

# NORTONVILLE NEWS

## "True Freedom"

By Pastor Josh Puett

**Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. (John 8:34-36)**

I feel truly blessed to have been born in the freest nation on Earth. Our speech is protected, our freedom to worship is protected, our freedom to pursue happiness, is protected. But though we are free from oppressive government, and from unjust laws, are we truly free? Is true freedom something that can ever be given to us by the world? When teaching in the Temple, Christ told us how it is that mankind can become truly free.

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."**

When you are under sin, you are not a free person, but a slave. Sin has become your master. As a slave cannot choose to free himself from the household of his master, so too are sinners unable to free themselves from their sin in their own power. Just as a slave has no choice but to serve his master, so too do sinners have no choice but to serve their sin! There are men and women who try to live right lives, yet without God. They want to separate goodness from godliness, believing that they can be good if they try hard enough. Friends, this is folly! There can be no goodness without God. We are natural born sinners, and without God, no one can free themselves from their sin.

(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

### 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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Spring Lake

[www.nortonvillechapel.org](http://www.nortonvillechapel.org)

**“And a slave does not abide in the house forever,”**

What is a slave to the master? A slave is not a member of the family, he is property. Property can be traded, bought, or sold. Think about your own homes and property. When I think of my family’s home when I was a child, it looks far different from how it looks today! The spring-wound clock no longer sits on the mantel. The old tube TV has been replaced by a flatscreen. The green and white floral pattern couch, with its hide-away bed, has long since been replaced by a stylish modern sectional! Many of the things that were in that home when I was a child are no longer there. But what has stayed? The people in it! Though we do not all live together anymore, and some have since fallen asleep, and yet others have been added, our family remains! Though the house has changed, the household is still the same! A slave is property, it is not permanent. When you are in sin, you have no sure inheritance, no sure place in this world, and no place prepared for you after this world. Only the family of God have an inheritance in God’s house!

**“but a son abides forever.”**

Only the family of God have an inheritance in God’s house! If we want to share in that inheritance, we need to become free from our burden of sin. But how can we free ourselves from our bondage, if a slave has no power to free himself from his chains?

**“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”**

The only way to go from a slave in sin, to a free child of God, is to be made a child of God through faith in the Son of God! Christ came, and He paid the price for our sin, so that we could be free and join the family of God! That is the only way to achieve true freedom in this world, to free yourselves from slavery to sin. Christ came to mankind in our wretched state. He knew of the chains of sin that bound us, and He grieved. He wanted more for mankind, He wanted better things for us. So, He paid the ultimate price, and took on our debt. He came to man, and placed in our hands the key, bought with His own blood, to unlock our fetters. He’s done it all, He’s already paid it all. We need only take this key, to be made free.

Friends, I urge you, if you are still bound by the chains of sin, to accept Christ, and to flee from sin. To my brothers and sisters in Christ who still feel trapped by their sin, who feel hopelessly entangled with sin, take heart. While we may yet struggle with sin, in Christ, we have freedom! We are not slaves to sin as the world, we have a new master! We have a helper! We have a greater source of strength, that can untangle us from our sin, and carry us out. Trust in the Lord, seek His face, and He will provide us a way of escape. Alone, in our own power, we are helpless, but in the Lord, we may have victory! Praise the Lord, we are free indeed!

## Calendar

7/10	24/7 Prayer Opportunity	7/19	Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm
7/11	Board Meeting 5:30 pm	7/20-21	Ladies Breakaway Retreat 9:00 - 3:30 pm.
7/12	Robbinswood Church Service 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm.	7/24-28	Day Camp for 1st to 6th grade, 9:00 - 3:00 pm.

# Spotlight: Love In Action



One of the 14 missionary organizations that our Chapel is privileged to support on a monthly basis is called "Love in Action." This organization serves the needs of the poor, in the name of Christ, throughout the Tri-cities area. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year.

