



# the *Encourager*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SEPTEMBER 2020

## PLANS

Nearly a year ago I “retired” from working full time at Field Fastener. As that retirement date was approaching, I can still remember repeatedly praying for God to watch over me and Cathy and asked that He make it clear what I am supposed to do after retiring. All I knew at the time was my last day at Field would be Monday, September 30, 2019 and the next morning I would drive to Texas to spend a month with Sara and Kailey.

Looking back, it is humbling to see what God actually had planned for me. When Jared informed the leadership team that he and Danielle were planning to move back to Texas, God had already put it on my heart to want to serve as North Park’s minister once again. It started out as a matter of logic more than anything and that is how I presented it to the leadership team: it’s winter and finding someone who will want to move to northern Illinois in the dead of winter will be very difficult; our attendance is down so who would consider taking a preaching job at a congregation with a shrinking membership; with smaller numbers, our giving is down so could we even afford a full-time minister; and if all that wasn’t enough to discourage someone from considering the minister role at North Park, we were without an eldership which is also not something that would likely draw someone here. While those reasons made sense; in addition, I really wanted to serve as the minister here once again and I believe God made it possible for that to happen.

With the exception of a two year trip to Arkansas from 2004-2006, North Park has been our “home” since April 1990 when we moved here from Ohio. Sara was 4 ½ when we moved here; she will turn thirty-five this month. Kailey was born here and is now twenty-seven. You, the North Park church, helped us teach and raise our daughters. So being able to give back to North Park in some way once again is more than logical, it is the right thing to do. I have no idea how long God will allow me to serve as North Park’s minister but I am grateful for the opportunity and will continue to do my best in His service and yours.

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We got off to a good start in late December, January and February; reconnecting with some people who had stopped attending, rebuilding relationships, and encouraging us to get back to basics . . . love God, love others. There seemed to be an increasing level of energy; but then came the pandemic, and what were real signs of enthusiasm and promise soon became the reality of isolation, fear, and loneliness. Just about the time we were beginning to focus once again on the joy of being with one another, we became confined to our homes. For our own safety and health--no more hugs and handshakes, no more visiting after worship services for 20-30 minutes, no more getting to host Life Groups. It didn't mean we stopped loving each other, it just meant we couldn't show it as easily as we had been doing. Still, staying connected with one another in a variety of safe methods has become even more important these days.

However, even while our world, our country, our towns, and our families remained in lockdown for several months, God put it on the hearts of a small group of men to not only consider the role of elders, but to desire it, and to risk meeting together every week to study, discuss, and grow with one another. While North Park could no longer meet as church, these men met faithfully week after week to dig deep into what God expects and needs from those who would lead His children. Through all the social distancing, the isolation, the mask wearing, and the safety of remaining dormant, God blessed these men and the efforts taking place--much to the dismay of Satan who would like nothing more than for the North Park church to go another seven years without an eldership.

I am proud of the willingness, the humility, the transparency, and the commitment of these four men to accept the responsibility of serving as elders. It was an honor for me to study with them and to have a role in appointing them to be elders. Now what I ask of each of you is to give them the opportunity to serve as North Park's eldership. Be supportive, be respectful, and willingly be involved in helping them rebuild North Park. They are humbled and honored to serve us and God in this way. Let's be just as humble and honorable in allowing God to work in them and through them so that the church that Jesus gave His life for can become an oasis for the hurting, a beacon for the wandering, and a home for more and more who desire to be faithful followers of Jesus.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)*

*~TIM~*



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

At this time, we are planning to continue to meet outdoors through the month of September. We have been blessed with two months of pleasant Sunday mornings and we're hoping that continues through to October. The team who was assembled to come up with protocols for our times of worship will be communicating the plans for indoor worship in the coming weeks, with a tentative plan for our first indoor worship times happening on Sunday, October 4th. We ask that you continue the flexibility and patience you have exhibited thus far, as meeting inside comes with its own challenges and heightened risk factors.

### Guidelines for outdoor worship:

1. We will be meeting in the yard behind the Essentials house at 9:30 a.m., weather permitting.
2. Before coming, ask yourself these questions: Are you feeling ill? Do you have a fever of 100.4 or greater? Do you have a cough, which is new? Are you having shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, which is new? Have you traveled internationally in the last month? Have you been in contact with a suspected or lab-confirmed coronavirus patient? If you answer positively to ANY of them, stay home.
3. There will be no Bible Classes or Nursery
4. We will practice social distancing (6 feet!) with NO HUGS or handshakes, but will pray, sing, take communion and hear from God's word together. This is very important to protect each other.
5. Communion serving will be modified to eliminate multiple handling
6. You must wear your mask from your car until in your seat and during singing.
7. You must bring your own lawn/camp chair and be directed where to sit safely apart from others who do not live in your household (at this time, even if you have a group of people who you have "let into your circle" over the past few months, we must ask that everyone who doesn't live in the same house together sit separately)
8. The building will not be open so there will be no restroom access (but the service will be kept to 45 minutes)
9. There will be designated boxes for you to deposit your contribution
10. Volunteer guides will be assisting you with where to park, set up your seat and with sanitation practices and you are expected to do what they ask

