

NORTONVILLE NEWS

Accepting The Changes That God Brings

By Pastor Joe O'Neill

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 'Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.'" (Joshua 1:1-2).

One of the great challenges we all face is change. Things are constantly changing all around us. We see in Joshua 1:1-2 that change is often part of God's plan. Let's notice that God's commands to Joshua are also applicable to us as we face change.

I. The Lord wants us to move on from the past.

Joshua needed to be reminded that the past was gone. **"Moses My servant is dead."** The reality of change is amplified when someone we know and love passes on to their eternal reward. Such was the change that Joshua faced when Moses died. As much as Joshua might have wished that Moses was around to lean on, it just wasn't so anymore. The past no longer exists. We don't forget the past completely, but we are to learn from it and move on from it.

Sometimes a momma bird gives her little one a nudge when it is time for the younger bird to get out of the nest and get flying. If we constantly dwell on the security of the nest of the past, we miss the opportunities that the living God places before us today. If we dwell only on the past, we are like a car that is stuck in a rut, spinning, but not going anywhere.

(Continued on page two)

Stay Connected

Sunday

9:30 am **Sunday** School

10:45 am **Sunday** morning

6:00 pm **Sunday** night

6:00 pm **Sunday** Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians at 6:30 pm

Everyday

Please join us in prayer for the requests and the praises on the **Prayer Sheet**, included as the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you!

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The apostle Paul speaks about the past when he says in Philippians 3:13, "**But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.**" Have you put the past behind you, like the apostle Paul did? The Lord wants you to! He wants us to trust Him for the good change that He brings into our lives.

II. The Lord wants us to move into the present.

When the traffic light turns green, it is time to step on the gas and go. Joshua was told by the Lord to "get going." "**Arise, go over this Jordan.**" There was so much to be done! The Jordan River was to be crossed and the people of God were to be led into the promised land. It was time for the Israelites to inherit the land that God promised their forefathers hundreds of years before. It was time to embrace the promises of God and to fight for them!

We too are to get up and stand on those promises given to us by God. The light is green for the saints to start marching forward. Our feet are to move to the beat of the Lord's promises. "**Greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world**" (1 John 4:4). The Lord's mercies are new every morning, but we need to welcome the promises like a child welcomes Christmas.

III. The Lord wants us to move up to the future.

Joshua had so much to do, but he is told in Joshua 1:8 to "**meditate**" on God's Word "**day and night.**" It would only be through obedience to the Word of God that Joshua would have the blessing of God and the power of God. It is only through the guidance of the Word of God and obedience in doing what He says that victory comes.

We know that Joshua faced many challenges in his service to the LORD. But whenever he and the people followed God's directions, they had great success. And we will certainly have success if we get ourselves ready by being faithful to the Word of God. If we hide God's word in our hearts we won't sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). If we hold to the Scriptures we can defeat the devil and all his wily ways. We can live above the world if we are humbly at His feet, listening to Him in His Word.

So when the change alarm goes off, don't push the "snooze" button. It's time to get up! It is time to get going! It's time to be ready through the Scriptures to face what the future holds. We don't have to fear change. We don't have to fear the future. The LORD holds the future! The LORD will bring good change in our lives. He brings changes for His glory! And He is with us. He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He has a good plan for His obedient people. We can count on it!



Pick up your shoeboxes in the lobby!
Return boxes by Sunday **November 12**



Sunday, November 5
10:45 am

Spotlight: The Path of Prayer

Charles Spurgeon was the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. He was often called the “prince of preachers”, as he was not just a talented speaker, but a great expositor of God’s Word. For over one hundred years, Charles Spurgeon has had more works in active publication than any other Christian author.

The following excerpt first appeared in “Morning & Evening”, a collection of daily readings written by Charles H. Spurgeon in 1866.