It may be surprising to you that in our economically wealthy area, there are still people who are struggling to make ends meet. According to statistics from Ottawa County, over 5,000 people in the Spring Lake, Grand Haven, and Ferrysburg communities are facing financial insecurity. This means that they are lacking in the basics of food, or health care, or housing.

Without any federal assistance, this year Love in Action will give away over 368,000 meals, and more than one and half million dollars of food. They will also help serve the 4000 people in our area who have no health insurance. Their ministry also helps people get under the care of a doctor and find a sustainable plan for their own health. They run a dental clinic as well as a vast counseling clinic.

Love in Action supports two shelters in Grand Haven: one for women and children, and one for men. They also have affordable living apartments. In addition to this, the ministry helped 150 household stay in their own homes by giving them financial assistance.

Josh Bytwerk has served for the past six years as the executive director for Love in Action. He has a big concern for the people of our area who are isolated and alone, and are not yet aware that help is available. Many of them don't have healthy relationships and some of them rarely venture out of their houses. With the help of the Lord, Josh, along with the many volunteers (some even from the chapel) of the ministry, are trying to steer the people to where help is available. He is excited that this month the ministry will open a membership-based co-op which will create opportunities for our community to connect, volunteer, and build long-term relationships to help combat personal challenges.

Most of all, Josh would like to see all put their faith in the Lord Jesus. And that is where we have joined our hearts to this ministry. We too want all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth in Christ (1 Timothy 2:3-6). Let us pray for Josh and the ministry of Love in Action, that as we help the needy with food, clothing, and shelter, and that through the gospel many will come under the care of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ!

# July Birthdays



July 1  
Pastor Joe O'Neill



July 2  
Dawn King



July 3  
Eleanor Ambrose



July 4  
Jack Ruster



July 5  
Vince Blake



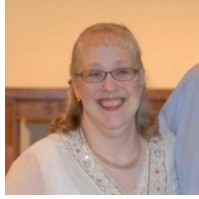
July 5  
Nancy Marshall



July 6  
Karen Huggins



July 10  
Randy Arnson



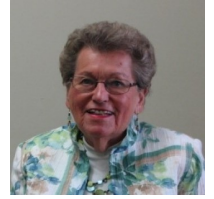
July 10  
Maureen Czinder-Sherman



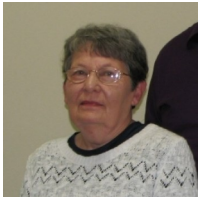
July 10  
Israel Hildebrandt



July 10  
Donna Moe



July 10  
Dorothy Walker



July 13  
Ann Vink



July 16  
Bonnie Buckley



July 18  
John Ambrose



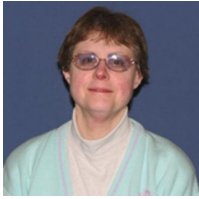
July 18  
Pat Blake



July 20  
Alice White



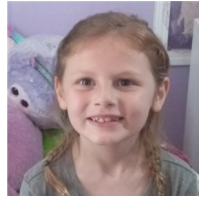
July 21  
Joe Sherman



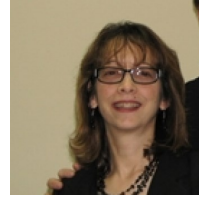
July 24  
Beth Epplett



July 25  
Moriah Reynolds



July 29  
Kensley English



July 30  
Dianne Lunt



July 30  
Lydia Reynolds

# July Anniversaries



July 17  
John and Barb Bar



July 18  
Joe and Maureen Sherman



July 19  
Joe and Nancy Hawkey



July 25  
John and Emily Ambrose

WOMEN'S SUMMER  
**break away**

Featuring Bible Teacher  
**Trilla Newbell**  
Worship Leader  
**Ginny Owens**

JULY 20 & 21, 2023  
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Choose Thursday or Friday,  
each day is identical.

**Day Camp**

1st to 6th grade  
July 24 - 28  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

at Nortonville Gospel  
Chapel

**Church Picnic**

At the Peterson's farm,  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm