



Letter from the Pastor

October Sermon Series

October Groups

October Events

Connection Luncheon

Fall Fest

[family]

DYNAMICS

The Dysfunctional Family

by: Pastor Brandon Lenhart

*"The wicked die and disappear, but the family of the godly stands firm."
(Proverbs 12:7, NLT)*

According to pastor and author, Chip Ingram "A dysfunctional family is that which is not operating according to its original design – faulty, impaired, not working properly for optimal results." With this definition, we need to ask, "What is the family's original design, and how can one know how to live up to the original design of the family?"

There are countless books written about families and the problems that persist within them. Dysfunction abounds today within families as it has throughout every generation since the beginning of time. But what is the solution to the brokenness that exists within the family? The solution can be found by studying the dysfunctional families of the Bible; and, trust me, there's no short supply.

Consider the first family: Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel. Adam and Eve disobeyed GOD, and found themselves outside of the Garden of Eden, and outside of face-to-face fellowship with GOD. Challenges are plenty within the broken and fallen world they now live in. The struggle to maintain a sense of unity as a family persists because of sin and death, so much so, that jealousy becomes the wedge - and ultimately the kiss of death - between the first children of the first couple. In a premeditated act of selfishness and rage, Cain kills Abel thus setting in motion a ripple effect of further brokenness within the family structure.

Another family to consider was Abraham and Sarah's family. The first family of Judaism, the chosen people of GOD (Genesis 12), struggled to find the balance between GOD's promises to them and their patience to wait on fulfilling these promises in their lives. After being promised a son in their old age, Abraham and Sarah begin to get impatient. As a means of trying to fulfill GOD's promise of a son, Sarah decided to take matters into her own hands and offer Abraham her servant Hagar as a concubine to have children with.

Long story short, Abraham sleeps with Hagar and she becomes pregnant, and Sarah becomes jealous. Ishmael (Abraham and Hagar's son), ultimately becomes the focal point of anger and frustration between Sarah and Hagar, and Sarah demands Abraham to send her and the boy away. The result of this union sparked enmity between Sarah's future offspring and Hagar's offspring. Even today, these two family lineages (Islam and Judaism), live in constant tension with each other.

One final example, but definitely not the last, is the narrative surrounding Jacob's family. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, and a twin brother of Esau, born to Isaac and Rebekah. Jacob spent his earlier years as a bit of a scoundrel, deceiving and manipulating those nearest him. In a strange turn of events, Jacob had the tables turned on him later in life when he attempted to marry the love of his life, Rachel.

However, Rachel's dad, Laban, deceived Jacob into marrying Rachel's older sister Leah in the dark of night. Suffice it to say, not only did Jacob marry Leah, but he also ended up marrying Rachel, and eventually the tension between Leah and Rachel became so great that they began to compete for Jacob's attention by offering their servant girls to Jacob to have children with. Needless to say, the crazy web of jealousy and dysfunction that resulted in having four wives and countless children did not bode well for Jacob or anyone else in the family.

The previous three stories are only the tip of the iceberg with regard to family dysfunction within the Bible. And, dysfunction within families today, sadly, continues to be the norm in this broken and fallen world. So if the Biblical families can't seem to get it right, how are we to get it right today? Well, there is hope in Christ for restoration and healing.

Even though the Bible is littered with countless examples of family dysfunction, it's not hard to see how GOD uses families in spite of their brokenness. How is GOD working through your family dysfunction to bring wholeness and healing?

GROUPS

northmaincog.org/groups

DISCOVER NORTH MAIN

Starting Sunday October 9th in the Life Center

Over the course of this 4-week class these sessions we will be looking at what it means to be Jesus' disciples, and what it means to make Jesus' disciples through the lens of what is called the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

NORTH MAIN DISCOVERY CLASSES

We have a series of Discovery Classes that we would love everyone who considers North Main their church home to attend.

01. Discover North Main: who we are and why we exist.
02. Discover Faith: what the Christian Faith is and why it's important for salvation.
03. Discover You: how the gifts you are blessed with fit into the body of Christ.
04. Discover Your Fit: learn how to serve God and others in such a way that truly helps and makes a difference in the world around you.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

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. We have a cap of 10 people for this group, and should it fill up we may be able to offer a second option. Please sign up on our website NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/GROUPS or by emailing the church office at info@northmaincog.org.