“Thy paths drop fatness.” - Psalm 65:11

Many are “the paths of the Lord” which “drop fatness,” but an especial one is the *path of prayer*. No believer, who is much in the closet, will have need to cry, “My leanness, my leanness; woe unto me.” Starving souls live at a distance from the mercy-seat, and become like the parched field in times of drought. Prevalence with God in wrestling prayer is sure to make the believer strong — if not happy. The nearest place to the gate of heaven is the throne of the heavenly grace. Much alone, and you will have much assurance; little alone with Jesus, your religion will be shallow, polluted with many doubts and fears, and not sparkling with the joy of the Lord. Since the soul enriching path of prayer is open to the very weakest saint; since no high attainments are required; since you are not bidden to come because you are an advanced saint, but freely invited if you be a saint at all; see to it, dear reader, that you are often in the way of private devotion. Be much on your knees, for so Elijah drew the rain upon famished Israel’s fields.

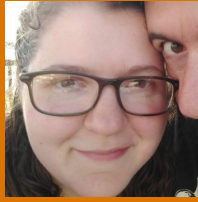
There is another especial path dropping with fatness to those who walk therein, it is the secret walk of communion. Oh! the delights of fellowship with Jesus! Earth hath no words which can set forth the holy calm of a soul leaning on Jesus’ bosom. Few Christians understand it, they live in the lowlands and seldom climb to the top of Nebo: they live in the outer court, they enter not the holy place, they take not up the privilege of priesthood. At a distance they see the sacrifice, but they sit not down with the priest to eat thereof, and to enjoy the fat of the burnt offering. But, reader, sit thou ever under the shadow of Jesus; come up to that palm tree, and take hold of the branches thereof; let thy beloved be unto thee as the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, and thou shalt be satisfied as with marrow and fatness. O Jesus, visit us with Thy salvation!



November Birthdays



November 1
Mike Feistel



November 3
Emily Ambrose



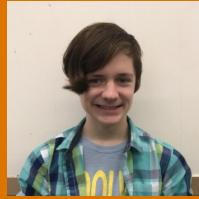
November 11
Carla Bartow



November 20
Norma VanOordt



November 21
Susan Ambrose



November 22
Clayton Hildebrandt



November 25
Dottie Pellegrom

November Anniversaries



November 26
Phil and Char Peterson

Small Groups

Monday at 6:30 pm
in Spring Lake.

Tuesday at 10:30 am
at Nortonville Chapel.

Come join us!

Sunday Evening Unity Service

Beacon Light Church, City Heart Ministries,
Mount Herman Zion Missionary Baptist
Church, and Wyoming Park Bible
Fellowship

Meeting with us at Nortonville Chapel.

November 5, 4:00 pm

Calendar

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|-------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 10/29 | Missionary Anna Sytsma speaking, 6:00 pm. | 11/8 | Ladies Mission Circle, 9:30 am. |
| 10/30 | Spring Lake small group, 6:30 pm. | | Robbinswood church service, 1:30 pm. |
| 10/31 | Daytime small group, 10:30 am. | 11/9 | Ladies Bible study zoom, 7:30 pm. |
| 11/1 | Heartwood Lodge church service, 10:00 am. | 11/13 | 24/7 Prayer opportunity. |
| | Olympians harvest celebration, 6:30 pm. | | Spring Lake small group, 6:30 pm. |
| 11/2 | Ladies Bible study zoom, 7:30 pm. | 11/14 | Daytime small group, 10:30 pm |
| 11/3 | Reverb all night youth event, 5:00 pm. | | Board meeting, 5:30 pm. |
| 11/5 | Foresters music worship service, 10:45 am. | 11/16 | Ladies Bible study zoom, 7:30 pm. |
| | Thanksgiving service, 6:30 pm. | 11/17 | Sisters of Sarah, 6:30 pm. |
| | John 17 Unity service, 4:00 pm. | 11/20 | Spring Lake small group, 6:30 pm. |
| 11/6 | Spring Lake small group, 6:30 pm. | 11/21 | Daytime small group, 10:30 pm. |
| 11/7 | Spring Lake voting at the chapel. | 11/22 | Robbinswood church service, 1:30 pm. |
| | Daytime small group, 10:30 pm. | 11/30 | Ladies Bible study zoom, 7:30 pm. |

Prayer And Praises October 25, 2023

Praises to the Lord:

Rob Marshall knee surgery went well. The Pastor appreciation Luncheon went well. Small groups starting. The "Sisters of Sarah" Women at Risk event went well. They raised \$1000.00 to fight sex trafficking. Missionary Ursula Morrell has received her permanent residency! Lillian Johnson is now at home. Bridget Gazlay has found a new place to stay. Some improvements made to our building and sound system.

