

NORTHLAND
CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2020

ENGAGE



Welcome to Christmas at Northland!

As always, we gather together for a purpose, to worship God for who He is and for what He has done. Today, we worship God as Emmanuel, God with us. Over 2,000 years ago, God was born as a baby. He entered the world, and nothing was ever going to be the same.

Christmas Eve 2020 is truly like no other. It is No Normal Christmas. Even though the road has been rough at times, we are here, and the Christmas story is still wonderful and full of hope. We need to hear it, especially now.

God is and has been with us through the struggles we have faced this year. Even amid challenging circumstances, when we question why, God can break in and speak to us anew. He intervenes, sometimes when we least expect it. This is exactly what happened in the biblical story of Jesus' birth. God broke into our world and changed everything.

In the service today, you will hear the story of how Jesus was born. To most, this is a familiar account that happened a long time ago. Have you ever considered, though, that God could enter the world in similar ways today?

In this Advent season, we learned about how God broke into the lives of biblical characters with His love, His joy, His peace, and His hope. Have you ever experienced this yourself? Sometimes, God shines His light into the darkest times of our lives.

Today, we have a new opportunity to experience God breaking into our lives again. He entered the world as a baby many years ago. He still manifests Himself in abnormal times, both then and now. Because God is with us, He becomes our new normal, and His attributes become the framework that helps us make sense of the times. We are then able to walk forward through the challenges we face. So, let's look for God today. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

May He give us eyes to see Him everywhere, every day.





Belong & Grow^l

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 26–FEBRUARY 16 | 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Virtually via Zoom

This is a 4-week class. Registration is required.

Visit NorthlandChurch.net/Belong&Grow

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR GUS DAVIES

VENITE ADOREMUS. DOMINUM. O COME, LET US ADORE HIM. CHRIST THE LORD. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO! GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

We bring you greetings from those lines in the hymn, *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (some of which is in Latin because that's what it was originally written in). *Adeste fideles*. That chorus rings continually in our hearts, minds, and voices as we reflect on God's faithfulness over the years. Jesus continues to lead His church and for that, we have a reason to rejoice and give thanks—even amidst this tumultuous year.

My wife and I have been part of the Northland family for 23 years—and we have seen God's faithfulness and fruitfulness firsthand. One of my daughters just got married in early December and with all of our family in town, my wife and I have been remembering and reflecting on the pathway to discipleship of our two daughters. From their time in this church, at home, and our community, many of you poured into their lives in various ways from grade school through college. It takes a whole village to raise a child. By the grace of God both of them found amazing husbands after God's own heart.

We thank God for every remembrance of you as we fulfill our calling to give oversight and shepherding to our

congregation. We thank God every time we think of you as we follow Him together. Our love for Jesus is growing deeper and wider because of your own commitment and dedication to Him. We are continuing to reach people for Jesus through your worship, prayer, giving, and service to our community—even as we are spread out and distributed during this pandemic.

In 2020 let us be grateful for God's goodness and faithfulness to each one of us during this challenging year. COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down—our families, homes, churches, ministries, businesses, communities, and nations—but God's love and care for us continues to abound through your faithfulness. In May, we came together to raise \$35,797 and fill 105 bins of food for those who were hit hardest financially by COVID-19. And on December 1, we raised \$60,634.09 for 121Hope, our anti-human trafficking ministry. An incredible \$14,873.61 was also given in addition to thousands of toys for families in need for Christmas House!

We hope you are encouraged by the impact you are having in our community. We also pray you are staying safe and healthy this season. Let us remember to continue praying for one other.



NEW TO NORTHLAND

Your search for a church to attend during this “No Normal” time has led you to come to visit us. Thank you for seeking us out. I invite you to consider making this your home. We are here to provide you with fellowship, community, and practical ways to follow Jesus together. We have a place for you as you pursue the pathway to be a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to check out our different ministries and fill out our digital Connect Card (just text NORTHLAND to 970-00) so that we can walk alongside you on your faith journey. At Northland, our vision is “Engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus.” This is accomplished by making disciples, and we invite you to join us as we love, obey, and serve our Lord together.

DISCIPLE MAKING

For over twenty months, we’ve been on an intentional and relational journey with our collective leaders (pastors, staff, elders, and congregational leaders) about discipleship. We’ve spent many hours in prayer, study, and very deep conversations. In April, we had a watershed moment with Discipleship.org. Our connection and conversation with them propelled us to venture out and take action. Robert Coleman’s book “Master Plan of Evangelism” is a tool that compels many of us to embrace Jesus’ style of disciple making. Many individuals participated in a nine-week small group to align us with our focus of disciple making. We are keeping the momentum today as we engage others in the essentials of discipleship.

Our motivation to be a disciple making church is out of obedience to Matthew 28:16-20. In the context of the Great Commission verse, it takes all of us to lead and model disciple making for our church. It will take time, commitment, and unwavering perseverance to build a disciple making culture that permeates all that we do here at Northland. This is carrying out the Great Commission.

In November, our mini-series, Following Jesus Together, was another step in discipleship. We’re not planning a big launch from the stage with groups formed in the foyer. Instead, we’ll focus on individuals to invite others into your life, just like Jesus did. If His “Come follow me and let’s follow Jesus together” approach worked for Him, it will work for us today, as we continue to carry out our vision of “Engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus.”

NEXT LEAD PASTOR

Our Succession Planning Committee and Pastor Search Committee have worked tirelessly for months as we move into this next stage of the process in our search for our next Lead Pastor. You’ll read more about our Lead Pastor Search later in this issue of Engage from Governing Elder Danny Gordon.

PRESSING ONWARD

Over the last several months, for my own professional and personal growth, I have been reading books, listening to podcasts/teachings, doing studies, and getting mentoring and coaching to equip me for my leadership roles and responsibilities for our church, our nation, and the world. I come back to anchor all of these resources with the scriptures. Old and New Testament men and women walked by faith and kept their eyes on Jesus. The stories of their lives and times are no different from us today. I am learning a whole lot from them, the history of the church, and others. So I keep pressing onward to a higher goal in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:10). The words the apostle Paul wrote to pastors Timothy and Titus are very relevant to me and to Northland today.

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and ordain elders in every town, as I directed you. – Titus 1:5

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. – 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

2021 SEIZE THE MOMENT

May our love and hope in Christ compel us to go into this next year with great anticipation to declare Christ’s glory among all people. We pray that the Body of Christ at Northland Church will be rooted and grounded in Christ. We also pray that our obedience to Christ will lead us to be faithful disciples making disciples for His kingdom.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!



Who is God Calling?

Praying Together for our next Lead Pastor

DANNY GORDON, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNING ELDERS

As I consider all that God has brought us through this past year, I have so loved entering into the Advent Season with the reminders everywhere of God's deep and abiding love for us in that He sent his son Jesus to earth so we could be Fully Alive through Him! His faithfulness to us has been shown in His provision for our needs, His guidance through the Succession Planning process, and His care for us in sustaining our beloved church family through the difficulties of this year. Now, we ask, "Who is God Calling?" to be the next Lead Pastor of our congregation. I don't know about you, but I am thrilled to watch Him unfold the story one step at a time!

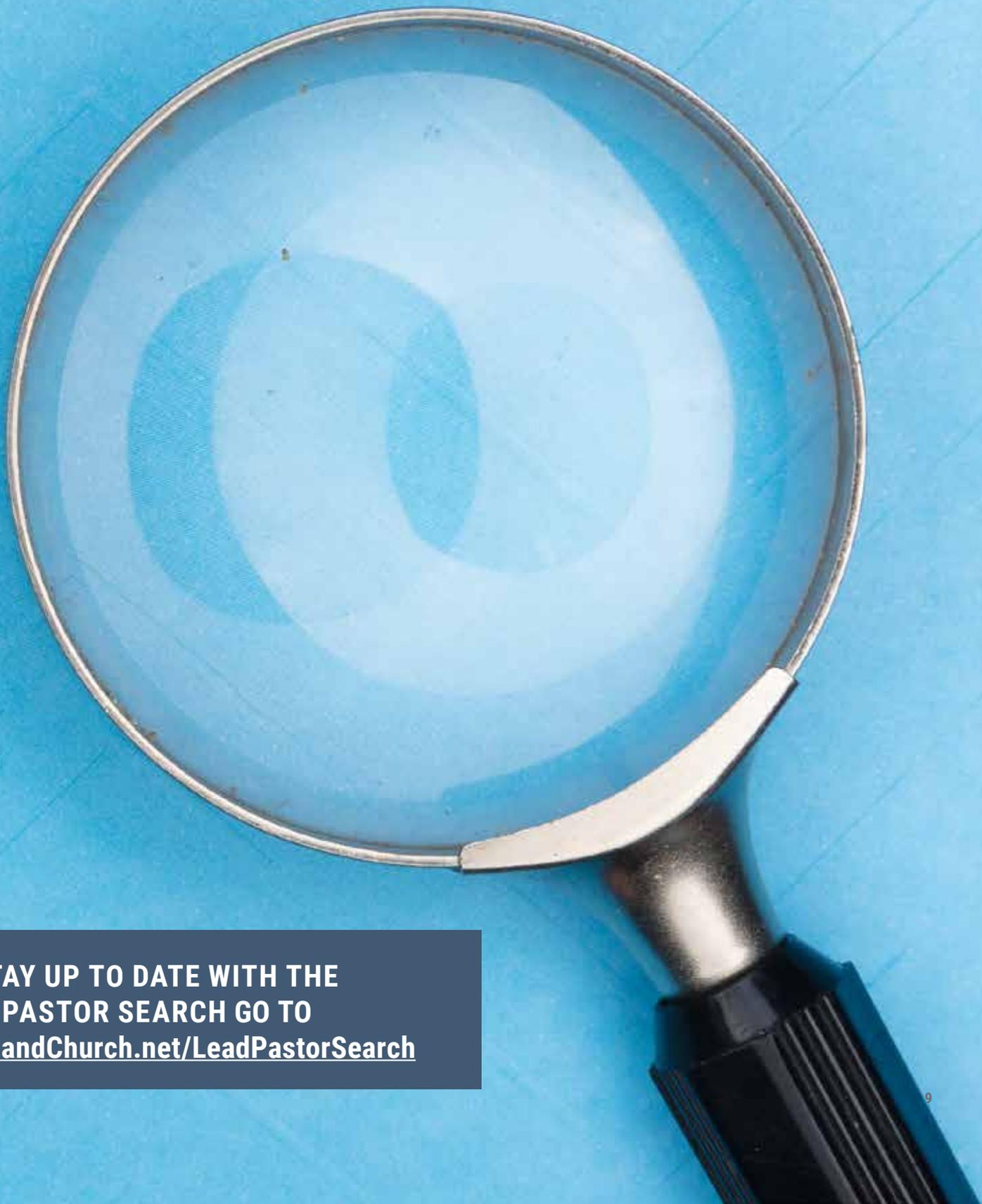
We have pondered the Scripture together from Jeremiah 3:15, where the Lord declares to Israel "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding" realizing that it is God that will provide us with our next Lead Shepherd and that it will not be based on our own wisdom, insight, or planning but a total reliance upon Him through prayer. To that end, our Succession Planning Committee has faithfully met via Google Meets every Tuesday morning at 7:15 to pray for our new Lead Pastor and we have, as a congregation been praying for a different prayer focus each week. We have prayed for his humility (Ephesians 4:2), his faithfulness and fruitfulness (John 15:5), his teaching and preaching (Colossians 1:28-29), his integrity and authenticity (Psalm 78:72), his accountability (1 Peter 5:1-4), his thankfulness and renewal (Colossians 2:7), his submission and love (Philippians 2:1-5), his care for ministry leaders and staff (Matthew 11:28-30), and for his (and our) patience and timing (Philippians 4:6-7).

