

**WHAT'S NEW?**

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Dear Friends:

This is as goofy an election season as I can ever remember. I am very disappointed by what our two party system is offering for president this year. In my opinion both candidates have extreme flaws. Honestly, I still don't know exactly how I might vote.

My advice to everyone regardless of their leanings is let's not allow this election to divide fellow believers who disagree with us. We can buy into a mentality that says "this is the last chance to save our country" ignoring the fact that our faith declares Jesus has the power to make all things right regardless of who is in the oval office. As a result we can get mean spirited and disagreeable. Our candidate might win, but how sad if in the process we lose relationship and respect with others around us. This election is complex, so put into practice that ancient slogan, 'In doctrine unity; IN OPINION LIBERTY; and in all things charity.' Don't be mean and divisive. Be smart enough and spiritually mature enough to give space to other believers who disagree with you, because, especially in this election, unity in Christ "trumps" political allegiance.

As for our church we will rely on this truth: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:2-6)

His,  
Pastor Geoff

**Adult Discipleship Opportunities****Sunday Mornings -**

**9:15 am (Sept 18–Nov 20) "Ephesians"** - The book of Ephesians is a survival manual — it equips believers to thrive in a world that hates the message of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle writes to encourage believers to live well. Facilitator: Phil Cox; Location: Youth Room

**Wednesday AM Growth Group, 10:30 am in S-4/5**—The "Walking with God" study continues through the month of September. A new study on the Promised Land will begin at the end of the month. Any Wednesday is a good Wednesday to join. For more information, contact Pastor Rich.

**Wednesday Night Growth Tracks at 7 pm** - We are introducing a new format to Wednesday nights at Friends. We are offering mini courses on three tracks (Marriage and Family, Bible, & Christian Living) throughout the year. This will give you many opportunities to jump in, jump out and switch tracks along the way. Beginning on September 14 the following 5 week mini-courses will be offered.

- *The Visionary Marriage*, a study by Rob Reidnow is facilitated by Rich and Elizabeth Bennett in S-2/3.
- *Better* by Tim Chadwick is facilitated by David Hoovler in the sanctuary. Discover God's truth from the Book of Ecclesiastes.
- *Teach Us to Want* (Women's study) by Jen Polluck Michel is facilitated by Marian Johr and Marsha Snavely in S-4/5.

**Children's Discipleship Opportunities****FALL INTO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!**

Parents! It's that time of year again when we are all gearing up to head back to school. I know mornings during the week can be tough, which is why I think it's so crucially important to start each week off right by focusing in on God. Make a point in your family to be here each Sunday, where your kids will encounter their Creator in either our 9:15 am Sunday School or 11 am Kidz Church classes.

**Fall, 9:15 am**

Pre-schoolers: Room S-8, Ms. Sue  
Pre-K/K: Room S-2/3, Ms. Barb  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: FLC with Mr. Adam  
3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Graders: Room S-4, Ms. Diane

**Fall, 11 am**

Pre-schoolers: Room S-8, Ms. Wendy  
Pre-K—4<sup>th</sup> Grade: FLC, Mr. Adam  
5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Graders: Room S-2/3, Mr. Keith

**PARENTS OF NEW 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADERS!**

We will be having a special ceremony on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> to gift a brand new Bible to your kids during our morning service. Please make sure to set this on your calendar so you can be a part of this special day!



Bring your kids for a midweek recharge at our newly branded Club FX and Club 56 Wednesday night groups. I am so glad to start a new adventure this school year with your kids, and look forward to getting the chance to meet with them and all of you!



Swing by sometime and let's catch up!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Do you feel God calling you to make an investment in the lives of our kids? I am looking for spirited volunteers who have a passion and excitement to see the next generation come to know Christ on a deeper level. Help me prepare our young friends to leave the handprint of Jesus on the world! **-Mr. Adam**

Contact Adam with any questions at [adam@noefc.org](mailto:adam@noefc.org)

**Youth Discipleship Opportunities**

Calling all 7-12 graders -- dive into STAND small groups! If you are interested in forming deeper friendships with each other while drawing closer to God, PinC (for the gals) and STRonG (for the guys) are for you! Registration forms are due Wed., September 7th and can be requested from Pastor Zach. Upcoming events include the PinC Spa Kick-off on Sunday September 18 from 6-8pm, and the STRonG fantasy football draft on Friday, September 2 at 6 pm. Contact Pastor Zach or Jessica Laursen for more information.