Prayer Requests:

President Biden, President Putin, President Zelensky, Governor Whitmer, Benjamin Netanyahu, Yayha Sinwar. Supreme Court Justices: (Roberts, Alito, Thomas, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Coney-Barret, Jackson, Sotomayor, Kagan) Student of the Week: Clayton Hildebrandt Board member of the week: Deacon-Jeff Nietering Shut in of the Week: Barb Kilbry Volunteer of the Week: Dee Dufford

Missionary of the Week: ***Norman & Karen Tober** (GEM-Germany): See page 2 for updates!

Pray for laborers for the harvest. Also, for the youth overnight Reverb Event November 3rd.

Mary Ann Willoughby, was in the hospital, she is recuperating at home.

Donna Burns (sister of Ken Brondyke) is experiencing severe health issues, especially with her kidneys and liver.

Pray for Peter Newland (former pastor Hashley's son-in-law), who has stage four cancer.

Pray for the war in Israel, that the Lord would save souls in Israel and Gaza.

Jayce, (relative of Brondyke's) has extreme anxiety. Sharon, (neighbor of the Vink's) has broken her leg.

Please pray for Morgan, who is struggling with depression. Also, for Barb Kilbry as her health is deteriorating.

The church wide "Christmas Shoebox Ministry" has begun. Shoeboxes are available in the foyer.

Please continue to pray for Spring Lake Baptist, as they are still in need of a senior pastor.

Greg and Dianne Lunt's cousin Ken needs salvation. Alice White, now has Hospice care.

We are seeking the Lord in regard to an Elder, media helper, Sunday school and children's church teachers.

Ronda and Glen Masterson (friends of Maureen Sherman) are both in need of prayer for health reasons.

Melissa Dalman, Caroline Cafler, and Anna Sytsma are seeking a permanent place to stay.

Greg Nelson, cousin of Ken Brondyke and Cheri Young needs physical and spiritual strength.

Pray that the Lord would give guidance for service opportunities in our church.

Pray for Tessa, Travin and Tori. (Relatives of Jim & Dee Dufford).

Angel & Sophie's Family – Many problems, continue to pray. Pray that they would not get discouraged.

Tina Hitsman, Joe Shermans stepdaughter is going blind and needs prayer for salvation and healing.

Pray for our next generation that Pastor Josh and our young people will be dedicated to Christ, and for spiritual

growth: Ben, Aven, Mason, Madison, Robert, Mackenzie, Olivia, Clayton, Collin, Russell, Layla, Adelina,

Charley, Anna, Margaret, Josh, Colton, Nathan, Gabriel, Caue, David, Luke, Stella

Pray for victory over alcohol, drugs, and other addiction: Larry, Tim, Brad, Darren, John, Carol, Brianna, Jeff

Those needing help & healing with health issues: Tricia Barnes, Norma Fancer, Dorothy Walker, Ann Smith, Les Young, (relative of Cheri Young), Jackie Wilson, Zulariam Bennink, Barb Kilbry, Marilee Stroebe, Vicky Snyder, Shirley Hall, Melissa Dalman, Paul Snyder, Bridget Gazlay, Hammond's daughter Dana, Sam and Lynne Hammond, Laurie Snyder, Chuck and Cindy Johnson, Pat Dawes, Linda Dood, Kurt French, (Pam Walker's son who has Dystonia), Nancy Brondyke, Joan Thompson

Those with cancer: Tarah, Belinda Klein (Linda Vink's friend), Norm Kaufman, Marge (Dianne Lunt's sister), Kelly Vipond, Bob & Diane Brondyke, (Ken Brondyke and Cheri Young's cousins), and Bob Lunt (Greg's brother, needs Christ), Greg and Roger (Cheri Young's cousins).

