



SEPTEMBER 2022

# Newsletter



YOU'RE INVITED TO

THE SERMON SERIES OF

## LOVE & MARRIAGE

### In this issue

Letter from the Pastor

September Groups

September Sermon Series

MOPS & MOMSnext

Driven Youth

Connection Luncheon

Women's Hike

## The Cure for Aloneness

by: Pastor Brandon Lenhart

"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him" (Genesis 2:18, NLT).

At the beginning of time when GOD created humans in His image/likeness, there was a period when the first man (Adam) was alone, and within GOD's created order this was not good. Up till this point in the narrative, the condition of creation was good according to GOD's desires and standards, however, by Genesis 2:18, GOD asserts for the first time in human history that something was "not" good.

So why wasn't it good for man to be alone? And, was He really alone? Wasn't GOD there with him? Wasn't GOD enough for him?

As we read a few verses earlier, we know that man was created by GOD from the dust of the ground, and though created in His image, Adam was completely separate from GOD in nature. GOD is Creator and Adam is the created, thus, though man could be in an intimate relationship with GOD, he would never be able to achieve the function and role for which he was created without a "helper," who, while equal to him would also complete him in a unity of oneness.

So GOD causes Adam to fall into a deep sleep, and He takes from the very flesh of Adam's frame the very material that made Adam unique from the rest of creation. From Adam's very bone and flesh, GOD creates the counterpart to man, woman. Though different in many ways, the woman would complement man's existence not as one who would wait on him hand and foot, but as one who would be equally by his side ruling GOD's creation with love and purpose. The result was nothing less than perfection, and the couple magnified the glory of GOD and His goodness as they

tended the garden together in perfect unity.

The perfect unity that the first man and woman would experience together, sadly would not last for long, for a tempter would come to cast doubt on GOD's trustworthiness. Before long both the man and woman would succumb to doubt and disobedience to GOD's commands, and they would set in motion a snowball effect of brokenness and distrust that would mark the created order for the rest of human existence.

Once sin entered the world through the first human's disobedience to GOD, every relationship would not only become disjointed but would suffer the loss of trust and intimacy that it initially enjoyed in GOD's perfect creation. Paradise would be lost, but hope would not.

There were four relationships that suffered: 1) The relationship between GOD and humans, 2) The relationship between man and woman, 3) The relationship between humans and the rest of creation, and, 4) The relationship to self. Since then all of creation has been groaning and reeling from the effects of sin that continue to be perpetuated from generation to generation.

So what's the solution? Well, at just the right time in human history, GOD stepped out of eternity and into time, took on human flesh, and dealt with the problem of sin that held sway over humans since the fall. Jesus took the punishment for the sin that first came into the world through the first humans, and in so doing, broke the stranglehold that it had on creation. In Christ, all things can be restored; all things can become new again. In Christ, relationships are restored. In Christ, aloneness is abolished, and oneness is achieved.

Are you living with the result of broken relationships in your life? Have you felt alone? The first, and most important, relationship that can bring restoration to all others is only found in Christ.

# NEW GROUPS!

northmaincog.org/groups

## New September Groups

---

### All of You

Leader(s): Amy Riordan [ariordan@zoominternet.net](mailto:ariordan@zoominternet.net)

Starting: Monday 9/5 @ 7:00 PM

A group for women pursuing sexual wholeness. Join Amy Riordan for an 8-week small group for women using the book, "All of You: Hope and Healing for Women Seeking Freedom from Sexual Strongholds". In this group, Amy will share her own journey of healing and freedom in this area and encourage other women currently pursuing healing and wholeness in similar ways.

### James: Consider it Pure Joy

Leader(s): Tabitha Snyder

Starting: Monday 9/12 @ 6:00 PM

In James, we find one of the clearest examples of the Jewish contributions to Christianity a strong ethic. First-century Jews believed that body, soul, and spirit were one. Therefore, one could not act contrary to how one believed. Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be exploring the concepts of practical Christian living presented in the book of James, you will discover: the secret of living a joy-filled life in the midst of trouble, the tools for finding salvation through obedient faith, how to keep the commandments by loving your neighbor, and how God wants you to live in Christian fellowship. This group is open to all women.

### A New Hope

Leader(s): Ray Saeler [RayS@northmaincog.org](mailto:RayS@northmaincog.org)

Starting: Tuesday 9/13 @ 6:30 PM

A Biblical support group for men pursuing sexual integrity. A man's integrity has many facets, with his sexual integrity being only one facet and quite possibly the easiest to fake or hide and the hardest to develop and or grow.

### Father's Table

Leader(s): Rachel Wilson & Connie Gratzner

Next meeting is on 9/14 @ 6:30 PM

Monthly Women's Gathering. We welcome women of all ages to come and join us in community! Bring a dish or snack to share, and an open heart to share and learn!! Meet us in the Parlor.

