



the Encourager

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
NORTH PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST |
NOVEMBER 2021

A CONSTANT PRESENCE

I lost a friend on Monday, October 11, 2021. Our friendship began on September 23, 2003 and continued to grow for eighteen years until he said good-bye. He had found peace that had been absent in his life for a very long time. You see, on Monday night, October 11, 2021, Leroy Jethro Gibbs (played by Mark Harmon) said good-bye to his role on CBS's NCIS. I had read that it might happen but found a tear in my eye when I saw it happen in season 19, episode 4. "Gibbs", as he was called in the show, in many ways has been the show. He relied on "his gut" when it came to making decisions . . . a combination of professional and personal experience, common sense, and a unique set of "rules". We had a connection. (Now before you judge me too harshly for referencing a TV show at the beginning of my article, I promise there is more to my thought process if you choose to read on.)

As I sat and watched the ending of that episode, my thoughts changed lanes from fiction to reality . . . (18 years I had been watching that show, not missing an episode and re-watching many episodes during that time period). What had I experienced in my life during those 18 years? Looking back over that time period a number of things stood out to me: I have continued to be blest with a loving and patient wife of now 42 years and counting. I've watched my two daughters perform on stages and courts, graduate high school and college with honors; and begin and continue their careers as teachers. I moved my family from Illinois to Arkansas and back to Illinois during those 18 years, with five different mailing addresses. I worked in Human Resources for five different companies; am now serving as the Minister at North Park for the second time (2010-2014; 2019-present); and spent a total of 13 months on unemployment.

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... I have been supported by friends and betrayed by some who I thought were my friends. I underwent three surgeries, plus spent a week in the hospital with an infection. I lost my father on Thanksgiving Day 2012 and lost my step-father-in-law that same year. In these 18 years, I've also lost several uncles and aunts, a number of friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. I have been witness to the decline of the health of my mother and mother-in-law to the point that neither of them have much of a "quality of life". I saw North Park continue to grow to nearly 285 on Sunday mornings in 2008, to seeing that number decline as so many key families moved out of state due to work or family, to being unable to meet for several months due to the pandemic, to now trying to regroup and regrow. During that same period of time, I've served under three different elderships, spoke at nearly 40 funerals, and officiated about a dozen weddings. I also know that during those 18 years, I have disappointed God too many times and taken His mercy and grace for granted.

There is obviously a lot of specific events that occurred during these last 18 years that are too detailed and probably too boring to include. However, throughout all the highs and lows, changes in employment, changes in addresses, changes in health, changes in attitude, and changes in situations in general, there continues to be one constant . . . God!

When I found myself at my highest points, it was because of His blessings that I was there. When I found myself at my lowest points, it was the presence of His love, compassion, and mercy that enabled me to make it through. God has been and continues to be the constant in my life regardless of how selfish, inconsiderate, distracted, or sinful I may be. The special people in my life are because of God. The special opportunities to serve others are because of God. The lessons taught to me and any wisdom I may have gained are because of God. When I found myself in distress, He provided a way for me to once again find peace and comfort.

As we approach a period of thankfulness and specifically Thanksgiving Day, I want to encourage us to reflect on the blessings we have received and continue to receive from God; perhaps none more powerful than His constant presence in our lives. Whether you reflect on your last 18 years, most recent 18 days, or some other period of time, count your blessings and consider how God's constant presence has impacted you. However, if you are unable to feel His presence then you are missing out on a bountiful feast of blessings.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 118:29, NIV)

~Tim~



NOVEMBER

THANKFULNESS

- Day 1 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Day 19 - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
Day 2 - Colossians 2:6-7 Day 20 - Philippians 4:6-7
Day 3 - Psalm 136:1-3 Day 21 - Psalm 106:1
Day 4 - Psalm 136:4-9 Day 22 - 1 Timothy 4:4-5
Day 5 - Psalm 136:10-22 Day 23 - Psalm 28:7
Day 6 - Psalm 136:23-26 Day 24 - Psalm 107:15
Day 7 - Colossians 3:15-17 Day 25 - 1 Corinthians 1:4
Day 8 - Psalm 13:5 Day 26 - 1 Chronicles 16:34
Day 9 - Psalm 107:1 Day 27 - Psalm 107:8-9
Day 10 - Psalm 100:1-5 Day 28 - Psalm 32:11
Day 11 - 2 Corinthians 4:15 Day 29 - 2 Corinthians 9:11
Day 12 - Psalm 92:1 Day 30 - Daniel 2:23
Day 13 - Ephesians 1:15-16
Day 14 - Psalm 118:1
Day 15 - Revelation 11:17
Day 16 - 2 Thessalonians 1:3
Day 17 - Psalm 95:2
Day 18 - Philemon 4-5



