



Friends *forecast*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NORTH OLMSTED FRIENDS CHURCH | APRIL 2017

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

NEW Wed AM Growth Group study at 10:30 am in S-4/5 beginning April 19 – *“The Mission of Jesus” – Triumph of God’s kingdom in a World of Chaos.* In the light of Christ’s resurrection we will explore the power of God’s kingdom to impact the world. For more information contact Pastor Rich.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROWTH GROUP STUDIES at 7 pm – beginning April 19
Introduction to the Church Fathers – Come and discover the kingdom impact that some of our church fathers had in shaping our Christian history through the centuries. This 6-week class will be taught by Pastor Geoff and will meet in S-2/3.

Biblical Hospitality – Tom Csora, the director of Safe Families for Children in Cleveland, will lead us on a 6-week journey to a deeper understanding of biblical hospitality and how it can make a kingdom difference and change our world. The study will meet in S-4/5.

Want to join a Home Growth Group?
Contact Pastor Rich
at pastorrich@noefc.org or call the church
at 440-779-9484.

PASTOR’S CORNER

Dear Friends:

This month I am praying that each of us will pray for an opportunity to invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member to church with them Resurrection Sunday. One invitation could change another person’s eternity forever. There are no guarantees of course but when we draw near to Christ miracles of faith can happen.

The story of the Crucifixion gives us a fascinating study in how people respond to Jesus. When Jesus was dying on the Cross, we remember that he was placed between two criminals who were also hanging on their own crosses. On one of those crosses was a man who was trying to relieve his own pain by joining the taunts of the crowd. He mercilessly hurled his own insults and curses. We see the first lesson: The truth is you can be very close to Jesus and still miss His saving power.

The other man responded much differently. In an extraordinary act of faith, he challenges the other criminal to cease his mocking and then meekly asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom. This man, though the evidence in front of him suggested otherwise, saw that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus promised, “Today, you will be with Me in paradise.” We understand a second lesson: It was not too late for this man to experience salvation.

It seems to me our only job is to bring people to the cross. We will never know how they will respond to Jesus. Through their own willful choice they must make a decision about Him. We can invite, but only Jesus can save.

His,
Pastor Geoff

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hey everyone! Spring is finally here, and you know what that means... Summer is right around the corner, and with summer comes VBS!

In order to ensure that you are able to prepare well in advance, I would like to announce to you that this year's VBS will be June 26-30, and the theme this year will be Galactic Starveyors. "Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible" will be our motto during this week, using Colossians 1:15-16 as the basis for the journey our kids will take this year discovering the God of the universe!

Registration will be opening up soon, and I will be notifying via the Sunday bulletins when that will be, so be on the lookout!

Also, if you are interested in volunteering for this incredible week, please contact me ASAP at adam@noefc.org or (440) 779-9484. We have many spots to fill and many team leaders who are in place and



eagerly anticipating working with you. I can't wait to rock out this first VBS here with you all at Friends. I know this is going to be an amazing week, so start telling your friends now!

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:15-16

-MR. ADAM!

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

STAND

7-12 graders are invited to join us for STAND on Wednesday nights at 6:15 and Sunday mornings at 11! We will be beginning a new series called "Making Disciples" after Easter. Hope to have you with us!

Mission Trip

STAND is traveling to Nashville, TN, this summer! All incoming 9-12 graders are welcome as we work with the Church at Woodbine and Project Connect to host summer camps for kids and engage in other local ministries from June 17-23. A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due with registration by March 31. Contact Pastor Zach with any questions or to request a registration form.

Spring Fling

STAND is hosting a Spring Fling, our second annual semi-formal date and dance night, on Saturday, April 1, from 6-8 pm in the FLC. Come for the snacks, the fellowship, and the games, and get to know our students as they raise funds for this summer's mission trip to Nashville! The Spring Fling will be open to all adults (singles or couples), and childcare will be provided. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased after worship services on Sundays or by calling the church office. Contact Pastor Zach with any questions.

Service Day

STAND will be hosting a service day on Saturday, April 22nd for high schoolers, and all current 9-12 graders are invited to join us! We will be meeting at the church at 9 am and heading to Cleveland together for a day of service at Community Friends Church. \$10/person is requested to help with the cost of supplies and lunch. More information coming soon.

HOLY LAND TOUR

NOEFC is traveling to Israel from April 9-20, 2018! Join us as we see where the temple stood in Jerusalem, swim in the Dead Sea, and look out over the Sea of Galilee from the top of the mountains where Jesus preached. We will be traveling with Israel Bible Tours, and you can get more information and insight at israelbibletraveltours.com. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 24, at 7 pm. Please get in touch with Pastor Zach with any questions, comments, or concerns.

REC MINISTRY UPDATE

Volleyball is continuing on Sunday evenings from 6-8 throughout April -- come out and join us for a lot of fun! Friends is also putting together a softball team to compete in the Christian Community Recreation Ministry league starting in May. Please get in touch with Pastor Zach if you're interested.

Strategic Renewal Webinar – “Old Paths, New Power”

Saturday, April 29, 9am – Noon

\$10 per person includes a continental breakfast.

“It’s a wonder that with all our sleek and innovative ministry models our churches are still declining. We must realize that we don’t need fresh models and fancy tools; we need the Holy Spirit, who works powerfully when we pray and proclaim the word. Sadly, a recent survey shows that 28% of Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is not equal to God the Father or Jesus Christ the Son; and 56% believe that the Holy Spirit is a force and not a personal Being.”

We must recapture a more Biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit and His powerful role in our lives and churches.” You can register at www.noefc.org, on the NOEFC app, or on Sunday mornings in the Lobby. For more information contact Pastor Rich.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2017

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm

Come and reflect on the Lord’s Last Supper and final moments with his disciples.