### UPDATED NEEDS/Reminders:

**-Couples/groups have been inching seating closer than the 6ft. We have to maintain the 6ft, please to keep each other safe when masks are off. We can do this! Thanks!!**

**-As announced, please always RSVP as we need this for service planning AND will need to be 100% responding when we start to move inside.**

**\*\*\* In the case of inclement/possibly inclement weather, a decision will be made by 8 am whether or not we will have service. For those of you with email, please check your email in the morning to make sure service has not been cancelled. For those who do not have email, you will receive a phone call.**

# Matthew 5

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

**blessed**  
**king**  
**mount**  
**poor**

**comforted**  
**matthew**  
**mourn**  
**sermon**

**heaven**  
**meek**  
**peace**  
**spirit**

**Jesus**  
**mercy**  
**persecuted**

## 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**

**Lea Schorer** – no visitors at this time please

**Jason Willis**

**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

**Frank Lott** – is now under hospice care

**Lonny Fortin** – torn rotator cuff

**David Hagerman** – Jeff Hagerman's brother, was in a car accident and broke several bones

**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 - treatments are going very well!!

**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

**Donna Fincher**— dealing with multiple health issues

**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** – starting rehab soon

**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

**Vernon Ray Jr.** — still battling the after effects of having Covid-19

**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

**Margaret Couch** - Margaret has been having some health issues

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

**Judy Truitt** – in the hospital with multiple health issues

**Rheta Poynor** – is now under hospice care



# SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 J/D Willis's ann.	2 J/K Hegerman's ann.	3	4 Doyle McKinney's bday	5 <b>NO PANTRY</b>
6 WORSHIP @ 9:30 Christian Amavisca's bday	7	8 Frances Hughes' bday	9 <b>HHP Food Delivery</b>	10 Frankie Nicosia's bday 1-3 pm Pantry	11	12 Delores Watkins' bday
13 WORSHIP @ 9:30 Yousif's ann.	14 Jeremy Schluz, John Anderson & Jose Cervantes' bday	15 Joan Wadsworth's bday	16 Anna Murray's bday	17 Stan Gregory's bday	18 Julia Berglund & Cora Whitmore's bday	19 <b>Pantry 10-noon</b> Kelisha Plice's bday
20 WORSHIP @ 9:30	21	22 Tonda Borison & Jarod Erdman's bday	23 <b>HHP Food Delivery</b>	24 Brock Soter's bday Peck's ann. 6-8 pm Pantry	25	26 Gibson's ann.
27 WORSHIP @ 9:30	28	29	30			

# NEWS & 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.**

--We are collecting donations for Shults Lewis through October 4th. This year, they are asking that we collect single serve beverages (Gatorade, water, juice boxes, juice pouches, etc.). You can put your donations in the shopping cart on Sunday mornings or contact Ashley to arrange a time to drop off at the building. If you would prefer not to shop, please put cash or check (made out to North Park Church of Christ) in the bowl marked Shults Lewis on Sunday mornings. If you would like to make a donation to Shults Lewis to help them purchase perishables throughout the year, please put cash or check (made out to Shults Lewis) in the bowl marked Shults Lewis on Sunday mornings. \*\*\* If you are donating cash, it will be assumed that you are donating towards the purchase of beverages unless you somehow mark that you would like the money to go towards perishables.

--You can pick up Meijer's Simply Give cards on the welcome table on Sunday mornings. If you would like to donate money towards the purchase of cards but will not be able to go to Meijer's yourself, you can put your donation in the bowl marked Helping Hands Pantry on Sunday mornings (checks made out to Helping Hands Pantry)

--The decision has been made that we will not be doing Trunk or Treat this year but we remain committed to still having God's Hand Gift Shop... even though it will look VERY different and will most likely not happen as a big one day event. The most important thing that we will need from all of you are donations. Starting Sunday, September 6th, we will have the This Little Light of Mine bucket set up at the welcome table. We will not have the kids run around to grab your money from you while we sing This Little Light of Mine as we have in the past for Trunk or Treat/God's Hand Gift Shop—you'll just drop your dollars in the bucket as you leave worship on Sundays. We will also need donations in the form of gifts. The Village has made a commitment to still help us out with a monetary donation but having people from the community come and drop off presents in their offices is, understandably, not something that can be done this year. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks and months but for now—don't forget to bring your dollars on Sunday!!

--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.

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