Those to Serve –November 7, 2021

Worship Director: Jordan Siracusa
Opening Prayer: Simon-Peter Broughton
Preside: Joe Nicosia
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia
Scripture Reading: Steve Adkins
Pre-Class Greeter: Joan Schmidt, Vikki Hatcher
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Pre-Worship Greeter: Soters, Liz Willis
Usher #1: Jerry Gibson
Usher #2: Marcus Price
A/V Booth: Justin Reese

Those to Serve –November 14, 2021

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Ron King
Preside: Marcus Price
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia
Scripture Reading: John Castree
Pre-Class Greeter: Simon-Peter Broughton, Pat Williams
Class Attendance: Marcus Cassady
Pre-Worship Greeter: Wadsworths
Usher #1: Stan Gregory
Usher #2: Ken Lynch
A/V Booth: Tim Barton

Those to Serve –November 21, 2021

Worship Director: Sid Long
Opening Prayer: Ken Lynch
Preside: Jordan Siracusa
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia
Scripture Reading: Stan Gregory
Pre-Class Greeter: John Castree, Julie Cavallaro
Class Attendance: Ken Maupin
Pre-Worship Greeter: Bertrams
Usher #1: Jeff Hagerman
Usher #2: Justin Reese
A/V Booth: Tyler Zomok

Those to Serve –November 28, 2021

Worship Director: Ken Maupin
Opening Prayer: Jeff Hagerman
Preside: Jose Cervantes
Ann/Closing Prayer: Joe Nicosia
Scripture Reading: Jeremy Schulz
Pre-Class Greeter: Firms, Brenda Mohler
Class Attendance: Jaye Lavern
Pre-Worship Greeter: Murrays, Sara Maupin
Usher #1: Mark Murray
Usher #2: Scott Weir
A/V Booth: Adam Zomok

Worship Usher #1 (inside auditorium main doors)

- greet latecomers and encourage sanitizing and help with finding seats (if there are none, ask elders to give up seat)
- may lock/unlock outer doors during worship
- take attendance on sheet provided and give to Ken/leave in Tim’s office after worship
- put attendance up on attendance board

Worship Usher #2 - floating in the middle of the auditorium to help people find seats or add remove seats

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

Jason Willis

Anneka Broughton

Sue Ann Diaz

Bruce Rooks

Larry Borrison

Kevin Gillis

Lea Schorer – no visitors at this time please

Gerald Harbach

Myrtle Williams

Dar Hinrichs

Wendy Williams

Brandi Ostergard – friend of Wendy Williams who has cancer

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

Mike Trank – Melanie Lavern's dad, being treated for cancer

Mathew Ronan – Doug Soter's nephew

Kevin Sircloumb – tumor on his brain stem

Gregory Willis – Ron Willis's brother, diagnosed with Myeloma

Earline Nipps – has started chemo treatments

Linda Ward – is out of rehab and will be staying with family while she continues recovery

People of Haiti – please continue to keep Haiti in your prayers as the political strife in the country continues

Judi Rogers – at home recovering from her extended hospital stay

Carol McGowan's daughter in law Kris – is having stomach issues

Freda Izzard – Simon-Peter Broughton's Aunt who recently had a mild heart attack

Santos family - relatives of the Castrees whose youngest daughter was recently diagnosed with DIPG, a rare type of brain cancer

Robert Schulz – Jeremy Schulz's father, recovering from a recent stroke

Lucy Chamberlain – trying to schedule time with a heart specialist

Helen Holland – recently diagnosed with cancer

Nicole Washington – mother of a friend of Simon-Peter's who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Dennis Floyd – recently had three stents placed, is doing well