SonRise Service

Sunday, April 16, 7:00 am

An outdoor celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

Resurrection Celebration Services

Sunday, April 16, 9:15 & 11:00 am

Join us as we worship our Risen King together and celebrate that we are made alive with Him!

TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

We’ve provided **invitation postcards** in the lobby and church office for you to take and give to your friends, neighbors, co-workers or even other family members. When you choose to invite someone to church, you’re inviting them to much more than a church service. You’re inviting them to come to a place where hope, community and purpose can be found in Jesus.

FELLOWSHIP

GET INVOLVED IN Friends Breaking Bread

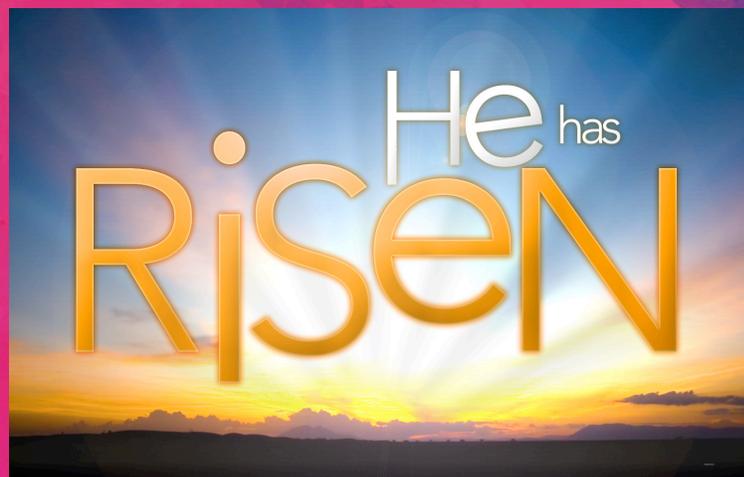
This new ministry is an opportunity to get to know 2-3 other people, couples or families in the church over a period of three months. During the month of April, you can sign up to get involved in our Spring/Summer Season that will take place from May 1 – July 31.

What is Friends Breaking Bread? Every three months, groups consisting of three or four households will be randomly connected to fellowship with one another once each month. Each group will have a volunteer leader to coordinate where and when they will meet. You can meet in each other’s home, at a restaurant, in a park, go bowling, visit an art museum or some other special activity. You decide to include the whole family or just have the adults get together. The goal is to build relationships in the life of the church. If you are new this is a great way to get connected.

You can sign up on the church’s website, app or on Sunday mornings in the Lobby. For more information contact Pastor Rich. Registration for the Fall Session will happen in August.

Silver Friends

Please join us on Thursday, April 13, at 11:30 am for our Silver Friends Easter Brunch. Let’s gather together in the Family Life Center to celebrate our Risen Savior! We would love to see some new faces along with our faithful friends. Please call Margie Metz at [440-779-0784](tel:440-779-0784) to let us know you will attend.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

4/1 Penny Kuch
4/2 Nathan Kobelka
4/4 Dawn Snell
4/5 Jacqueline Soos
4/9 Patricia Saunders
David Millen
Karen Williams
4/10 Gina Glazer
4/11 Sharon Brosch
Marilyn Dolesh
Nancy Smith
4/12 Wendy Getz
Doug O'Conke
Nancy Wyder
4/13 Gary Bowden
4/14 Robert Conkey
Clark Shaffer
4/15 Lonnie Dittrick
4/17 Kevin Knight
Kimberly Nee
4/18 Margaret Holler
4/20 Michael Andrews
Jen Trudel
4/21 Wesley Leibolt
4/22 Ed Botke
Aaron Deutsch
4/23 Kyle Bowden
4/24 Joshua Schultz
4/25 Valerie Butler
Marian Johr
4/26 Laura Baylon

4/27 Mike Junkins
4/28 Tom Kaufhold
Fermin Lorenzo
4/29 Emily Hencerth
Daniel Holmes

Happy Anniversary to...

4/10 Charlie & Kelli Freed
4/15 Dave & Karen Swartz
4/22 Glenn & Susan Novak
4/24 Tim & Connie Roche
4/26 Scott & Andrea Barlow
4/28 Glenn & Sue Goodman
Michael & Jessica Laursen
4/29 Don & Carol Brough

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Email the church office, so we can celebrate with you next time!

Download our new NOEFC App on your smartphone or tablet. Just type in "NOEFC" in the search bar in either the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android).

Prayer Requests:

Calvin Yeager	Marie Archer
Don Sabo	Tim Roche
Dianne Marks	Becky Sirek
Rosemary Meyers	Dennis Wells
Bob Fitzsimmons	Paul Helm
Rick Henderson	The Family of
Kathy Scheerer	Marg Shipman
Barb Berndsen	

Do you have a prayer need or praise you would like to report? Share it with us, so our prayer warriors can lift you up.

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

FOLLOW US!

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthOlmstedEFC



Instagram: [@noefc.5665](https://www.instagram.com/noefc.5665)



YouTube: NOEFC

Ministry & Support Staff



Geoff Schultz, Senior Pastor

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Rich Bennett, Pastor of Family Life and Discipleship

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Tim Labrado, Media Administration Coordinator

440.351.1726 // tim@noefc.org

Kellie Anderson, Morning Church Secretary

440.779.9484 // kellie@noefc.org

Barb Fronczak, Afternoon Church Secretary

440.779.9484 // barb@noefc.org

Mary Schultz, Events Coordinator (Saturday)

9:00 am – noon // events@noefc.org

Matt Nee, Presiding Elder

mattnee@noefc.org

Church Office: 440.779.9484 // friends@noefc.org