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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



www.northmaincog.org



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Mon-Thu 9am-4pm



December
2021

“Eternal Peace”

By Brandon Lenhart

Advent 2021. It's hard to believe, isn't it? We've come to the close of another year, and now we face Christmas once again with a reminder that there is hope, and joy, and peace, and love, wrapped up in One we call Jesus.

Though the past two years have not been quite what we may have hoped for, GOD is still active, alive, and well, moving and working to bring about His good and perfect will amidst a world seemingly gone mad. Without hope, there is no peace.

As we focus on the birth of Christ this month, let us remember what Jesus' birth represents. In order to do this, a look at Isaiah's prophecy, some 700 years before the birth of Christ, is warranted. In chapter nine, Isaiah writes:

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!” (vs. 6-7)

Jesus' birth represents something of eternal value. The characteristics that represent who He is in these two verses speak volumes.

The government (or governmental structures) would rest on His shoulders. He would, in essence, bear the weight of the systems of this world, and would succumb to the punishment of its injustices. However, though the government would rest on His shoulders, He would not break under its weight, but rather, resolve its inadequacies through His death and resurrection.

The fact that He would be known as

“Wonderful Counselor” attests to the fact that Jesus, the coming Messiah, would give counsel that would soothe generational wounds and sorrows, as well as form the basis for a healthy society.

The fact that He would be known as “Mighty God,” would prove the divine nature of His very existence. Jesus would not be merely man, but rather, GOD in human flesh. One who dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

The fact that He is the “Everlasting Father,” testifies to the reality of His eternity. And the fact that He is known as the “Prince of Peace” confirms the nature of His kingdom. Truly His government and its peace will never end! And the laws of His land are governed by true fairness and justice that the legal systems of this world have never known.

This is our reason for hope! Jesus fulfilled all these things and He now sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven advocating on our behalf and awaiting the command of the Father to return again to establish His kingdom forever with the founding of a new heaven and a new earth.

For now, we patiently wait on that second advent; the return of Christ our Savior. For now, we are citizens of a kingdom that hasn't fully been realized in this fallen and broken world. However, GOD is truly with us, and His Holy Spirit guides, empowers, and sustains us till He returns.

Let this be your hope this season, and let this hope be your peace. And as we look forward to a new year, let us not grow weary, but rather, wait upon the LORD to renew our strength.

Merry Christmas!

Without
hope,
there is
no peace.



Christmas Eve Services

4pm & 7pm

Nursery childcare for 3 and under provided



North Main Bible Challenge for 2022:

As you read through the Bible this year, highlight evidence of "PATIENCE" throughout your daily Scripture readings. The color of patience is represented by silver. Silver highlighters will be available at the Welcome Center or Church Office.

Access to the Online Version:

<https://oneyearbibleonline.com/>

YOUVERSION Bible App:

If you have the "YouVersion" Bible App on your phone, "The One Year Chronological Bible" reading plan is available there.

Toy Shoppe

The Lighthouse Foundation's Annual Toy Shoppe is a place for parents in need to shop for their children for Christmas.

Donations accepted until December 8th:

- ♦ new, unwrapped toys
- ♦ Stocking Stuffers
- ♦ \$25 gift cards.

Donations may be dropped off at North Main's Welcome Center on Sunday mornings or at the church office 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday.

To volunteer for the event please go to their website at: Thelighthousepa.org/toy-shoppe

Birthday Shower

Gus Douthett is turning 100! To help him celebrate his birthday on 12/10 we would love to shower him with cards! Please send birthday wishes to his address at:

Gus Douthett
127 Rose Haven Dr.
Renfrew, PA 16053

Other over 90 birthdays in Dec:
• Bob Somerville: 95th (12/29)