I continue to be so grateful for the hard work and service of so many Northlanders through this process. Knowing that, through their faithfulness and obedience, God will continue to provide for Northland, just as he has throughout our 48-year history. It's been amazing to watch since the beginning of May as our Succession Planning Committee worked to develop employment policies regarding our next Lead Pastor, set in place the process for selecting our next Lead Pastor,

and defined the qualities, responsibilities, and qualifications for our next Lead Pastor. In July, this work's completion paved the way for our Pastor Search Committee, formed as a subset from the Succession Planning Committee, to work alongside our Pastor Search Consultant, Slingshot, in order to commence an international search for our next Lead Pastor. This search process brought over a one hundred highly qualified candidates to apply for this position from which, Slingshot presented six candidates to the Pastor Search Committee that, through their prayerful evaluation process, stood out as the most qualified to be Northland's next Lead Pastor. Out of respect for the candidate's current ministry positions, the candidates' names are being kept confidential, but suffice it to say that they are all highly gifted men of God.

Following an exhaustive evaluation of the mountain of information provided by the candidates in the form of a Cover Letter, Pastor Profile, Pastoral Staff Questionnaire, and selected video samples of their sermons, the Pastor Search Committee is now interviewing each of the six candidates. They are in fervent prayer over who God is calling to be our next Lead Pastor. Once the Committee has completed the candidates' interviews, it will recommend 1 or 2 candidates to be interviewed by the Governing Elders, Pastors, and Staff Leadership. We anticipate that these interviews will take another month or two so we are praying that God reveals who he is calling during the first quarter of 2021! As a reminder, please know that although the final determination of who God is calling to be our next Lead Pastor will be made by the Governing Elders, we are engaging as many voices as is feasible from our church congregation. This Lead Pastor will be our long-term Shepherd. Your voice is vital in the process!

"Please continue to pray that God will prepare our next Lead Pastor's heart for ministry at Northland and pray that God will also prepare us for him!"



**TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE
LEAD PASTOR SEARCH GO TO
NorthlandChurch.net/LeadPastorSearch**

GIVING TUESDAY 2020

Together We Gave

KATIE CRAWFORD, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

2020 has been quite the year. So many people have suffered in so many different ways. People have lost their jobs and family members. But despite all of these circumstances, God is still providing and showed up through our Northland family this Giving Tuesday.

Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past seven years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

After the incredibly moving experience Giving Tuesday was in 2019, where we raised over \$50,000 for Access Ministries, our team faced some difficulty coming up with a cause for this year, especially when many people are facing financial hardships. Ultimately, 121Hope was chosen to be the face of Giving Tuesday 2020.

121Hope is a ministry we have right here at Northland that brings hope to victims and survivors of human trafficking through one on one discipleship. 121Hope wants to see an end to the violent cycle of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights, involving the use of force, coercion, or fraud to exploit a person into slave labor or sexual exploitation.

Human trafficking is a local problem. In every community, children and teens are targeted for exploitation. Human trafficking knows no gender, ethnicity, or country. It is humanity at our worst. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it still exists.

In 2019, the United States had 11,500 human trafficking cases reported. The most common type of trafficking was sex trafficking (8,248 reports), with the most common venues being illicit massage/spa businesses and pornography. In 2020, Florida has received 896 cases reported. 121Hope has received 12 referrals since COVID. According to the Polaris Project, the number of cases handled by the Trafficking Hotline increased by more than 40% in the month following the shelter-in-place orders compared to the prior month. The world may have slowed down, but human trafficking has increased. Children are more vulnerable and at risk of meeting a trafficker online now more than ever.

Our goal was set at \$25,000 to fund 121Hope's 2021 initiatives. We kicked off the giving Tuesday morning on December 1. In just the first 30 minutes, we had already reached our goal of \$25,000! But the giving didn't stop there! By 9:40 a.m., we had reached \$30,000. And by the end of the day, we had more than doubled our goal!

"Your generosity will allow 121Hope to create safe spaces for women to encounter the hope and healing of Jesus," said 121Hope Ministry Leader, Meg Johnson.



