



JULY 2023

Newsletter

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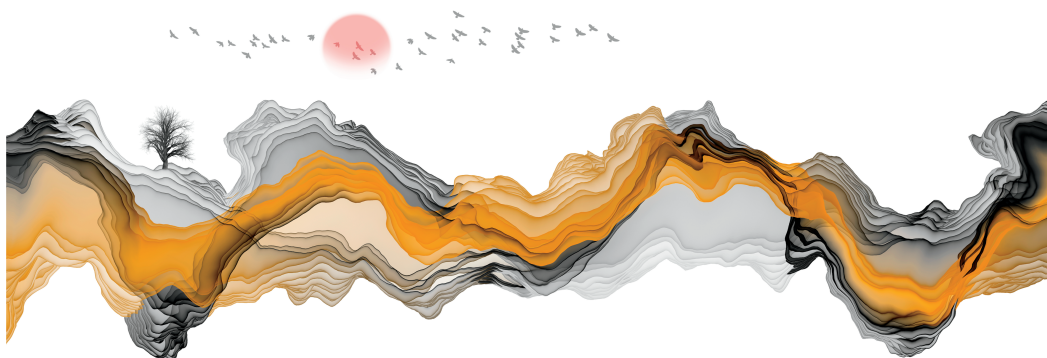
Letter from the Pastor

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Isaiah 117 House Launch



KINDNESS IN EXILE

"Dry Bones" by: Brandon Lenhart

The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?"

"O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."

Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NLT)

This passage from Ezekiel is very well known, and though somewhat disturbing, has powerful implications for GOD's ability to bring back to life that which was once dead and gone. The prophet Ezekiel, in the Old Testament, was not only a prophet, but also a priest, and thus, well versed in Jewish theology and thought. He prophesied during the time of exile after the Babylonians (under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar) had conquered Judah.

While in exile, GOD called men like Ezekiel to speak to GOD's people and remind them that He hadn't forgotten them. He wanted them to know that, even though it seemed like there was no hope for the future, He was still in control and would eventually restore them with new life and new purpose once again. GOD wanted to prove to them, once again, that He truly was LORD of all!

There are times in our own lives when we feel that GOD has not only left us but that there is no hope for anything beyond our current circumstances. We feel lost, hopeless, and dead inside, and believe that there is no way out. When this happens, many people believe there is no use in trying, and they give in to behavior that is not only destructive but perpetuates their "lostness." Another reaction to the feeling of hopelessness is taking one's own life. Neither of these actions produces the results of a life that GOD truly desires for us.

So, what's the solution? What does one do who finds

themselves at the end of their rope, so to speak? How does a person find their way out of the pit that they're in?

The first step to leaving "the valley of dry bones" is to remember that GOD is GOD. The next step is to be patient in the waiting as He works behind the scenes to set the stage for His will to be accomplished. The final step is to act and move when GOD's Spirit acts and moves.

Though at times we may feel like empty shells (skeletons) wandering around aimlessly, GOD ultimately desires to regenerate our lifeless existence and bring us back to the Promised Land of salvation and eternal hope. No matter what we've done, how far we've gone, or how hopelessly lost we think we are, there is a GOD who loves us so much that He longs to give us abundant life through His son Jesus (John 10:10).

It's been told that there was once a brier growing in a ditch and there came along a gardener with his spade. As he dug around it and lifted it up, the brier said to himself, "What is he doing? Doesn't he know I am a worthless brier?" But the gardener took it into his garden and planted it amid his flowers, while the brier said, "What a mistake he has made planting me among these beautiful roses." Then the gardener came once more and made a slit in the brier with his sharp knife. He grafted it with a rose and lovely roses bloomed on that old brier when summer came. Then the gardener said, "Your beauty is not due to what came out but to what I put in."

Today, you may feel like a corpse laying in a valley of dry bones. GOD desires to make you whole again; to make you live again. But you cannot live again unless you are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into you.

Submission to the Spirit's moving is the only way to experience this. It will be painful at times, as GOD grafts you into His tree of life, but it will be the most fulfilling thing you will ever submit to in your life.

