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Connection Luncheon



GOOD
GRIEF!

On Grief

by: Pastor Christy Pittman

I have been recently reflecting on those whom I have lost. Maybe it is because of the reality of human mortality that I have been reminded of lately about those who have gone onto eternity.

I was talking with a friend last week. She is struggling with the death of a friend who was only 19 years old. They were childhood friends and now she is gone. My friend is sad.

I went to the funeral of one of my dad's cousins. I think I met her when I was a child. I had pictures of her children when they were young, but now they are older, and their mom is gone. They are sad.

My godfather was there. It was his sister who died. I haven't seen him for years, but he was just as sweet and generous with his love then as he was when as a child I used to climb into his huge lap. He is sad.

And I am hurting for them, but you just can't take grief from someone. I can sit with someone in the midst of it, put my arm around them, and share the technicalities of the grief process with them so they know what to expect, but ultimately each one must dance alone with sadness. The funny thing about this partner is that it is no respecter of person, gender, race, or social status. Grief won't engage with you, it simply envelopes those who are sad and becomes part of that life.

Sadness never really goes away. It becomes part of your life. Like your hair, you live with it, some days you notice it and other days you realize that you haven't really even thought about it in several days. It never really leaves but it does go through a morphing process. When the raw newness of grief is softened by time, we are able to peel back the rough edges to reveal the bittersweet within, the bittersweet of the memories of sparkling laughter, soft kisses, and soulful looks. It is then that we are able to revisit those we once loved without experiencing the sharpness of the loss.

As I have been thinking about my own waltz with grief. The music of loss still brings me to the phone to call my dad, even years after saying goodbye. And as I reach to dial, I realize that there is no longer a number where I can reach him. And I take another spin around the floor of my reality.

And when I allow myself to feel the loss and the sadness that come with grief, I realize, in some odd way, this is not my home. The Holy Spirit of God meets me in the waltz of sadness, and He brings blessings, and comfort, and hope when I least expect them.

Jesus wept. So should we allow ourselves and others to do the same, we will be better for it.

In the Dust of the Rabbi~

Christy



NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

Grief is something that will affect each one of us at one time or another. We cannot go through life expecting to be unscathed. Knowing that grief will be a journey we all take, this series is a hopeful step to understanding what God might intend for us to learn about the grief we face. Join us this month as we investigate some of the surprising things the Word of God has to say about grief, things like the blessing, the hope, and the comfort of grief. Join us as we unpack Good Grief through the month of November.

YOU ARE INVITED

to join a

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Especially designed for those who have lost a loved one

Starting Tuesday, November 1st from 6:30-8pm

Led By Denise Wilson

November is our series on grief, and to help support those who have lost a loved one to death we would love to invite you to join us for this 9-week group. The group size is limited to provide an intimate setting, and should it fill up we may be able to offer a second option. Please sign up to reserve your space on our website NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/GROUPS or by emailing the church office at info@northmaincog.org or calling our office at 724-285-4214.



As you've probably noticed, over the last few weeks we've been doing some updates to different parts of the church.

Coming up on November 6th after the Connection Luncheon we will be removing all of the pews on the main Sanctuary floor to allow for machinery to access the lighting on the ceiling. This will be a large undertaking! If you are able-bodied and would be available to assist in moving the pews we would welcome the help.

Due to the project going on in the Sanctuary we are planning on having Sunday Services in the Life Center on 11/13 & 11/20.

Upon our return to the Sanctuary you'll notice quite a few changes, not only will the ceiling lighting be updated, but there will also be new seating and carpet as well!

We would also like to offer a HUGE "thank you" to all of you at North Main who have volunteered your time and expertise over the last few months to make this all possible!



