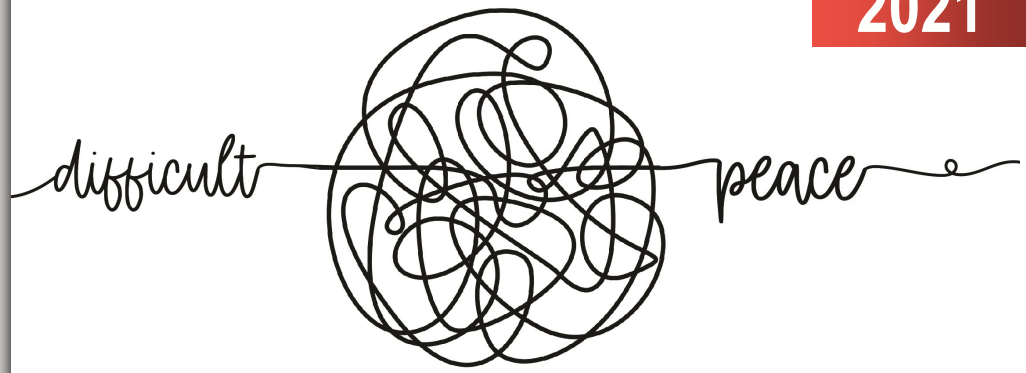




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Developing completely committed followers of Christ who: KNOW – GROW – GO

North Main exists to:
Develop completely committed followers of Christ who

KNOW Christ intimately
GROW in Christ continually
GO for Christ daily

Our philosophy of ministry (*why* we do what we do) is centered on the process of discipleship in the New Testament where Jesus commands us to:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

“Purifying Fire”

By Brandon Lenhart

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up” (Daniel 3:17-18). These are probably my favorite verses from the Old Testament book of Daniel because even though Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand before Nebuchadnezzar resolved to their potential fate, they also don’t know if GOD will rescue them from the fire. Their trust in GOD was stronger than the possibility of death at the hands of one man.

Do we have the type of trust and peace in GOD that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had? Would we stay strong in our faith and resolve even when there was no guarantee that GOD would physically rescue us from the fire? I would like to think so, but we may never know unless we’re put to the test.

True peace is not known until it is tested by difficult circumstances

As we move into August 2021 at North Main, we continue our theme of “Peace.” This month we’re focusing on peace amidst difficulty. True peace is not known until it is tested by difficult circumstances and situations in life. Peace without adversity is not peace at all, unless the source of peace is perfectly powerful and perfectly good. There is no other Source the world has ever known with these qualities apart from GOD.

Jesus, the embodiment of GOD in human flesh, gives us the perfect example of peace amidst difficulty. The night He was arrested, He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane asking the Father to take the cup of wrath that was about to be poured out on Him through the

cross, and yet, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, He trusted the Father’s decision regardless of the outcome. Once Jesus rose from prayer, He not only had a steely determination, but an unwavering peace. That peace would lead Him through an unfair trial with the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Council), a back and forth play between Pilate and Herod, a beating the likes of which no one should ever experience, rejection and jeering from the crowds of onlookers as He carried His cross to Golgotha, and finally, His being nailed to a cross in sheer agony, pain, and humiliation.

Further evidence of Jesus’ peace would come in those final hours as He hung on the cross. Struggling with every breath to quell the pain, Jesus would say only a few words. They are an indicator of His peace of mind and His ongoing love for humanity. At one point He calls out, *“Father forgive them because they don’t know what they are doing.”* At another moment He’s encouraging one of the criminals on the cross that he would be in Paradise with Him that day. And His last words were words of completion, *“It is finished!”* These words are the resounding evidence of the peace that Jesus carried to the cross knowing that His death was the way to salvation through the New Covenant in His blood.

So, what are we to do? We can take the examples of multiple characters throughout Scripture to bolster not only our faith but allow them to encourage us when difficult circumstances come.