Invite your friends! STAND will be hosting a 7-12 grade scavenger hunt on Saturday, September 10. Meet at the church at 3 pm, and get ready for an afternoon of competition and fun! Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams, and bonus points for those who bring friends from outside the group! Contact Pastor Zach for more details.

It's that time of year! STAND's 4th annual Fall Retreat is November 4-6 at Camp Gideon in Mechanicstown, OH. Save the date and keep an eye out for registration forms coming soon!



"Like" us on Facebook and stay updated on recent happenings and upcoming events!



Check out videos from past mission trips, worship experiences and also our announcements!

**Fellowship Opportunities**

**Men's Growth Group** Thursdays at 7 am at Canary's beginning September 14. This Fall we will launch into a 10-week study in Andy Stanley's book Enemies of the Heart: Breaking Free from the Four Emotions That Control You. Sign up at the Growth Group Table in the lobby on Sunday mornings or email Pastor Rich at [pastorrich@noefc.org](mailto:pastorrich@noefc.org).

**Silver Friends**

Even though school has started for the kids, we big kids are still on break. Please join us for a beach party /picnic at Huntington Beach on beautiful Lake Erie on September 8 at 11:30. We will provide the drinks, hot dogs and brats and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share. We had a wonderful time last year so we knew this had to be an annual event. We found a great spot to picnic where you can walk as little or as much as you would like. Don't miss the fun. (You may want to bring a lawn chair.)

We are packing in the trips before we settle back to enjoy our in-house luncheons. A visit to the Cathedral Buffet in Cuyahoga Falls on September 29 will be a new experience for us. We'll meet at the church at 10:45 for departure for an amazing lunch and tour.

Finally, we just want to remind everyone that the long awaited annual Talent Show will be held on 10/20 right here at NOEFC. It was formerly scheduled for 10/13, so change your calendar. Please, please be getting your acts ready.... What fun!!!! We changed the date as the Friends Adult Ministries 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Retreat is on 10/13 in Wilmot. (Register by 9/13 for a reduced price). Lots to look forward to!

For reservations,  
please contact Margie Metz at 440-779- 0784.

**Saturday Men's Breakfast**

You are invited to join us for breakfast at 7:30 am on Saturday, September 3, at Denny's on Lorain Road in North Olmsted. Come for a time of fellowship, conversation and prayer. For more information, contact Pastor Rich.

**JOIN A HOME GROWTH GROUP**

Home growth groups meets once or twice a month in a home around greater North Olmsted. If you attend Friends we are confident there is a Growth Group near you. A listing of groups can be found at [www.noefc.org](http://www.noefc.org) or available on Sunday mornings at the Growth Group table or at the Welcome Center. Need help? Contact Pastor Rich.

**PRAYING:** a one-day seminar led by pastor, author and prayer leader, John Piippo.  
Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am - noon      *grab a brochure in the lobby or visit [noefc.org/praying](http://noefc.org/praying)*

**Missions & Outreach Opportunities****AN EVENING WITH A SHOEBOX RECIPIENT**

Join us on Friday, September 16, at 7:00 pm for an evening with an **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox recipient, Kojo Abakah from Ghana. Hear how a simple shoebox gift and the Sunday school song, "Jesus Loves Me," helped transform the life of this young man when he was just 12 years old. This is a story that the entire family will want to hear, as we get nearer to our own Packing Party in November. For more information, please contact Chuck Palmer.

**Operation Christmas Child**

During the month of September, we will be collecting stuffed animals ("Beanie Baby" size, preferable). Contact Chuck Palmer for more information ([charlesfpalmer23@gmail.com](mailto:charlesfpalmer23@gmail.com)).

