



IN THIS ISSUE >>>

June 2021



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

- Letter From Pastor Brandon
- Graduation Sunday
- Family Life Updates
- Summer Camps
- Connection Luncheon

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



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Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

THE WISDOM OF PEACE **By Brandon Lenhart**

Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

What is the fear of the LORD, and how is it that this type of fear is the beginning of knowledge? In addition to this, if God's kingdom is a kingdom of peace, then how do peace and fear coexist within that Kingdom? It seems like a contradiction in terms, doesn't it? However, these two things aren't far apart when understood in a Biblical context.

The writer of Proverbs is trying to describe where all wisdom and knowledge come from by helping us refocus our attention. All too often, our focus is on the things of this fallen and broken world, and as a result, our peace, joy, and hope are fleeting. When our vision is on the things of this life (the pain, the suffering, the wars, the rumors of wars, the economy, our paychecks, our jobs, the tension within our strained relationships) we become worried and anxious. When worry and anxiety dominate our life, we become angry, defeated, depressed, irritable, resigned, apathetic, and oftentimes, indifferent because of our inability to cope.

So where does the writer of Proverbs tell us that our focus should be? He insists that it should be on the "fear of the LORD." The fear of the LORD, however, isn't the type of fear that drives us to panic, but rather to awe and wonder. When we stand awestruck before God and admire Him for Who He is, things begin to fall into their rightful place in our lives. This is the beginning of wisdom! The fear of the LORD opens a realm of knowledge and understanding that we cannot see apart from submission to God, and wisdom is the

ultimate result. So what does wisdom look like?

In the New Testament letter of James 3:17-18 (NLT2), we read, "¹⁷ *But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace-loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.* ¹⁸ *And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.*"

Wisdom is pure (without blemish or defect). It's peace loving and gentle, not just some of the time, but "all times." Wisdom is willing to yield to others when necessary, and it's full of good deeds (doing good for others without selfish motives). Wisdom does not show favoritism. If it did, it would not be wisdom. And, wisdom is always sincere (never puts on a mask, or masquerades as something it is not).

Now, whereas the writer of Proverbs says that the beginning of knowledge (and wisdom) is the "fear of the LORD," James picks up this conversation on wisdom and ties it to peace. James explains that those who are wise are also people of peace, and as peacemakers, they plant seeds of peace wherever they go. The result? They are able to reap a harvest of righteousness (in their own lives and through the lives of others in whom they've planted peace).

It takes wisdom to be a peacemaker. It's the foolish person who selfishly tramples on the seeds of peace.

Are you sowing peace today? Are you wise, not in your own eyes, but in the eyes of God? It takes the fear of the LORD to accomplish this.

"The wisdom from above is pure."
James 3:17

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

We spent the month of May collecting supplies for care packages to send to military personnel who are either overseas or at a military base, to show our thanks to them for bravely serving our country.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the care packages!

Our kids in Jump Start also made cards to say thank you and show their support to these special heroes! In the cards that were sent we shared our thanks as well as letting each soldier know that we are praying for them.

This simple act of kindness connected well with our Elementary Ministry's theme for the month of May, which was Commitment. This theme was introduced with the idea of participating in a 5K or another big race. To successfully compete in such a race takes planning, practice, time, and commitment.

GRADUATION

We'll be celebrating our High School & College Graduates during our Sunday service on June 6th. **You have until May 30th to register.** To register, fill out a form at the Welcome Center, Scan this QR code, or visit our website under the events tab.



DRIVEN YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS:

Youth Pastor, BJ Hyatt: BJH@northmaincog.org

Thursday May 27th

last Thursday night of youth for this school year.

Sunday June 6th

Celebrating our High School & College Grads in the service.

Saturday, June 19th

Mini Golf at Fun-Fore-All in Cranberry. 6-9pm

Saturday, July 10th

Tubing on the Allegheny River & lunch at Foxburg Pizza. 9am-1pm

Friday, July 23rd

Bonfire at the Hyatt's. Bring a snack to share & a lawn chair. 6-10pm

Saturday, August 7th

Altitude Trampoline Park followed by lunch together. 10am-12pm

Friday, August 27th

Bonfire at the Hyatt's. Bring a snack to share & a lawn chair. 6-10pm

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - JUMP START

Children's Ministry Director, Emily Hooks: EmilyH@northmaincog.org

Our memory verse in May was 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV).

