The Village has made the decision to go ahead with a toy drive for God's Hand Gift Shop this year, which is really good news!! But we will still expect participation to be down, for obvious reasons, so definitely still need your support!

--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.

--Ashley will be taking some time off next week. If you send anything to the church email, please expect a longer than usual response time. If something is time sensitive, it would be best to call or text.

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