**Oxcart Food Pantry**

Our neighborhood food pantry is in need of canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam, etc.). Please drop the items off on the designated shelf in Tim Labrado's office.

**ATTENTION MINISTRY LEADERS!**

Are we missing important NOEFC events or opportunities that our congregation should know about? Email Tim Labrado ([tim@noefc.org](mailto:tim@noefc.org)) to make it known or if you have any questions.



**Our mission at NOEFC is to be a body of growing disciples who know, love, follow, and lead others to Jesus.**

**Service Times:**

Sundays 9:15 & 11:00 am  
Wednesdays 7:00 pm (Youth at 6:15 pm)

Address:  
5665 Great Northern Blvd,  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070  
440.779.9484

**We're on the Web!**

[www.noefc.org](http://www.noefc.org)

**Prayer Requests:**

Please join us in praying for members and friends:

Tim Roche	Ron Baechle
Marla Holmes	Rick Henderson
Loretta Morabito	Dianne Marks
Bob Fitzsimmons	Tim Scheerer

Calvin Yeager
Becky Clark
Don Sabo



**Happy Anniversary to...**

9/2	Robert & Nettie Fitzsimmons
9/3	Keris & Rebecca Sirek
9/4	Tom & Wendy Getz
9/5	Fritz & Sherry Lehmann
	Will & Darlene Wilke
9/10	Sarah & Chris Cordrick
9/12	Tim & Kelly Matthews
9/13	Don & Tillie Kuch
	David & Jacki Loftis
9/14	John & Liliya Pepsin
9/15	David & Nancy Yachanin
9/16	Peter & Christy Krysinski
9/17	Mike & Jenn Martin
9/20	Matthew & Myra Roach
	Chuck & Ann Palmer
	Jeff & Rosie Johnson
9/23	Eric & Marsha Snavely
9/25	John & Dawn Snell
9/27	Rick & Rachel Pietrick
9/29	Kraig & Lilah Wiant

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Email the church office, so that we can update our database. We want to celebrate with all of our Friends!

We are happy to answer any questions. Ministry staff email addresses are located below and on our website or you can call the church office at 440.779.9484

**Geoff Schultz, Senior Pastor**

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Kellie Anderson, Morning Church Secretary

Email: [kellie@noefc.org](mailto:kellie@noefc.org)

Barb Fronczak, Afternoon Church Secretary

Email: [barb@noefc.org](mailto:barb@noefc.org)

Mary Schultz, Events Coordinator (Sat)

9:00-Noon // Email: [events@noefc.org](mailto:events@noefc.org)

Matt Nee, Presiding Elder Email: [mattnee@noefc.org](mailto:mattnee@noefc.org)

**Happy Birthday to...**

9/1	Emily Andrews	9/22	Amanda Stefano
9/2	Robert Fitzsimmons	9/23	Andrew Struck
9/4	Jason DuVall	9/24	Christine Demchak
	Evan Johr		Nettie Piorkowski
9/5	Suzanne Aldrich	9/25	Charlie Freed
	Coleen Roy	9/26	Mallory Herwerden
	Pat Savage		June Cook
9/7	Mary Lakner		Colleen Demchak
9/9	Molly Nee		Steven Demchak
9/10	Elijah Bohler		Lois Haug
9/11	Janet Kurz		Chris Holmes
9/12	Marie Archer	9/27	Allen Trainer
	Kyle Hartung	9/28	Cindy Archer
	Davian Kubitzka		Robert Dolesh
9/13	Phyllis Barbalics		Char Lubowicz
9/14	John Oleniacz		Vivian Novak
9/16	Isabel Broschek	9/29	Caleb Schultz
9/17	Karen Cavasini-Esch		
	Alice Pier		
	Ryan Snell		
	Lydianna Trudel		
9/19	James Wells		
9/20	Angela Campo		
	Bob Dittrick		
	Olivia Herwerden		
	Marvin M'Tambo		
	Tim Wiens		
9/21	Carol Brough		
	Stephen Lehmann		
	Ryan Nee		
	Mary Reed		
9/22	Rich Ellis		