**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT 121HOPE
visit NorthlandChurch.net/121Hope**



“ Our goal was set at \$25,000 to fund 121Hope’s 2021 initiatives. In just the first 30 minutes, we had already reached our goal of \$25,000! But the giving didn’t stop there! By 9:40 a.m. we had reached \$30,000. THE FINAL AMOUNT RAISED WAS \$60,634.09! ”

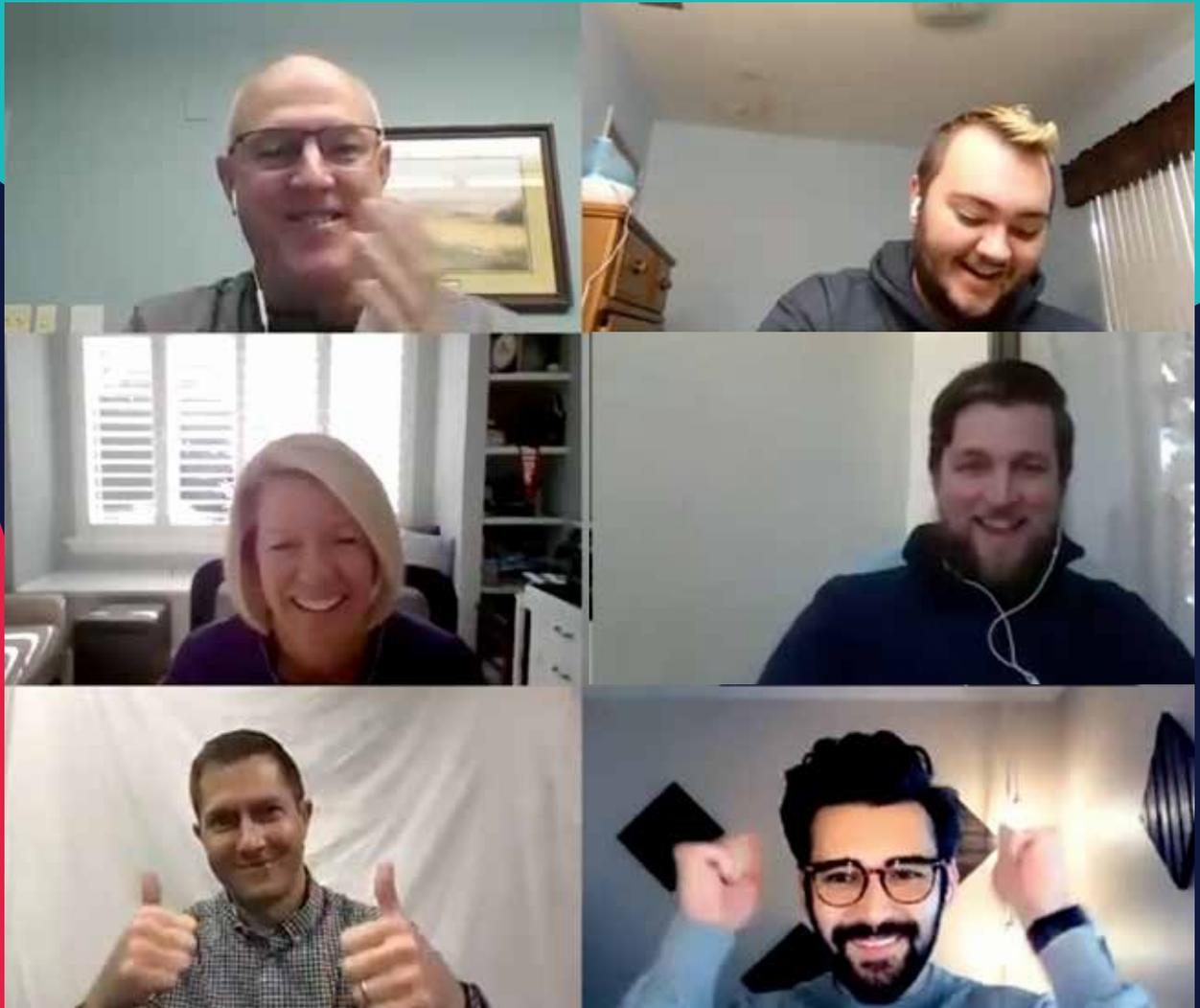
"Advocacy work is messy yet beautiful; glorious and Kingdom come. Often the silent nights for many can be quite deafening to those of us involved in this work."

"On Giving Tuesday, hope was offered and a renewed spirit received through the love of Jesus Christ."

"For women with whom we have worked, their story of salvation hinges on brokenness mended by the love of Jesus," Meg continued. "The offerings made on Giving Tuesday are a beautiful display of knowing each life saved is worthy of God's love."

"This Christmas season, we remember the wise men who traveled from afar using the Star of Bethlehem as their compass. The Magi presented gifts to the newborn child. For 121Hope, the prayers and tithings from Giving Tuesday represent our compass. We will honor your heartfelt gifts and use them wisely."

This was all God's doing. It's truly amazing to see Him work through the body of the church in ways where we come together and unite for a cause. Thank you to each and every person who donated, large or small amount. YOU made a big difference in so many lives by doing so. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.



Thankful for Your Generosity

Being known by our Love

KIRK LEFF, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

As you continue to read how much Northland has been able to do through these unprecedented times, please realize that none of this could have been possible without your generosity. Your financial support, your participation, and your prayers have enabled us to continue to reach our world for Jesus. There is no greater responsibility we have as a church than being His hands and feet, shining our light, and doing what He calls us to do so that not only can we be transformed, but others can be saved and enabled through the saving grace of Jesus.

