



MAY 2023

# Newsletter

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## In the Meantime

by: Brandon Lenhart

Throughout the month of May, in addition to Mother's Day on May 14th, we will be exploring the Old Testament book of Habakkuk. Though rarely preached from, this short three-chapter book is full of struggles and questions, but also wisdom and encouragement.

Habakkuk (the author) was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah. And though he only wrote three chapters of text, his impact is powerful and relatable. The remaining Jewish nation, Judah (the southern kingdom), had become so corrupt and immoral that GOD's patience with them had run out. As a judgment upon the people of Judah, GOD decided to turn them over to the Babylonian Empire who was right at their doorstep. They would inevitably be conquered and many of them sent into exile throughout the Babylonian Kingdom under the leadership of King Nebuchadnezzar. However, right before this happened, Habakkuk penned this short book.

Even though the nation of Judah had become completely and utterly corrupt, there was a small minority of people who remained faithful to GOD; a remnant of men, women, and children who did not worship idols or pagan gods, and who remained spiritually and physically pure. Habakkuk was among this group.

In the first two chapters of Habakkuk, he questions GOD. He asks, "How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen!" and he makes statements like this as he cries out to GOD, "Violence is everywhere! But you do not come to save." and "The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts." And all of this is just in the first chapter. In essence, Habakkuk, and those who have remained faithful to GOD, are experiencing the fallout of a society devoid of godly behavior and they are concerned that GOD seems to not be doing anything about it.

GOD's response to Habakkuk is one of patience and exhortation. He responds twice to Habakkuk by explaining

He is doing something behind the scenes. Though Habakkuk could not see it, GOD's plan for judgment of the wicked was coming, and coming quickly. The Babylonian Empire was his means of punishment and discipline. The day of prospering for the wicked and abusive people of Judah was coming to an end, and the whole nation would experience it. Even the remnant would see the judgment of GOD, but why?

There are times throughout the course of human history when things haven't seemed to measure up. And it's in those times that it also seems as though GOD is silent and gone from the scene. Maybe there are even times in your own life when you have felt this way. You've worked hard to do the right things and live a life that is pleasing to GOD, but it seems that He is too far off to even notice. Or, maybe you're praying and praying but your prayers don't seem to go any further than the ceiling. Whatever the case, we are reminded in the writings of Habakkuk that though it seems that GOD isn't listening or doing anything on our behalf, He's behind the scenes working out His purpose and will for our good and for His glory.

So, in the meantime, while we await our Rescuer, know that He is good and that He is here. Know that GOD is not idle; He is constantly at work to accomplish His will. Even though He may seem far away, we must remember that He is closer than a brother. For those who believe in Him, and remain faithful to following His lead, He will sustain, protect, and provide.

Though all may seem lost, and though it seems like we're at the end of our rope, know that GOD oftentimes leads us to the end of ourselves in order to do amazing things in our lives as we surrender to Him.

Habakkuk eventually came around. In his final words, he testifies to the goodness and trustworthiness of GOD as he writes, "The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights." Do you believe this? Cast your cares on GOD because He truly does care for you.



## MAY SERMON SERIES

### May 7th - Where is GOD When Evil is Everywhere?

Sermon Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-11

Key Point: "GOD is always at work, even though we don't see it."

### May 20th - Mother's Day

Sermon is to be determined

### May 21th- Why Do Evil People Prosper?

Sermon Scripture: Habakkuk 1:12-2:20

Key Point: "True success and pleasure isn't found in the fleeting treasures of this world, but in the eternal goodness of GOD's blessings and promises."

### May 28th - Sure Footedness in Rocky Places

Sermon Scripture: Habakkuk 3:1-19

Key Point: "GOD sustains the faithful in times of trouble and trials."

# northmaincog.org/discover

We have a series of four Membership Classes that we would love everyone who considers North Main their church home to attend. They are held on Sunday Mornings at 9am in the Life Center classrooms and childcare is available if you inform us of the need upon registration.



### 1. Discover North Main - Starting on: May 7th

"Who we are and why we exist."



### 2. Discover Faith - Starting on June 11th

"What we believe about the Bible and its importance to our faith."



### 3. Discover You - Starting on: May 7th

"How the gifts you are blessed with fit into the body of Christ."



### 4. Discover Your GO - Upcoming in September

"Learn how to serve God and others in such a way that truly helps and makes a difference in the world around you."



# northmaincog.org/events

**Wednesday, May 10th @ 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 present with an adult. Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30p in the Parlor.

Contact the leaders Rachel or Connie or call the church office with any questions. (724-285-4214)



**Sunday, May 14th**

At North Main, we practice Parent-Child Dedication. When parents are ready to commit their children to the Lord, they participate in a churchwide service declaring that commitment to their families & the church family. There is a required parent class on May 7th. If you have any questions or are interested, please email

**Pastor Melissa Hickman**  
**MelissaH@northmaincog.org**  
to register.



[northmaincog.org/events/child-dedication/](https://northmaincog.org/events/child-dedication/)



**Saturday, May 20th @ 9:30am**

All women age 18 and up are welcome to join us for our April hike! We will be meeting at McConnell's Mills State Park (Point Parking Area - first parking lot on the right). This will be a more challenging 2-hour hike due to the rock formation and changes in elevation. Be sure to dress for the weather & bring plenty of water & snacks. For more information email Beth Marino at **bamjeep8@yahoo.com**



**Sunday, June 4th @ 10:30am**

Congratulations to all of our High School & College Graduates! We will be celebrating our 2023 Graduates during the Sunday service on June 4th. Please complete the informational form by Sunday, May 28th with requested information so we can honor your graduates. It's a great time to invite friends and family as we will be having our Connection Luncheon after service as well!

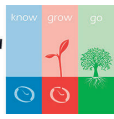


<https://northmaincog.org/graduate/>





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# GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

[northmaincog.org/leader](http://northmaincog.org/leader)

We'd like YOU to prayerfully consider being a part of our group ministries as a leader or host!

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)



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724-285-4214



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[info@northmaincog.org](mailto:info@northmaincog.org)



Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

NORTH MAIN STREET CHURCH OF GOD

# CONNECTION LUNCHEON

MAY 7TH, 2023

## MENU

HAMBURGERS, CORN DOGS, HOME MADE REDSKIN POTATO SALAD, BAKED MACARONI AND CHEESE, AND SALTED CARAMEL BROWNIES.