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

Join us this month as we look into the lives of several dysfunctional families of the Bible. Each family we're going to be looking at strives for unity, balance, and trust, but comes up short over and over again. God was able to use them in spite of their dysfunction and bring about His will, but there was such suffering along the way. God's ideal for the family structure brings hope for us as we live in this broken and fallen world because through him we can see what an ideal family relationship should look like. As much as it is in our power to do so, we should strive for Christ's ideal by submitting our lives to Him completely.



[family]
DYNAMICS

CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE

Are you ready to commit your child(ren) to the Lord? We invite parents to participate in a churchwide service declaring their commitment to raise their children to know & serve God. Our pastors & church family desire to partner with you as you strive to raise your children in the ways of the Lord and teach them to know, love, & serve Jesus.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please email MelissaH@northmaincog.org to register. There is a required parent class that will take place on Sunday, October 23rd at 9:00am.



child
dedication
SERVICE

Sunday, November 6th

prerequisite class will take place on
Sunday, October 23rd @ 9am

Register at northmaincog.org
or scan the QR code below



EVENTS

northmaincog.org/events

Fall Fest - Candy Trail

We would like to invite you to join the Candy Trail at the Fall Fest on October 22nd and represent North Main Street Church of God. Decorate the trunk of your car and share a warm welcome and a treat with kids and their families in the community. When choosing a theme, think about your favorite book, game, movie, or even a bible story. You can even include a quick game or activity!

Sign up by 10/16 to be a part of the Candy trail!
Forms are available at the Welcome Center or email info@northmaincog.org

FALL FEST

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 22, 2022
4PM-7PM

NORTH MAIN ST CHURCH OF GOD
1201 N MAIN ST EXT
BUTLER PA 16001

**FOOD TRUCKS
GAMES
CANDY TRAIL
MUSIC
AND MORE**

**BECOME ONE OF
OUR CANDY CARS
AT THE WELCOME
CENTER!**

Family Hike

FAMILY HIKE
MORAINE - MCDANEL'S LAUNCH
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH 9:30AM

JOIN US FOR AN EASY 3 MILE OUT & BACK HIKE ON THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

MEET AT MCDANEL'S LAUNCH PARKING AREA - NORTH SHORE OF MORAINE

WWW.NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/EVENTS

You and your family are invited to join us on Saturday, October 8th at 9:30am for an easy 3-mile hike on part of the North Country Trail at Moraine.

Kids are welcome; you know your kids best if they will walk the trail. We'll meet at McDanel's Boat Launch - North Shore.

Please remember to dress for the weather, bring plenty of water & snacks, & tell someone where you're going & when you plan to be back. (Don't wear your best new shoes as there tends to be mud on the trails at times)

Driven Youth Group - Grades 6-12



Travel back to the '80s with Driven Youth at our Retro Night Lock-in! Come dressed in your most excellent '80s & '90s clothes and get ready for a night full of nostalgia. Invite your friends!! This is a perfect kind of event for anyone who isn't comfortable with the "normal" church atmosphere. The cost is \$10 but any first-time friends get in free!

RETRO Night

OCTOBER 28TH 6PM-9AM \$10

SAVE THE DATE

TINSEL & TEARS: A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, December 4th from 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the Life Center 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.



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



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**YOU'RE INVITED
TO
join us**

**Our next
Connection
Luncheon is on
October 2nd.**

On the Menu:


Bacon Covered Meatloaf,
Fresh Baked Rolls, Redskin
Smashed Potatoes, Green
Beans, and Apple Pie


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


**Cost: \$6/adult \$4/child
max of \$20/household**


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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 724-285-4214

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 info@northmaincog.org

 Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

FALL FEST

	FREE ADMISSION	
SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2022 4PM-7PM		NORTH MAIN ST CHURCH OF GOD 1201 N MAIN ST EXT BUTLER PA 16001
		
WWW.NORTHMAINCOG.ORG		

**FOOD TRUCKS • GAMES
CANDY TRAIL • MUSIC • AND MORE**