"Training the body has some value. But being Godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."

Growing in our faith is very similar to preparing for that 5K. Growing in faith is not something that happens overnight by merely cramming information about the Bible into our brains. All of that knowledge in our head means nothing if we don't experience what that knowledge can do in our hearts and in our lives. To fully experience faith we have to practice our faith. And that takes commitment.

We commit to God and practicing our faith by...reading God's word regularly, praying consistently, talking about God to those around us, and living out that faith each day for all to see. Our commitment to God is the most important commitment we will ever make! How are you showing your commitment to God?

BASKETBALL CAMP

Camp for students entering grades 1-6 will be here at North Main from **Monday, June 13th - Thursday, June 17th.**

For more details & to register:

[www.northmaincog.org/
events/2021-basketball-camp](http://www.northmaincog.org/events/2021-basketball-camp)



Or Scan this QR Code with your mobile camera to take you

WHITEHALL SUMMER CAMP

GEAR UP for a great summer camp at Whitehall!

Sign up with North Main for a discount! Camps are based on the grade the child just finished.

www.whitehallcamp.org/w-pa-youth-camp/

Senior High Camp
(9th-12th grade)
June 13 - 18

Jr High Camp
(6th-8th grade)
June 20 - 25

Elementary Camp
(3rd-5th grade)



PRAYER

Prayer is positive, persuasive and powerful! The Apostle Paul wrote to the people of Ephesus these words from prison, "And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests . . . always keep on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18) Of all the miraculous things the disciples saw Jesus do while on this earth: making the lame to walk, the blind to see, the dead to rise, buildings to crumble and fall – there was only one thing they asked him to teach them to do. "Teach us to pray," they said.

This is only one of hundreds of references in the Bible that tells us and shows us the power and importance of prayer. The apostle Paul said we should pray without ceasing. Jonah prayed in the belly of the fish, Moses prayed to God as he led the Egyptians to the Promised Land, Noah prayed when the flood was coming and Peter prayed the shortest prayer in the Bible when he was walking on the water and began to sink. Three words, "Lord save me," was his simple prayer and it was answered.

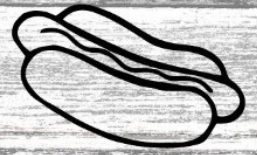
There are countless hundreds of answered prayers that are told in the Bible. Sarah prayed for a child and believe it or not, at age 90, God was faithful and answered her prayer. David, a young shepherd boy fought and defeated the giant Goliath. Prayer is powerful!

We invite you to join our e-mail prayer team. We are called to share each other's burdens, to pray for our leaders, our church, our community, & for lives to be reached for Jesus. Please call the church office or e-mail info@northmaincog.org to join the prayer team.

Sunday Connection Luncheon

Sunday, June 6th

On the Menu:
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs,
Sides, Desserts, & Drinks



COST: Adults \$5, Kids \$3, Max of \$15 per household.
Invite a friend to join you, newcomers to North Main eat free!

Peace is *practical!*

In the month of June at North Main, we will be exploring the ways that peace is practical. The *practical* application of peace in life is not always easy, but through wisdom, understanding, and trust in God, the peace of God can be our compass through the storms of life. As we navigate the Old Testament books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Jeremiah, the theme of "*wisdom*" will be our guide. Throughout June we will study the following topics and passages:

- **Sunday, June 6th:** "Foolishness vs. Wisdom," (Proverbs 1:20-33). Key Point: *Those who learn the way of wisdom live in peace.* (This Sunday is also "Graduation Sunday" and our monthly "Connection Luncheon after the morning service.)
- **Sunday, June 13th:** "Fear God," (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14). Key Point: *In the end, all that matters is whether or not we trust in God.*
- **Sunday, June 20th:** "Peace is Not a Place," (Jeremiah 29:1-23). Key Point: *Peace can be found in the most unlikely of places and circumstances if we have eyes to see it.* (this Sunday is Father's Day.)
- **Sunday, June 27th:** "Peace through Punishment," (Jeremiah 46:25-28). Key Point: *Peace is not necessarily devoid of punishment, but can come as a result of it.*