Leota Mann – Katie Schulz's grandmother, recently hospitalized after a TIA

Lindsey Farley – friend of Katrina Whaley's, recovering after a bad car accident

Jan Lavern – recovering after surgery to repair a broken femur, back at home now

Sheila Peck – in the hospital dealing with effects of Covid-19, doing much better

Donna Fincher - in the CCU at OSF, had two stents placed to hopefully increase circulation in her leg

Deckard family - friends of the Morris/Zomok family who are going through a lot after a cancer diagnosis and a job relocation

Ken Lynch - awaiting results from tests on his heart

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ROMEO Club	2	3 Bible Study 10 am Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm	4 Ashley Gregory, Stephany Cervantes, & Steve Adkins' bday	5 J/N Nicosia's ann.	6 Partry 10 noon Joan Letzinger's bday
7 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am BIRTHDAY PARTY FELLOWSHIP Daylight savings time ends!	8	9 Blanket Workday gam	10 Bible Study 10 am HHP Food Delivery Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm	11 6-7 pm Partry	12	13 Cathy Firm & Justin Reese's bday
14 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am LIFE Groups Sue Ann Diaz's bday	15	16	17 Bible Study 10 am Wednesday evening service at 6:30 pm Mary Enfield's bday	18 Sandi Riffle's bday	19 Melissa Pike's bday	20 Partry 10 noon
21 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am LIGHT UP THE PARKS PARADE Maddison Zomok & Jerry Gibson's bday EWN Long's ann.	22	23	24 NO morning or evening services HHP Food Delivery	25 NO PANTRY Katie Schulz's bday 	26 Mary Ann Comstock's bday	27 Mausehund's ann.
28 Bible Class @9:30 Worship @10:30 am LIFE Groups	29 Raeagan Riley's bday	30				

NEWS & EVENTS

- If you would like make a donation to RCC to help with raising funds for the cabin siding, you can write a check made to RCC or you can go to this website <https://rockfordchristiancamp.org/cabin-keepers/>

- The final Simply Give campaign of the year will run from October 3rd - January 1st. The cards are available on the rack by the women's bathroom. ***Double Match day is December 11th

- Every Wednesday: Bible Study at 10 am Devotional & Singing service at 6:30 pm

- We would love to be able to, once again, have a big one day event for God's Hand Gift Shop this year - but it all depends on you!! As any of you who have participated in the past know, GHGS takes quite a few volunteers to run smoothly and without a minimum number of volunteers, we can't make it happen. What we need from you is to think ahead and decide as soon as possible if you will be able to commit to being there. **The usual sign up sheets will be up by this Sunday and will be up until November 21st.** If we do not have enough people signed up to help by then, we will be forced to make the call to do things like we did last year and set up everything in the basement and have families come over the course of a few weeks to pick out their gifts during the day. Here is the pertinent information:

1. If we have a one day event, it will happen on Saturday, December 11th and you will need to be here from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm (unless you sign up only to help with clean-up)
2. We will have everything running for one extra hour than usual. This will allow us to limit the number of people we have in the auditorium at one time and will make it possible for us to need a few less volunteers
3. We will be asking all of the volunteers and people who come through to pick out gifts to wear a mask. If the covid situation changes drastically between now and then, that may be revisited, but as it stands right now, we'll be wearing masks.

PLEASE take some time to look at your schedule and don't procrastinate with this. If we do not have enough volunteers signed up by the end of church on November 21st, we will not have the one day event. We need to know a few weeks ahead of time so that I'm able to make appointments during the week of Thanksgiving with everyone who will need help this year. That way they will have a couple weeks to arrange to have time off work and/or arrange child care if necessary.

- Simon-Peter Broughton will be having a book signing at Mary's Market on McFarland from 11 am – 1 pm on Friday, November 5th and will be on channel 39 news at 5:30

- There is a memorial for Frank Rogers' sister, Patsy Howard, on Friday, October 29th at 2 pm with a meal at North Park following the service

- On November 7th, we will be having a birthday party for everyone in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship service. We will be having chili, salad, and birthday cake. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway, if you plan on bringing something, please sign up! (if you have any questions, see Steve Adkins)

Elder's Group E-Mail Address
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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

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www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com