JULY SERMON SERIES

July 2nd - Heart of Stone

Sermon Scripture: Ezekiel 11:14-21

Key Point: "It takes GOD to transform a heart of stone into a heart of flesh."

July 9th - Personal Responsibility

Sermon Scripture: Ezekiel 18:1-32

Key Point: "Every person is accountable to GOD."

July 16th - The Good Shepherd

Sermon Scripture: Ezekiel 34:1-31

Key Point: "GOD's punishment doesn't last forever."

July 23rd - Dry Bones

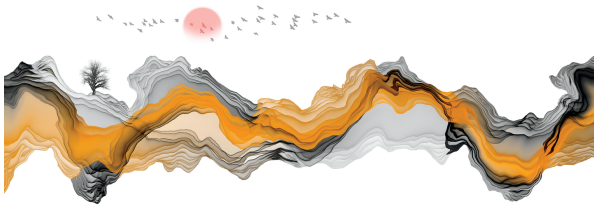
Sermon Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Key Point: "GOD can bring to life what was once dead and gone."

July 30th - Two Sticks

Sermon Scripture: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Key Point: "GOD can restore what had once been lost."



KINDNESS IN EXILE

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COME CHEER US ON AT OUR GAMES

Make sure to visit www.northmaincog.org/softball for upcoming Playoff information

- 7/7 - 7:30PM @ MAC1
- 7/10 - 6:30PM @ MAC1
- 7/14 - 6:30PM @ MAC1

Mac 1 & 2 are at Slippery Rock University



WPA Camp Meeting July 15-23rd, 2023

Register online at:
whitehallcamp.org/wpa-camp-meeting



northmaincog.org/events



Wednesday, July 12th @ 6:30pm

A monthly women's fellowship time that encourages holistic growth with Jesus and healthy connection with ourselves and others! Teens are welcome if an adult accompanies them. This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Please bring a dish to share.

For any questions please contact the leaders Rachel Wilson or Connie Gratzner, or call the church office.

Saturday, July 15th @ 9:30am

All women age 18 and up are welcome to join us on Saturday, July 15th, for a 5-mile hike on the North Country Trail. We will be meeting at Beth's Parents' House then shuttle to the trailhead. Weather permitting, there will be a cookout afterward. For more details please visit NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/EVENTS.

For any questions or to RSVP, please email:
Beth Marino at bamjeep8@yahoo.com or
Melissa Hickman at MelissaH@northmaincog.org.



Wednesday, July 19th @ 6:30pm

All MOMS are invited!

Come join North Main MOPS & MOMSnext as we hang out with Archers Acres and make beautiful bouquets together! Cost \$8.50 per person. Prepaid registration is required, please email Marylou Palmer MarylouP@northmaincog.org with any questions! Hope to see you there.



Sunday, July 30th @ 12:00pm

If you consider North Main your church home, please plan on staying after service as we will be going over our annual report, the new budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and ratifying new board members.





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



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UPWARDTM

SPORTS

Flag Football

We will need coaches and other volunteers to help us out for our first-ever season. If you have never coached football before, please don't be intimidated as we will be practicing together, and Upward provides great resources to make sure all of our coaches are successful.

Program Details

Flag Football: K5 - 6th grade

First Practice: Week of 07/31/23

First Game: Week of 08/07/23

Last Game: Week of 10/01/23

Volunteer!



registration.upward.org/UPW84184/volunteer

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



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info@northmaincog.org



Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm

Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

Coming
to Butler!

When children are removed from their homes out of concern for their safety, they are usually brought to a child welfare services office to await placement. This wait can be a few hours to several days. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lonely, hungry, and in dirty clothing.

Isaiah 117 provides a comforting home where these children instead can be brought to wait – a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, and snuggly blankets. This space allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child welfare staff can do the necessary paperwork and identify a good placement.

The mission of Isaiah 117 House is threefold:

- reduce trauma for children awaiting placement
- lighten the load for child welfare services
- ease the transition for foster families

Join us for a new expansion kickoff!

When: Sunday, July 23rd

Time: 2:00 PM

Where: Butler Intermediate High School Auditorium
551 Fairground Hill Rd. Butler, PA 16001