This has been a year none of us will ever forget.

Clouded and challenged by a global pandemic, God never failed us. He continually showed His presence in so many ways. When we entered 2020, none of us could have imagined how our daily lives would be impacted. The very last week at Northland, before the building was shut down by COVID-19, featured three incredible events that model who we are as a church. We hosted over 2,250 in a night of worship featuring Amy Grant. For so many, it was a trip down memory lane of their musical Christian journey. During weekend worship, we were reminded of the beautiful truth of the Good Shepherd, who calls each of us by name. All week, dozens of you transformed the foyer into a dazzling, colorful environment to honor dads and daughters during a spectacular Daddy Daughter Dance. In a very intentional vow ceremony, they pledged to honor one another according to God's will for their relationship. Then, as Jesus calls us to do, hundreds of you were His hands and feet, serving others in practical ways through our Local Serve Day. The weekend reached a crescendo with an evening demonstrating the essence of Fully Alive as we hosted our friends with special needs dancing the night away at Joy Prom 2020.

Suddenly the way of life as we have always known it took a different turn. Together we adjusted and began exclusive streaming of our worship services. We focused on everyone's spiritual well-being in our family, the community, nation, and the world at large. We began and continue online daily devotionals, Children's Ministry, Access Ministries and Community Art Connection online, and our student ministries forged new environments to gather and connect. We saw nearly all of our small groups and Bible studies embrace technology and seek our Lord through what has become an intimate online setting for many.

When we were able to begin in-person gatherings, with a priority on everyone's health and safety, we did so knowing the greater part of our family would remain accessible for the most part through all our online options. We have kept our church family healthy and safe through the obvious actions of physical distancing, face coverings, temperature checks, and contract tracing capable seating, but also our Housekeeping Team (formed in February) "detailed" our campus and has maintained that level of sanitation every single day. Small groups and Bible studies have returned along with modified forms of ministries in Community Art Connection, Co-Op, LifeHope Childcare, and Children's and Student Ministries. Yes, all modified for safety, but focused on the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Record attendance has been seen at Celebrate Recovery. So many people with financial needs have been blessed. Blood donations have continued. We've partnered with Seminole County for COVID testing on our campus. We gathered and distributed food to our community through several food drives. We had Christmas House gift collection in the foyer as always and virtually. Late last year we opened our doors to a local Spanish-speaking church whose place of worship became unavailable. Fuente de Gracia "Fountain of Grace" church worships on Sundays in The Rink immediately followed by our Arabic Ministries worship service. We have held drive-thru appreciation events celebrating many of you and your service to Northland. Our Community Art Connection artists were recognized with special appreciation signs and mini celebrations in their front yards. There is a mighty army of prayer warriors praying for our church as we all band together in daily prayer. Recently, we opened our doors for incredible



worship events including Kim Walker-Smith, Phil Wickham, Kirk Cameron with Matt Hammitt, Natalie Grant and Danny Gokey, and Steven Curtis Chapman.

As mentioned at the top, all this and so much more is only possible through your support of Northland. Your financial support through this pandemic has been so humbling. At this writing, we are running about 5% below where we planned. Over the past two and a half years, we have worked diligently to rethink and reallocate the gifts provided by you. We are committed to maximizing the use of every dollar. While we have a campus to maintain with many costs, we have been deliberate with where every penny goes and have reviewed these costs line by line to place a greater percentage directly into ministry efforts.

December represents 22% of our annual funding and 34% of the July – December funding. To give, simply choose one of the options shown to the right. Together, we all can track the progress toward our year-end goal by going to **NorthlandChurch.net/2020-Giving-Updates**.

As 2020 draws to a close, join all of us in prayer for each of you, our local community, our state, our nation, our governing officials, and the world... so that the light of Jesus can be seen by ALL in EVERYTHING WE DO.

May God Bless YOU!

FISCAL 2020-2021 (JULY-JUNE) GIVING VERSUS NEED UPDATE

Need To Date \$3,709,035

Actual Received \$3,532,601

*as of 12/14/20

WAYS TO GIVE

Give via mobile text.
Text "northland" to 77977.



Download and use the
PushPay App.



Give online at
NorthlandChurch.net/Give
or use the Northland App.



Give by cash or check
and drop it in any of
our tithe boxes.



Belong & Grow

PASTOR NATHAN CLARK

What does “church” look like to you? As a kid, I remember my grandparents helping me to fold my hands together in a certain way, then teaching me, “Here’s the church, here’s the steeple, open the doors, and here are all the people.” Then I’d wiggle my fingers and see the people in the church.

Growing up in Virginia, I saw my fair share of those churches with their steeples, and if I was driving by at the right time on a Sunday morning, or a Wednesday night, I’d see cars in the parking lots, and maybe I’d even catch a glimpse of the people walking in or out.

We spent a lot of time in those churches too, and I wondered often where exactly I fit in. I thought of those wiggling fingers and figured if I belonged anywhere, it was probably in the back row, on the left side, near the aisle.

But it turns out, in the Bible a “church” isn’t actually a building, which means belonging to a church wasn’t about where I sit in any building.

Instead, I learned as I grew older that in the Bible the “church” was actually the community of believers who gathered together. In fact, the Greek word in the Bible for “church” is *ekklesia*, which just means an assembly of people. So it turned out the church was *really* the congregation, whether they were gathered in a church building or not.