The Church Office will be closed Monday Dec 27th - Monday Jan 3rd

Giving Matching

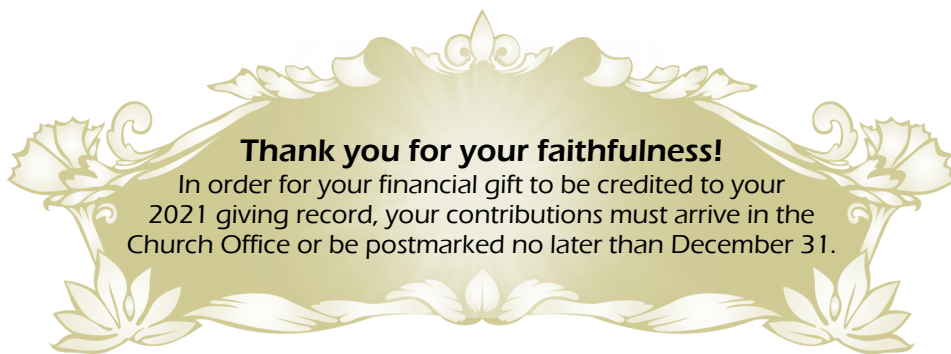
We have exciting news! North Main offers online giving services to better serve our members. We are providing this option to serve as an alternative to cash or check donations. You can still give through traditional methods, but you can now make one-time or recurring gifts online with a credit/debit card or electronic check.

Until the end of the year, we get a dollar for dollar match for the first \$50 from each person who signs up to give recurringly.

To give online, visit our giving page on our website www.northmaincog.org/give then follow the steps below.

1. Click "Give Online"
2. Select the "One-time" or "Recurring" tab at the top.
3. Add the amount you'd like to give.
4. If Recurring, Select how often you'd like to give under frequency, then select the start date.
5. Enter your method of payment. (Credit Card or ACH)
6. Fill in address information.
7. There is an optional check box that will increase your gift by 2.5% which helps cover the cost of processing.
8. Click "Submit" if the amount and frequency are correct.

An email will be sent confirming the information of your recurring gift as well as a separate email with your login information. If you have questions or need assistance please contact the church office.



Thank you for your faithfulness!

In order for your financial gift to be credited to your 2021 giving record, your contributions must arrive in the Church Office or be postmarked no later than December 31.

Upcoming in January

- **January 9th - Connection Luncheon**
Join us after church for lunch together, newcomers eat free!
- **Churchwide Campaign - Thriving in a Digital World**
Groups will be going through the book by Christina Avallone
- **January 30th - Family Sunday (5th Sunday)**
Every 5th Sunday our 1st-6th graders join us in the Sanctuary

Christmas Caroling

This December, we invite you to gather together with your small group, family members, or friends to share the Christmas Spirit and go caroling. We have many shut-ins who would be so blessed by Christmas carolers outside their door!

**Choose a date
choose your route, &
spread the love of
Jesus this Christmas!**

Songbooks will be available at the Welcome Center or Church office if you would like one.

We can't wait to hear your stories, so please make sure to tag North Main if you post pictures on social media (@northmaincog) or give the church office a call to share your story with us!

Please contact our Church Office with any questions
724-285-4214



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



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Connection Luncheon

will be on:

December 5th

Menu

Roasted Ham
Potato Gratin
Green Beans
Dinner Rolls
Burnt Almond Torte

Cost:

\$6/adult,

\$4/kid and

max of \$20/family.

Newcomers to North Main
eat for free!

We come to the season of Advent once again. Another year has passed and we focus on the one event where heaven and earth intersected in a way that would forever change the world. The small child, Immanuel (GOD with us), would be the Light of the world. He would bring hope, joy, peace, and love, and His kingdom would be established forever. Jesus, the very Son of GOD, would come into this world as a baby (vulnerable and humble). He would light the way to salvation because He was salvation. The advent of His birth had been awaited since the beginning of time, and His arrival redirected the course of human history. And now, some 2000 years later, we await His arrival once again.

In this final month of 2021, we will be exploring the theme, "Eternal Peace." As we have talked about peace all year long, we conclude with a foreshadowing of Jesus' return and the ushering in of His eternal kingdom and its government where peace shall never end (Isaiah 9:7). The following are the sermons in this final series of the year:

- **November 28th:** Sermon Title— Hope; Sermon Scripture— Isaiah 9:1-2; Key Point— "When it seems that all hope is gone, GOD's timing is perfect."
- **December 5th:** Sermon Title— Joy; Sermon Scripture— Isaiah 9:3-5; Key Point— "When joy seems a distant memory, GOD's salvation is just a breath away."
- **December 12th:** Sermon Title— Peace; Sermon Scripture— Isaiah 9:7; Key Point— "When peace is gone, the Prince of Peace is just over the horizon."
- **December 19th:** Sermon Title— Love; Sermon Scripture— Isaiah 9:6; Key Point— "When love grows cold, the Everlasting Father is on His way."
- **December 24th (Christmas Eve):** Sermon Title— Christ; Sermon Scripture— Luke 1:26-37; Key Point— "Nothing is impossible with GOD."

