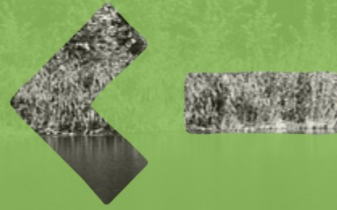




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July
2021



RETURN TO PEACE

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



www.northmaincog.org



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info@northmaincog.org



Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

“Abandoned” By Brandon Lenhart

The prophet Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:31-33 (NLT), writes, “*For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion because of the greatness of his unfailing love. For he does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.*”

When Jeremiah writes this, he is writing from a place of exile after GOD allowed Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians to overtake the Jewish people in Judah and Jerusalem as a form of judgment on His people for their idolatry and disobedience to His commands. The whole book of Lamentations up to this point, and after this point is just that, a *lamenting* over the punishment of GOD’s people by GOD Himself, and yet, he writes this short three verse section smack dab in the middle of this five-chapter book to remind us of GOD’s ultimate desire for His people: *to show them mercy.*

There are times in our own life when we feel abandoned by the LORD. We feel neglected, alone, and completely rejected by GOD. These are times we question GOD the most; times when we may even doubt the existence of GOD. But the question is, are we really abandoned by GOD?

There are cases where GOD does turn people over to their own devices because of their stubbornness and unwillingness to live in relationship with Him. GOD will only suffer so much rejection and disobedience before He stops warning His people and acts against them. The greatest punishment that GOD can give is

His absence. Withdrawing His absence from people allows them to succumb to the consequences of their actions, and if their actions are against GOD, judgment and destruction is the result. When people reject GOD long enough, they may truly experience abandonment by GOD for a time.

What of those, however, who have not rejected GOD, and who have remained faithful to Him? Has GOD truly rejected them and left Him alone? The answer is *no.*

There are countless cases and persons in the Bible who experienced great pain and loss due to no fault of their own. They have remained faithful to GOD and have pursued Him consistently. Job is a good example of this. GOD did not abandon him, but rather allowed Job to be tested knowing that He would ultimately pass the test.

Today, if you are feeling abandoned by GOD, you may need to ask yourself which of these two situations you find myself in? You might ask, “Has GOD truly abandoned me for a season because of my disobedience, or am I in a difficult season of life due to no fault of my own, and GOD is still with me through this deep, dark valley?”

Whatever the case, we must remember that no one is abandoned by the LORD forever. Though He brings grief, He also shows compassion because of the greatness of His unfailing love.

“For no one is abandoned by the LORD forever.”
Lamentations 3:31 (NLT)

Family Pathways

100 Brugh Ave.
Butler, PA 16001
(724) 2849440
www.familypathways.net

The Bair Foundation

222 W Cunningham St.
Butler, PA 16001
(724) 6126644
www.bair.org

Families United Network

Rodi Plaza Building II
655 Rodi Rd., #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(412) 871-3560
www.families4kids.org

Bethany Christian Services

10521 Perry Hwy, #200
Wexford, PA 15090
(724) 940-2900
www.bethany.org

Adoption Connection PA

700 Turnpike St.
Beaver, PA 15009
(724) 371-0671
www.adoptionconnectionpa.org

Wesley Family Services

100 Emerson Ln.
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(412) 342-2270

Foster Care

We felt this calling a couple of years ago, a slow prompting of the Spirit, to be a Church of foster families. A Church who reaches into the community in an active way to help change the community one life at a time. We had been on the front lines helping with the drug epidemic in our community, and what we quickly realized was that this was one of the most difficult ministries to have. You have relapses over and over, and not that it's not an important ministry, but we realized that success at the level of addiction is very hard to achieve. So we started praying and thinking, "what if we were able to impact somebody before they became addicted? And of those affected, who is the most high risk to be impacted by addiction or any number of other things?" So we started to look into what it means to be a foster care Church. In this process we've begun to really promote foster care to our Church family and to get connected with different agencies in the local area and explore what that means.