Difficult circumstances can make or break you. The one who can withstand the difficulties of this life is the one whose Source of strength is Christ.



www.northmaincog.org



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Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

Bait of Satan Groups

Don't allow yesterday's pain to steal tomorrow's joy. We all want to experience the life God has for us—so why is it so few of us actually do? In a word, offense. Jesus said it is impossible for offenses not to come. Nearly every day we are mistreated by others—even those closest to us. Left unaddressed, these wounds from past wrongs will wreak havoc in our lives, stealing our vitality and thwarting our purpose.

This powerful study is one of the most important confrontations with truth you'll encounter in your lifetime. It exposes Satan's deceptive snare—offense—used to get believers out of the will of God. The issue of offense, the very core of *The Bait of Satan*, is often the most difficult obstacle an individual must face and overcome. *Jesus said, "It is impossible that no offenses should come" (Luke 17:1 NKJV).* Your choice is not in whether or not you get offended, but in how you choose to respond. This message will empower you to stay free from offense, enabling you to have an unhindered relationship with God and others.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Jesus invites us to embrace a new way of living.

Forgiveness is the central theme of the Gospel message. If we want to enjoy the fullness of our life in Christ, we must embrace His example and forgive others. A person who cannot forgive, is a person who's forgotten what they've been forgiven of.

JOIN A GROUP

North Main is starting this series together on September 5th. It will be a 6 week study and every Sunday Pastor Brandon will be preaching on each lesson, but we want you to be able to dig more deeply into these lessons with others from North Main. We truly believe this study is worthwhile and want you to get the most out of it. Soon you will be able to find a list of joinable Bait of Satan groups on our website

www.northmaincog.org/groups

You can search by location, day, or time of day to see what works best for you! There are in-home and on campus groups, and some of them you will be able to attend virtually. If you would rather call and talk to someone about which group is best for you please, please, please call the church office at 724-285-4214. We can't wait to talk with you.

Business Meeting Overview

The 2021-2022 Budget was approved, Dave Slaughenhoup was reinstated for a 2nd term on the Board, and Sarah DiFrischia was elected to her 1st term on the Board. The Annual Report booklets are available at the Welcome Center or in the Church Office if you would like a copy.

Baptisms

September 5th

With required class on August 29th.
Call the church office or register at the Welcome Center to sign up.

All Church Tailgate Party

Join us August 27th at 6:30 pm as we kick off the fall ministry season at North Main. Between the new school year, our churchwide campaign kickoff and the start of fall there's a lot to celebrate.

Join us for Games, Food, and Fun for everyone!

Come to the back parking lot and bring a camp chair to sit in. We'll have a few tables and chairs set up for those who don't have camp chairs, as well as a variety of food options including hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, nachos, drinks and there will be a smores bar too!

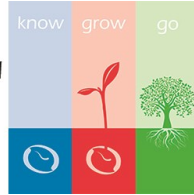


Move up day

Sunday, September 5th is Move Up Day for our kids and youth. This includes students birth - 12th grade. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Hickman at MelissaH@northmaincog.org or the church office at 724-285-4214.



North Main Street Church of God
1201 North Main Street Ext
Butler, PA 16001-1537



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Connection Luncheon

Our next Luncheon
will be on:

September 5th

Following the Sunday
Morning Service

North Main's sermon series for the month of August is entitled: "Difficult Peace." We come to transitional passages from the Old Testament to the New Testament this month. Each of the topics for this month will focus on having peace during difficult times in life. Here's an overview of the August:

- **August 1**—Special Guest: Evangelist, Richard Rockhind.
- **August 8**—Sermon Title: *Peace Amidst Lions*; Scripture Passage: Daniel 6:1-28; Key Point: "Though the world tends to devour, God's peace is all-consuming for those who trust in Him."
- **August 15**—Sermon Title: *Trial by Fire*; Scripture Passage: Daniel 3:1-20; Key Point: "Complete trust in God is key to complete peace."
- **August 22**—Sermon Title: *Blessed Peace*; Scripture Passage: Matthew 5:1-12; Key Point: "Those who seem the most oppressed have been given great opportunity for peace and blessing from God."
- **August 29**—Sermon Title: *Peace and a Sword*; Scripture Passage: Matthew 10:34-39; Key Point: "Jesus did not come to bring division; His coming demands a decision."

