

Friends *forecast*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NORTH OLMSTED FRIENDS | MAY 2017

EASTER 2017 *(a recap in pictures)*



Pastor's Corner

If someone came up to you and asked, "What is this Christian life thing all about?" How would you answer? I asked the Wednesday AM Growth Group that question. I got the answers that I expected. The answers all focused around having a personal relationship with Jesus. Then, I shared with them the first words of Jesus as they are recorded in the Gospel of Mark. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (1:15)

We sell the Gospel short and really do a disservice to the Gospel if we simply talk about the Christian life as a personal relationship with Jesus. Don't get me wrong, that is an important part of the Gospel. But, it is only PART of it. Jesus came to usher in the kingdom of God and it is imperative that we read and understand Jesus' life and the Gospel story as the demonstration of God's kingdom. So, why is this important?

As disciples (those who seek to be like Jesus), it is equally imperative that we understand that the Holy Spirit in our lives is directing us to demonstrate God's kingdom to the world around us. Wherever we go, whatever we are doing, do we see ourselves as ushering in God's kingdom into the lives of others? I confess that is not easy.

Try this first step to become more kingdom minded. Approach every Sunday morning from the perspective of what can I give and not simply what will I receive. As you get ready for worship and come to worship, have it firmly planted in your heart and mind that I am bringing the kingdom of God with me for the purpose of revealing it to someone else. Maybe it will come through giving someone a word of encouragement, extending a listening ear, greeting someone you don't know, praying with someone. Come a little early, stay a little later and give the kingdom of God an opportunity to be revealed through you.

Prayerfully,
Pastor Rich

PS - Invite a friend to join us for the sermon series "The Lies We Believe."

CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

Friends, families, kids of all ages, registration for our **Galactic Starveyors VBS** is finally open! To register your kids for this fun filled week, or to volunteer, please visit www.noefc.org/vbs2017. This year's VBS will be June 26-30, from 9 am – 12 pm. I can't wait to be a part of this amazing week with all of you!

In other news, our brand new Kidz Church lesson series has begun, titled "Blast Off – The Outer Limits". During these 8 weeks, kids will discover the promises of God based out of different Psalms, specifically focusing on how those promises were true when they were written, are true now, and will continue to be true! This out-of-this-world

series is space themed, and will take us right up to VBS, preparing the way for our kids to "starvey" the skies.



Additionally, Club FX has begun a 6 week lesson series titled "Rise Above". Using the analogy of a boxing ring, kids will learn to hear God's voice above all other voices in their lives. They will be encouraged to "get in the ring" with the enemy as they learn to overpower the lies of insecurity, fear,

condemnation, and discouragement and replace them with the truth and affirmation found in God's voice.



The next few months are going to be packed with plenty leading up to an incredibly fun summer program. Be looking out for news on that in the future, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

-MR. ADAM!

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Small group update: Both youth group guys' small groups (STRonG) will be meeting at the Bohler home on Sunday, May 7 at 7 pm. We will have a time of study and prayer, snacks, and a chance to hang out and reconnect after a busy couple months of ministry. Get in touch with Pastor Zach with any questions.

Save the date! STAND is going to FY United in Canton the week of July 16. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon.

STAND is hosting its **fourth annual Silent Auction on Saturday, June 3 at 5 pm in the FLC!** All are invited for dinner, entertainment, and a lot of fun, as we have a chance to fellowship as a church family with young and old alike. Tickets are \$15 each, and will be available on Sunday mornings after services throughout May, or by calling the church office. All proceeds will benefit this summer's youth mission trip to Nashville. Contact Pastor Zach with any questions.

Graduation Sunday is coming soon! If you are graduating this year, please contact our office to give some basic information as we prepare to celebrate your achievement on **Sunday, June 11!** We would love to have you with us that day for worship so we can honor you and celebrate what God has done in your life!



REC MINISTRY

Friends Church softball starts May 6! We play in a co-ed league at North Olmsted Park on Saturdays through the summer, and registration is open to all 15 and older. Cost is \$25 per person. Those interested should contact Mike Henfling at mike.henfling@gmail.com.

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

This ministry provides faith-based homes for children to stay while parents are experiencing a temporary crisis and giving them an opportunity to address the issues that have created the crisis. Here at Friends we are committed to being a Lead Church in this ministry throughout greater Cleveland. Just recently, the Glazer family had the opportunity to take in a little 18-month girl for a short period of time. The Safe Families Team at Friends wants to invite you to a **COOKOUT on Sunday, June 11, at 12:30 pm on the North Lawn**. This will be a great opportunity to learn how you can get involved. So, **save the date**.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Wed AM Growth Group study at 10:30 am in S-4/5 – *“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 – now through June 7

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 meet in S-4/5.

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-2/3.

SUNDAY MORNING GROWTH GROUP STUDIES

9:15 AM in the Youth Room – The Early Church
“For Christians today, faith in God can sometimes seem to be a cerebral choice. For the early church, it was the difference between life and death. As you travel to Sardis, Pergamum, Ephesus, and Laodicea discover the passion and commitment early Christians displayed in the face of fierce consequences and powerful adversaries. Led by Phil Cox.