For years at Northland, I heard Pastor Vernon charge us at the end of the services to, “Go and be the church, everywhere, every day.” I loved that weekly reminder that the church wasn’t the building, but that *we were* the church. But it left me with a problem: If the church wasn’t a building, then answering the question, “Where do I belong?” had less to do with where I sat, and more to do with discovering my role within the church family.

Belong & Grow is Northland’s partnership class, created to help you answer that very question: *Where do you belong in the Northland church family?*

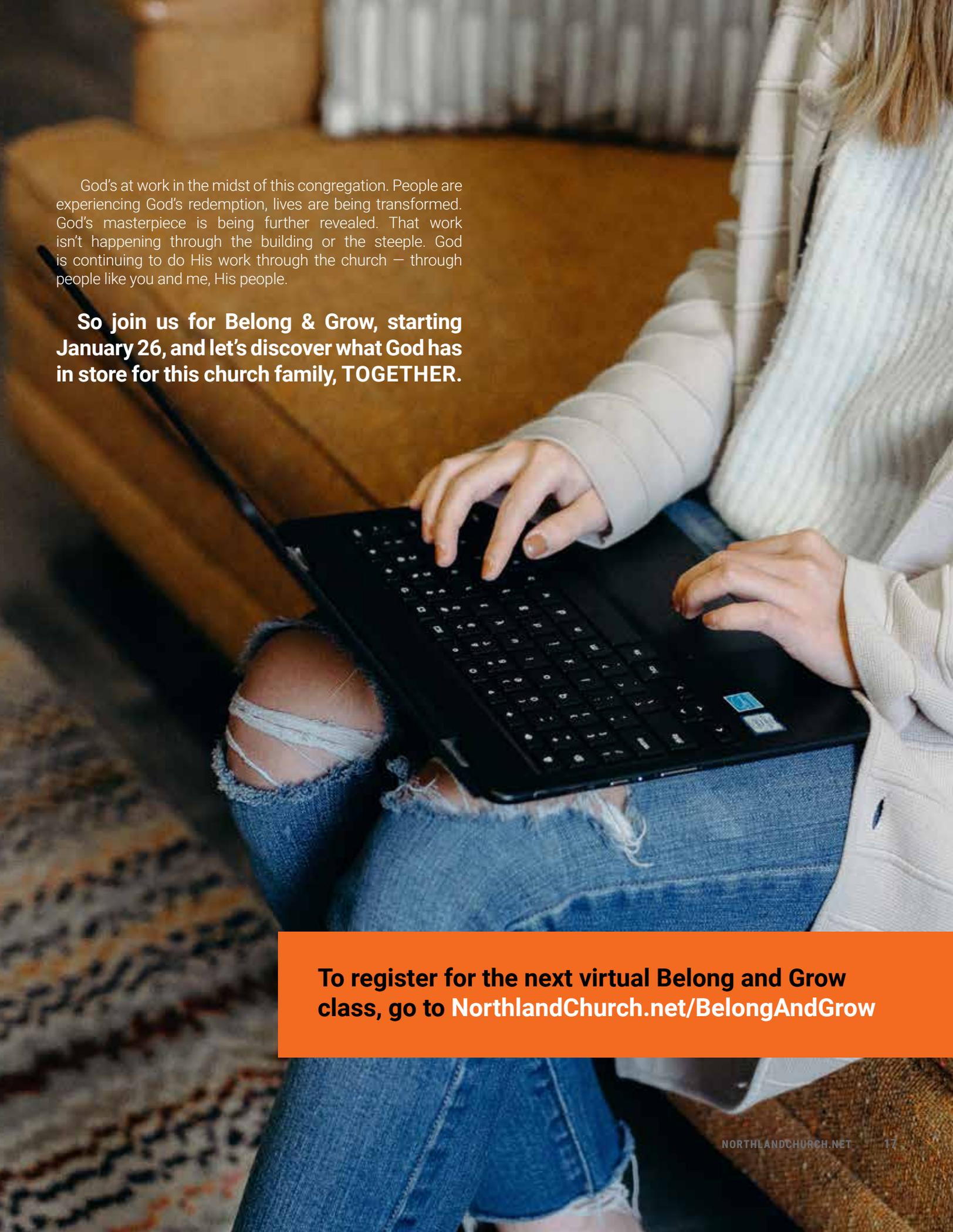
While the specific answer will be a little bit different for everyone, one of the foundational truths is that everyone is welcome to belong to this church family. Even more, God created each and every one of us for a purpose. As Ephesians 2:10 says, “*For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*” Isn’t that amazing to consider? God has already planned good things for us. And those plans and purposes are less about our achievements, and more about the relationships he built us for.

That’s the story of the church, after all. Jesus founded his church and charged his followers to rearrange their lives around loving God and loving their neighbors. Those first believers took Jesus at his word and discovered his promises were true and experienced the abundant life that Jesus promised. That’s the same story we’re continuing to experience at Northland—that when we follow Jesus together, we’ll discover what it means to be fully alive, together.

God created you to be a part of His masterpiece, and He has good things planned for us to experience together as a church family!

As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:5 (NLT), “*so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*”

Belong & Grow starts January 26 at 6 p.m. and for four weeks we’ll learn what it means to belong to a church body—and the best part is that it’s online, so you can join us wherever you are. We study the scriptures together and hear from church leaders about the work we’ve seen God do in this community for decades. We’ll also learn about each other, and we’ll discover the different ways God has made us to compliment and care for each other. Just like a body needs different parts to function, we’ll find the different roles God has created us for at Northland. And we’ll end the class by connecting every participant with leaders from different ministries so that you can find practical next steps to belong and grow as a partner at Northland.