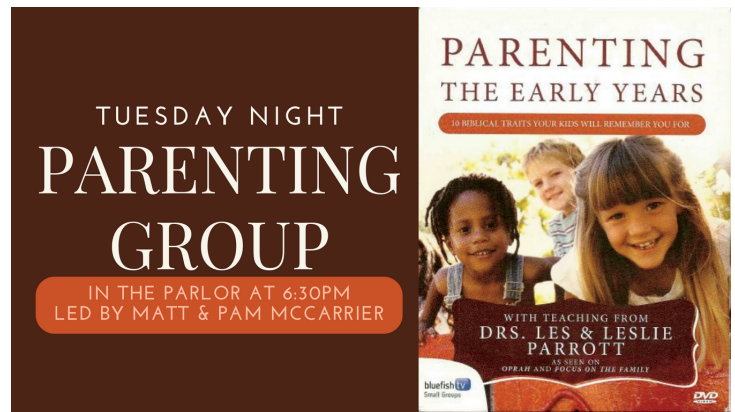
GROUPS

northmaincog.org/groups

Parenting: The Early Years

Join us Tuesday nights starting 10/18 at 6:30 pm

This study focuses on helping us discover 10 Biblical traits that will make us better people & better parents. Study guide provided. What Kind of Parent Do You Want To Be? Who you are matters more than what you do. When your kids are all grown up, how will they remember you? Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott will take you through a parenting approach you won't find in any other parenting resource. Discover 10 Biblical traits that will make you a better person and a better parent. Then begin to intentionally pass on key traits to your kids.



Parenting: The Art of Parenting



The group starts Sunday, October 30th at 9:00 am
In The Art of Parenting, the study will help you to experience God's truth and apply his Word in your family by focusing your attention on four crucial elements in your children's lives:

1. Identity—understanding who they are in Christ
2. Character—learning to live wisely and honorably
3. Relationships—fostering godly connections with others
4. Mission—understanding why they are here

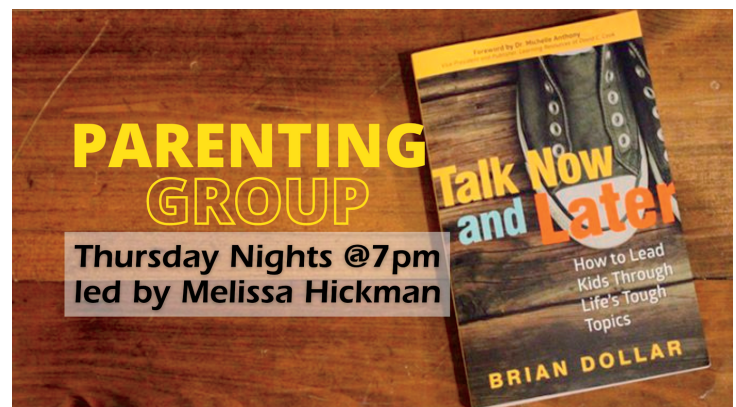
When you apply biblical truths in these four areas, you can feel confident your children will have a foundation they can build upon for the rest of their lives.

Parenting: Talk Now and Later

Starting on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00pm

The "Talk Now & Later" Parenting Group. If you struggle with knowing how to lead your kids through life's tough topics, this group is for you. We'll discuss 10 important conversations that we need to have with our kids & teenagers.

Sign up on our website at NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/GROUPS.





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SAVE THE DATE

TINSEL & TEARS: A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, December 4th from
6:00pm - 7:00pm
at North Main

Thompson Miller Funeral Home and North Main Street Church of God invite you to attend this Memorial Christmas service. This hour-long service will provide support and suggestions for coping with the journey of grief during the holidays as well as an opportunity to remember and honor loved ones in a meaningful way.

Contact our church office to RSVP by November 20th.

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

KNOW Christ intimately
GROW in Christ continually
GO for Christ daily



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info@northmaincog.org



Mon-Thu 9am-4pm



YOU'RE INVITED
TO
join us

On the Menu:

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Baked Apples, Dinner Rolls, Pumpkin Pie, & Drinks

Invite a friend to join you, anyone new to North Main eats for free!

Cost: \$7/adult \$5/child and a max of \$20/household