



# the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OCTOBER 2020

## DECISIONS! DECISIONS!

Life is full of decisions and it seems those decisions continue to plague us and become more difficult with each passing day: elections, medical procedures, family situations, financial obligations, and so on. Oh, if our decisions only consisted of whether to have a grape or cherry snow cone at the carnival (both favorites); or whether to ride the Merry-Go-Round or the Bumper Cars first. (Those were the days.)

Luke writes about the decision that Lydia and her household made to be baptized into Jesus Christ (Acts 16:11-15). Many who will read this have already made that decision; but some have not, in spite of years of prayers on their behalf and the likelihood that they know what they need to do/should do, but have chosen not to do.

Choosing to put Jesus on in baptism and become a follower of His is a decision with an “eternal” impact. No one can make that decision for you. So if you are reading this and have yet to make that decision then you have made another decision in its place . . . to miss out on heaven.

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Additionally, James gets really blunt about another related decision in James 4:4, “Don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity with God? Therefore anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” (Another important decision: friend of the world = enemy of God!)

Besides deciding which bills to pay this week or month, deciding what to have for dinner, or choosing which shoes to wear with blue jeans, there are some other choices/decisions I want to encourage us to consider each day as we live our lives and interact with others.

**Choose LOVE over hatred and bitterness. I will love God and all that God loves.**

**Choose JOY over despair and look at obstacles as opportunities to experience God at work.**

**Choose PEACE over conflict and let God’s presence replace my anxiety.**

**Choose PATIENCE over inconvenience and allow thankfulness to consume my complaining.**

**Choose KINDNESS over selfishness in order to share my blessings with others.**

**Choose GOODNESS over worldliness and be an example of all that is right.**

**Choose FAITHFULNESS over doubt so that people will come to know who I serve.**

**Choose GENTLENESS over cruelty and only raise my voice in praise, only clench my fists when in prayer, and only make demands of myself.**

**Choose SELF-CONTROL over self-indulgence and let Jesus Christ rule my life and guide my decisions.**

Decide that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will grow in us and be evident to others in the words we speak, the actions we take, and the lives we live; because we have chosen to no longer live for self but to live for Christ. **(Galatians 5:22-24)**

What decisions will you make today?

~Tim~



In-Person Worship

Unfortunately, the Illinois guidelines announced 9/29 for our region due to an increase in cases prevent meetings of more than 25 inside or outside.

We are therefore cancelling the Sunday, 10/4 indoor services we have been planning with such excitement and will be trying to determine how long this restriction will be in effect. We will provide weekly updates.

We have been blessed with 12 great outdoor worship times and are grateful for them. 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.

**From the elders:** We continue to monitor the coronavirus situation and have preparations ready to start meeting indoors as soon as local guidelines are again relaxed enough to do so. In the meantime, please continue to watch Tim Firm's Sunday and Wednesday video lessons on Facebook, YouTube and the church website for the themed teaching there we can practice and discuss. Take communion together in your households. We will communicate updates and church news via email, our Facebook and Instagram pages, and calls to our non-email members until we can meet as a whole once again. These involuntary separations test our individual faith and are opportunities for us to remember the friendships we share in Christ and to pray for each other more, eagerly looking forward to when we are able to assemble safely.

Jan Lavern and Wendy Williams will be moving to Florida this week. Please keep them in your prayers, that they have safe and easy travels and are able to create a lovely new home for themselves in Florida. Their new address is:

1071 Donegan Rd.  
Lot 552  
Largo, FL 33771

## 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**

**Ken Maupin    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

**Sabrina Freter** – a friend of Katie Schulz who was diagnosed with acute myelogenous Leukemia - cancer is in remission!!

**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.

**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

**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

**Maxine Byrne** – broken clavicle

**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

**Lori Ward & Steve Gage** – family members of Carol McGowan who are being treated for Covid-19

**Joan Wadsworth** - has been battling with a virus for a few weeks 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

**Paula Waddle and her daughter Natisha** - Paula and Natisha are Alma Smith's daughter and granddaughter and they have recently been diagnosed with Covid-19 and are feeling quite ill. Natisha's daughter has also been diagnosed but so far has had extremely mild symptoms

**Zomok/Morris families** - are awaiting Covid test results

**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 was just released from the hospital and has some recovery time ahead of him and still isn't feeling great

**Parker family**—the Parker's grandson's wife, Rebekah Parker, passed away unexpectedly Friday evening. She was quite young and leaves behind a grieving husband and her children and the family could really use your prayers



# OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ned Ruffin's bday Boien's ann	2	3 Pat Williams & Sara Maupin's bday Pantry 10:00am
4	5 Oliver Gregory's bday	6	7	8 1-3 pm Pantry	9 Chuck Mausehund's bday Roger's ann, Seifert's ann.	10 Asha Peck's bday
11 WORSHIP TBD Joey Nicosia's bday	12	13 Andy Yousif's bday Maupin's ann.	14 HHP Food Delivery	15 Jan Lavern, Greg Peck & Dylan Erd- man's bday	16	17 Pantry 10:00am
18 WORSHIP TBD	19	20 Wanda Long, Jerrica Hagerman, Magnolia Duckmann, John Parker's bday Riley's ann. Kulpa's ann.	21 Chad Kulpa & Frank Rogers' bday	22 6-8 pm Pantry	23 Christa McClain-Smith & Joe Nicosia's bday	24 Beth Kemp's bday
25 WORSHIP TBD Adam Zamok's bday	26 Erma Eldridge bday	27 Mickey Tooley & Ruth Ann Mausehund's bday	28 HHP Food Delivery Jerrica/Brett Hagerman's ann.	29 Mickey Phillips' bday	30 Mary Hall's bday Hinrichs' ann.	31 Ashley Nicosia's bday

# NEWS & EVENTS

--The reps from Shults Lewis will be coming on Wednesday, October 7th, to pick up the donations we have collected. I know we are missing out on one Sunday when you could have dropped off donations but please don't let that stop you!!! Get in touch with Ashley and she will make the trip to your house to pick up your donation, or you can drop them off at the building. If you were planning on giving Ashley money to shop for your donation for you, please get in touch with her and she will still make it happen!!

--Since the shutdown in March, the pantry has basically been operated exclusively by a small group of people every week, some of whom have had to go back to work and aren't able to help as much. We could use help each week bagging meat, and we also REALLY need help on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings of each month from 5:15-7:30pm**. If you are able to help in any way, please let Sandy Youssi or Gloria Gregory know.

--Make sure to keep setting aside your weekly donations for God's Hand Gift Shop!! We'll have the bucket out once we start meeting in person and still need your donations!

--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.

--Jason Lavern has been elected to serve as a Trustee for North Park

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:

Phone—815-633-4253

Email—NorthParkCofC@gmail.com

www.northparkchurchofchristil.com

Helping Hands Pantry— 815-633-1504

www.helpinghandspantry.com