Do you:

Want to BE a Foster Parent?

Want to SUPPORT our Foster Families?

TO BE: We've provided a list here for your benefit of the local foster care agencies if you would like to start the process. Let us know and we'd be happy to walk through life with you as you do this!

NOT TO BE: If you're not in a stage of life where fostering is an option there are still several ways you can help! Email info@northmaincog.org to volunteer for the opportunities below.

- 1) Prayer - our prayer list goes out to our email group once or twice a week to share our Church family's prayers with you.
- 2) Finances - Your tithes and offerings to North Main support our Church Foster Families when they need it! If you need help setting up a reoccurring gift, please contact us by phone or email.
- 3) Care - We have a Care team that does meal trains, sends cards, and more! If you'd like to be a part and help support our Church family please email us to let us know.

Annual Business Meeting - July 25th

We will be going over our annual report, budget, and ratifying new board members. Please plan on staying for the meeting directly after the Sunday morning service.

Children's Ministry

We're looking for more leaders! Right now our rooms are just barely staffed enough to be open and we need your help! If you love Jesus & love kids, we want you on one of our ministry teams! Requirements include: clearances, background checks, & training which will be provided for all leaders before they begin serving. Those interested need to be regular attenders. (have been attending North Main regularly for at least 6 months)

ROLES

- Leaders & helpers for Nursery, Preschool & Elementary Groups
- Childcare leaders & volunteers for our Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) groups
- Lesson and Supply prep (all grades)

If you are interested in any of these positions or want to know more, please visit our website www.northmaincog.org/serve or scan here:



SCAN ME

Western PA Camp Meeting

@ Whitehall Camp & Conference Center / Emlenton, PA

2021 Camp Meeting is July 17-25

The theme this year is "Making All Things New"
Speakers : Rev. Rolland Danials and Rev. Cliff Forbes
Youth Speaker: Rev. Leo Robinson II

To reserve a room and for more information:
724-867-9601
wpaministries1@gmail.com
www.wpamin.com



Sermons & Resources

We want to make sure you know all the ways you can access our Sermons and other resources! Please visit: www.northmaincog.org/media-resources for the following:

- Sermons
- Submit A Prayer Request
- Contact Us
- Articles
- Vlog
- Newsletters
- Church Mobile App Info



SCAN ME

Family Life Leadership Lunch & Summit

Sunday, August 1st from 12-2pm in the Life Center we are having a luncheon and leadership summit for all leaders currently serving or those interested in serving in ministries with kids ages birth - 18. We want to celebrate together & gear up for the upcoming ministry year, come join us! (Nursery, Preschool, Elementary, Youth, MOPS, Upward, Childcare)

RSVP: Text or call Melissa Hickman 412.614.0767 or email MelissaH@northmaincog.org



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



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July's sermon series theme is *"Return to Peace."* Over the course of this month we will be exploring the Jewish people's return to Jerusalem, and GOD's fulfillment of the promise to not forget His people. In essence, the people's return to their homeland was a return to peace. The passages and topics we will be discussing are:

- **July 4**— Sermon Title: *A Promise of Return*. Scripture: Lamentations 3. Key Point: "God's people are not abandoned forever."
- **July 11**— Special Guest: *Adult and Teen Challenge*. As one of our Community Partnerships, Adult and Teen Challenge will be sharing the Gospel presentation through word and skit. They will also be updating the congregation on goings-on at their local Cheswick location.
- **July 18**— Sermon Title: *An Unlikely Ally*. Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4. Key Point: "GOD's purposes can be fulfilled through some of the most unlikely of characters."
- **July 25**— Sermon Title: *A Call to Alignment*. Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-12. Key Point: "GOD's ways lead to repentance, peace, and restoration."

Make sure to join us in person (1201 North Main Street Ext., Butler, PA 16001), or online ([www.https://northmaincog.org/media-resources/sermons/](https://northmaincog.org/media-resources/sermons/)). Sermon study guides/booklets are available at the Welcome Center, or upon request (724) 285-4214.