11:00 AM in S-4/5 – 1 PETER The words of Peter are filled with rich faith lessons. Peter is one of the great transformational stories in all of Scripture. To experience Peter of the Gospels and then the Peter of Acts is a marvelous story of God’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. So, let us learn from Peter. Led by Marian Johr and Marsha Snavelly.

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

FELLOWSHIP

SILVER FRIENDS

Calling all *Silver Friends* to join us for **Game Day** on May 11, at 11:30 am in the FLC. Our lunch will be Pot Luck so bring something wonderful to share with the group. Looking forward to a fun day of food and fellowship and a bit of competition. If you have a favorite game, please bring it along so you can teach/beat your friends. Hope to see you there.

FRIENDS BREAKING BREAD

Are you new at the church? Do you want to make some new friends? We want to encourage you to join **Friends Breaking Bread**. Meet with 2-3 other persons or couples once a month for three months over a meal or special activity. The Spring/Summer season is taking place now through July. For more information or to sign up contact Pastor Rich at pastorrich@noefc.org.

R.E.A.L. Women Fellowship

(Relational, Encouraging, Authentic, Loving)

All women are invited on May 7 at 4:00 pm at the home of Gina Glazer for an evening of fellowship. The women's ministry team will provide the main dish and everyone is asked to bring a side or dessert. For all you moms, there will be kids activities, while we take the time for prayer and fellowship. You can sign up on Sunday mornings or by contacting Gina Glazer (geenag10@gmail.com).

MISSIONS // OUTREACH // SERVICE

SPRING CLEAN UP AT FRIENDS – SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 9:00 AM

Join us for a morning of work and fellowship as we come together for our yearly spring clean up outside and inside. Projects include mulching, edging, planting, pruning, window washing, kitchen clean up, wiping down the pews and more. So, bring your lawn tools, shovels, rags and buckets.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are collecting Girls Toys (jump ropes, jacks, dolls, card games) during the month of May. Drop off your items in the bin next to the OCC banner in the lobby. For more ideas, contact Chuck Palmer (charlespalmer23@gmail.com).

OX CART FOOD PANTRY

During the month of May, we are collecting canned vegetables (carrots, corn, spinach, and much more...think outside of your traditional green beans). You can drop off these items in Tim Labrado's office.

childdedication
Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day)



Write "dedication" on pew pad or call the church office. (440.779.9484)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

5/2	Raegan Blume Beverly Cummings Susan Junkins	5/13	Jacqueline Loftis Kyle McCray Jack Padrutt
5/3	Don Sabo Clare Vlosich David Yachanin	5/14	Colleen Collins Kasey Hyde
5/4	Zach Bohler Christianna Holmes Nels Nelson	5/15	Kelsey Bohler Mike Day Kendra Gevry Dale Kuch
5/5	Michael Albrecht Eric Snavely	5/16	Ernest Santin
5/6	Lincoln Baker Brynn Hartung	5/17	Cynthia Bryant Lloyd Keaton Isabella Labrado
5/7	Cara Myers	5/18	Karen Brown
5/8	Samantha Greene	5/19	David Beauchamp
5/9	Evelyn Bischel Robb Chernisky		Debbie Freeman Tom Hollins Ginger Hoovler
5/10	Colin Clark Candy Day Jacob Struck	5/21	Dennis Wells
5/11	Lori Blume Doug Deutsch David Herwerden Glenn Novak Logan Pickenheim Kim Slattery Lilah Wiant	5/22	Roger Dixon Brad Thwing
5/12	Nancy Franklin Amelia Gualdin Penelope Kaufhold	5/24	Lily Barlow
5/13	Cora Helco	5/25	Hunter Baylon
		5/27	Scott Barlow
		5/28	Phil Cox Kraig Wiant
		5/31	Lukas Spagnola Margaret Thoenness

Happy Anniversary to...

5/1	Kevin & Grace Chang
5/4	Matt & Kim Nee Tim & Kathy Sheerer
5/5	John & Patty Oleniacz
5/7	Rich & Cindy Ellis Chris & Marla Holmes
5/10	George & Nadia Utyuzh
5/14	Greg & Janet Kurz
5/15	Daniel & Marie Malek
5/18	Robert & Susan Conkey
5/19	Tim & Carie Kaufhold
5/21	Doug & Nicole Kuch Louie & Sharon Broschk
5/25	Gary & Nancy Franklin
5/28	Mike & Candy Day
5/31	Alan & Margaret Roach

Prayer Requests:

Calvin Yeager	Tom Dubowski
Don Sabo	Cindy Archer
Dianne Marks	Gunner Sexton
Rosemary Meyers	Tim Roche
Trudy Sabo	Dennis Wells
Ann Palmer	Hope Burke
Rick Henderson	Gus Pansegrau
Dianne Marks	

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.

Ministry & Support Staff



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Barb Fronczak, **Afternoon Church Secretary**

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Mary Schultz, **Events Coordinator (Saturday)**

9:00 am – noon // events@noefc.org

Matt Nee, **Presiding Elder**

mattnee@noefc.org

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