A person with long blonde hair, wearing a light-colored, textured sweater and blue denim jeans with a tear at the knee, is sitting on a brown couch. They are using a black laptop. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a patterned rug.

God's at work in the midst of this congregation. People are experiencing God's redemption, lives are being transformed. God's masterpiece is being further revealed. That work isn't happening through the building or the steeple. God is continuing to do His work through the church — through people like you and me, His people.

So join us for Belong & Grow, starting January 26, and let's discover what God has in store for this church family, TOGETHER.

To register for the next virtual Belong and Grow class, go to NorthlandChurch.net/BelongAndGrow



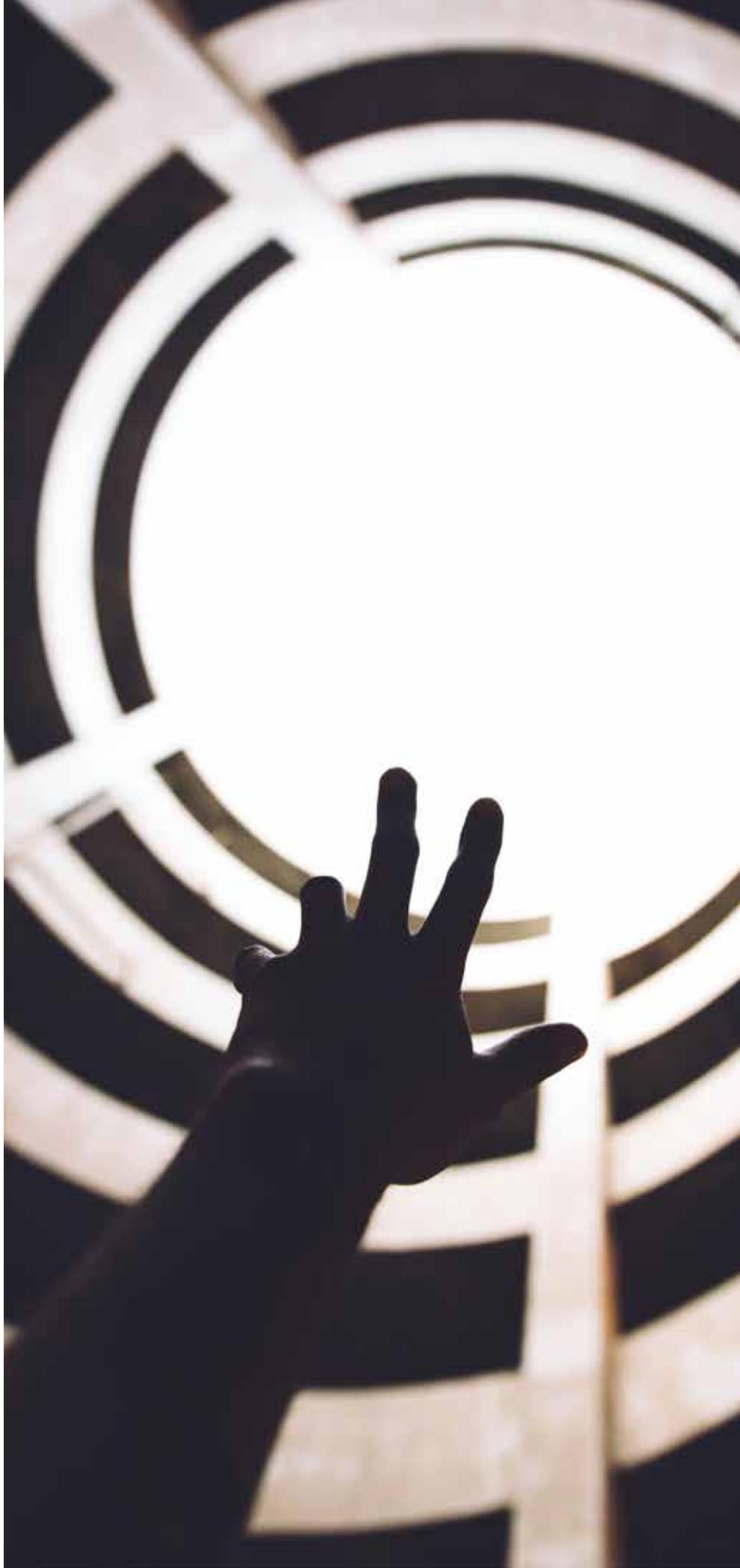
Celebrate Recovery
A CHRIST-CENTERED Recovery Program

JOHN WILLIAMS,
CELEBRATE RECOVERY LEADER,
SHEPHERDING ELDER

2020 has been a year of unsettling emotions for all of us. It is natural to choose ways to cope with these feelings. Not all of our choices are healthy responses though. Celebrate Recovery has existed as a safe place for those struggling with life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups at Northland for over 11 years. However, this year we have seen a dramatic increase in attendance to assist with pandemic-related emotions in addition to ALL of life's regular challenges.

Celebrate Recovery provides a safe environment to seek healing in a healthy community. We recognize wounds don't heal and burdens aren't shared if we deny they exist. Denial is one of many self-protective strategies we can use to avoid areas that are problematic in our lives.