In need of the Lord: Patrick Clouden, Joshua, Collette, Kevin O'Neill, Gary (Sue Brooks' nephew), Rod and Jaqueline (Dorothy Walker), Justin White, John and Carol Marrano, David and Catherine, Nina, David, Joe Moran, Ben, Brian and Leanna McMahon (friends/relatives of the O'Neill's), Al Gazlay, Renan, First, Jim, Mike and Amy (Ann's Dad & stepmom), Sawyer (Robbie Snider), Mark & Kris Dean (Maureen Sherman), Rob Marshall Jr., Ann (Georgia Kamphorst's sister-in-law), Maria, Abigail, Erin, Kevin, Mary, Jody, (Karen Huggins sister), Becky, John (Charlene Easeys family), Ashley, Justin, Dale (Bev Jackson's son).

Prayer And Praises October 25, 2023

Caleb & Emily Arnold (Ethnos 360): The Arnolds would like everyone to watch a short video to share some of the exciting things that the Lord has been doing in Chihuahua. <https://youtu.be/tifiTPk94l8>.

Rev. Dave & Delores Bauer (BRM-Illinois): Rev. Dave says: "We know summer is over, when church boards start meeting again and our phone is ringing and messages are plenty!"

Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya (Shelby MI): Pray for Mike and Paula as they are preparing for their fall Ministries.

Nicole Condra (SWMI-Georgia): "Recently I took a four-day online Bible counseling intensive to strengthen my understanding of how to use the Word in different circumstances. This study is helping me counsel four women".

Reed & Donna Condra (SWMI-Georgia): "For 2023, look for more online teaching. (Fantastic Saturday, ASLI and online). We are now scheduling meetings to reach newer and unreached areas".

***Indigenous Ministries** (IM-Colorado): Dee says: "The purpose and mission of Indigenous Ministries is to share Christ through nationals in their own culture and country. This mission continues on even after John's death, as our U.S. staff and overseas teams in Iraq, Egypt and India continue sharing in Christ."

***Daniel & Karen DeVerna** (BMW-Japan): The DeVernas praise the Lord for safety while traveling and sharing. They also are asking for prayer for strength, as they are both very tired for the remainder of furlough time here.

Love in Action (Tri-Cities): Donations are appreciated more than ever, as needs have increased sharply.

Joe & Ursula Morell (BMW-Sweden): Joe says: "Today, we just got the news in the mail: the migration board of Sweden has given Ursula permanent residency! We are still taking it all in---prayers answered, and a weight lifted. Thank you for your forbearance and persistent prayers in this matter."

Mario Audai Shaba (IM Supported Child: Iraq): Mario fled with his family from the Islamic State in 2014 and they are still refugees in North Iraq. He lives with his parents, and he struggles with English classes.

Andy & Michelle Shinabery (East-West Ministries International): The Shinabery's ask that we pray that the Bible will soon be translated into key languages in West Africa so that people will have access to God's Word.

***Tim & Karol Svoboda** (YWAM-San Francisco) Tim says: "November 1st is the year-end fundraising kick-off event. We are still in need of two major repairs for our 1908 building. Please join with us in prayer for the best solutions for these repairs and the money to cover them."

***Anna Sytsma** (CEF-Kent & Ottawa Counties): Anna says: "Pray as we participate this week in two Trunk or Treat and Harvest Festival Events. Pray for good weather and for us as we share the Gospel with kids. Also, pray for our upcoming World Day of Prayer event on Wednesday, November 1st, 9:30-12:00 noon."

***Norman & Karen Tober** (GEM-Germany): We started the month of August going to GEM's Annual Conference (AC). All together we had almost 700 missionaries, staff, short-termers, board members and children attending. Pray for GEM leadership that God would give a clear vision of how to move forward with future meetings.

Todd & Carla Witters (CBM-Children's Bible Ministries): Todd says: "Release time has started, we have two locations and are working on two more. Also, Book Club is booming!"