## Art of Marriage Groups

---



God can turn any marriage into a masterpiece. Every marriage is unique, expressed by the colorful personalities of each spouse and textured by the circumstances at play in their lives. Blending these to make marriage work is a divinely inspired art form — challenging to master but definitely worth the effort. In The Art of Marriage, we weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and much more to portray the hope and beauty of God's design for marriage.

### Art of Marriage - Sunday Morning

Group Leaders: Allen & Sarah DiFrischia  
Day: Sunday Time: 9:00 AM

## North Main Groups

### Art of Marriage - Wednesday Night

Group Leaders: Dave & Denise Wilson  
Day: Wednesday Time: 7:00 PM

### Art of Marriage - Young Adult Tuesday Night

Group Leaders: Matt & Pam McCarrier  
Day: Tuesday Time: 6:30 PM

### Art of Marriage - Thursday Night

Group Leaders: Bob & Sandy Boda  
Day: Thursday Time: 7:00 PM

### Art of Marriage - Tuesday Night

Group Leaders: Brandon & Saralee Lenhart  
Day: Tuesday Time: 6:00 PM

## Home Groups

### Art of Marriage - Sunday Night

Group Leaders: Jeff & Mindy Peterson  
Day: Sunday Time: 6:00 PM



**9/4 MALE AND FEMALE**

GENESIS 1:26-31

Key Point: "Above all creation, GOD created male and female as His image-bearers."

**9/11 NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE**

GENESIS 2:15-25

Key Point: "GOD made male and female as the perfect, complementary pair to fill and rule His creation as one flesh."

**9/18 PARADISE LOST**

GENESIS 3:1-19

Key Point: "Sin broke all relational unity within GOD's perfect creation thus resulting in a perversion of what GOD once called good."

**9/25 PARADISE REGAINED**

GALATIANS 3:26-28; EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Key Point: "In Christ, GOD brought redemption and restoration back to creation by offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin, thus providing a solution to the brokenness that exists in relationships."

**MOPS & MOMSnext - a group for all moms**

**1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**The first day is September 19th**

Come meet other moms with kids of all ages who share similar feelings, interests, and maybe even struggles just like you. You get to come in and get a break, grab a cup of coffee or tea and some snacks and relax! We have guest speakers, play games, make crafts, and well... just BE us. It's a place where you get to encourage and be encouraged and grow in relationships with fellow moms.

We will meet from September through May with additional play dates and Mom's Night Outs throughout the year. You are welcome to sit in and join us to see what we're all about. We look forward to meeting you.

**All moms are invited!**



Our group is growing, and we need your help! We have an influx of children coming with their mothers to the group. We believe in this ministry and the amazing support it provides to moms, and we want to be able to have childcare for them. If you or someone you know is able to pass their clearances and help 2-4 hours a month when we meet please reach out to [nmcog.mops@gmail.com](mailto:nmcog.mops@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Driven Youth Group**



**LIFE GROUP**

On Sunday mornings at North Main from 9-10am, we have "Life Group". This is a time for students to get plugged in while we do life together. Every week will be slightly different, each designed to help engage students mind, body, and heart as we serve, play, and even cook together.

**CORE**

Core is our weekly Bible Study held at Vintage Coffeehouse on South Main St. We meet from 6-7:30 every Tuesday Night (starting October 4th) and we dive into scripture. Core is meant for 6th-12th graders who are hungry for the word and desire to learn how to read the Bible not only in a group setting, but also on their own.

**DRIVEN**

Our youth gatherings are held on Thursday Nights in the Life Center at North Main. We meet from 6:47-8:30. We tailor Thursday nights to foster genuine community and worship. There are games like Gaga Ball and Carpet Ball set up every week for the kids to play as they settle in. We will have a large group time where we have an icebreaker or game, worship, and a message intended to encourage and educate teens on the truth of the Gospel. Every week is staffed by an amazing team of people who love Jesus and love teenagers. They are there to be encouragers, cheerleaders, mentors, and friendly faces to everyone who walks through our doors.

Come join us!



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



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BUTLER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 83



# Our next Connection Luncheon is on September 11th.

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

-  [www.northmaincog.org](http://www.northmaincog.org)
-  [/northmaincog](https://www.facebook.com/northmaincog)
-  [@northmaincog](https://www.youtube.com/northmaincog)
-  724-285-4214
-  [@northmaincog](https://twitter.com/northmaincog)
-  [info@northmaincog.org](mailto:info@northmaincog.org)
-  Mon-Thu 9am-4pm



YOU'RE INVITED  
— TO —  
join us



All women ages 18 and up are welcome to join us. We will start hiking at 9:30 and hike a 5-6 mile loop through the park. The majority of the trail is easy hiking, but there are some longer hills mixed in. Plan for 3 – 3 ½ hours of hiking.

As always, dress for the weather, bring snacks and plenty to drink, and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back.

Let us know if you will be joining us! Visit [NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/EVENTS](http://NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/EVENTS) for carpool and meetup information.