Celebrate Recovery is for any of us struggling with life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups—not just drugs and alcohol. Did you know more than half of those attending Celebrate Recovery are seeking healing from relational and emotional matters—including anger, codependency, anxiety, depression, and eating disorders? We have included many of the common struggles and challenges we face regularly along with some brief solutions.



Most Common Relational Struggles Include:

CODEPENDENCY

The Problem

In the broadest sense, co-dependency is when a person's need for approval or validation from another person allows them to be controlled or manipulated. They are willing to compromise their own values, choices, and behavior at the expense of their personal well-being.

The Solution

Freedom from co-dependency begins when we surrender the illusion that our identity and value are established through the lenses of other people. Our identity is in how God views us and who He created us to be. As a result, we no longer need to see ourselves as a function of what we do, but who we already are.

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP ADDICTION

The Problem

This group provides a safe place to deal with the depression, isolation, lack of trust, and the unhealthy use of love and relationships as means of achieving worth that is characteristic of Romance and Relationship Addictions.

The Solution

The goal of recovery is to achieve and maintain sobriety. In most addictions, sobriety can be defined simply by ceasing the unhealthy behaviors. For most types of problems, the slogan "just say no" is appropriate. Staying sober is more complicated with relationship addictions. The aim of recovery cannot be the complete avoidance of all forms of romance and relationships. For those addicted to love, the goal of recovery is not to become a hermit living in the mountains. The goal is to foster healthy relationships and eliminate unhealthy ones.

ANGER

The Problem

Every person has a "Pattern of Toxic Behavior" that can significantly damage the important and intimate relationships in his or her life. Anger is one of our 10 basic, God-given emotions. This emotion can be constructive or destructive—depending on our response. We should give Jesus a "nano second" (just one billionth of a second!) to help us learn to use all of our emotions according to God's design for our lives and to change our pattern of relating to others and our responsibilities appropriately.

When most of us think of an "angry" person, we think of someone who destroys themselves and their relationships through uncontrollable outbursts of rage. This is only one part of anger, as anger has many faces. Suppressed or "stuffed" anger is equally damaging and destructive.

The Solution

Recognizing and accepting responsibility for toxic patterns of behavior is the first step toward true freedom from anger. Walking through the recovery process with Jesus Christ as our higher power allows us to admit our powerlessness to control our anger. He will help us overcome our destructive habits.

Evaluate the anger: There are two kinds of anger—healthy adaptive anger and unhealthy needless anger. Healthy anger is based on being protective of yourself or others. Unhealthy needless anger is based on your resentment, which leads to wanting revenge. It is healthy and necessary to feel anger and to talk about anger.

SEXUAL ADDICTION

The Problem

Our sexual addiction issue began as an overpowering desire for pleasurable relief. We were running from inner pain, loneliness, emptiness, or insecurity that we could not cope with in any other way. At first, it did provide the relief we sought. For a time, lust, pornography, or sex with ourselves or with others dissolved the tension. It relieved the depression, resolved the conflict, and provided the means to deal with or escape from life's seemingly unbearable situations.

Eventually, our search for relief became an addiction, and the addiction took on a life of its own. We gradually replaced pleasure and relief with tension, depression, rage, guilt, and even physical distress. We were driven to spend more time thinking about and carrying out our addiction.

The Solution

Recognizing and accepting responsibility for toxic patterns of behavior is the first step toward true freedom from our addiction. Walking through the recovery process with Jesus Christ as our higher power allows us to admit our powerlessness to control our addiction. He will help us overcome our destructive habits.

Yield to God: As we start to gain a period of sobriety over our sexual addiction, we began to recognize the many disguises the enemy uses to trick us into lusting. We learn not to rely on our failed and weakened selves, but rather, turn to God's pure love and absolute power. With an increased reliance on God, we work on our recovery with altered attitudes, a changed heart, and growing humility.

Most Common Emotional/ Physical Struggles Include:

FOOD ISSUES

The Problem

- Throughout our lives many of us have turned to food to ease our pain or fear.
- We felt comfort in eating and found ourselves turning to food whenever we were hurt, angry, or frustrated.
- Food became our comforter, our friend.
- Some of us may have had healthy eating habits as children or young adults, but at some point in our lives, we chose to overeat and lost the ability to discern when we were physically hungry or when we were physically full.

The Solution

- Come to realize that I am powerless and can not control my addiction to food.
- I am ready to face my denial and accept the truth about my life and my food issues.
- I am committed to learning the difference between physical and emotional hunger along with healthy eating.
- I am willing to turn to God when I am not physically hungry.
- I will begin to view food as fuel for my body so that I will not eat unless I am physically hungry and stop when I am physically full.



ABUSE - PHYSICAL / SEXUAL / EMOTIONAL

The Problem

Recovery is a two-fold process in this case. The first step is healing from the traumas done to us in our past, and the second step is healing from the influence these past experiences continue to have in our present lives.

(Most) Survivors of Physical / Sexual / Emotional Abuse...

- Are hesitant to identify themselves as victims of abuse.
- Feel isolated, depressed, worthless, and helpless to change.
- Are struggling with feelings about God in relation to their life experiences of abuse.
- Condemn themselves, denying the past abuse affects their present circumstances.

The Solution

- We recognize that we are powerless to heal the damaged emotions resulting from our abuse. We look to God for the power to make us whole.
- We admit that God's plan for our lives includes a victory over the experience of abuse.
- We understand the people who abused us are responsible for the abusive acts committed against us. We will not accept the guilt and shame resulting from those abusive acts.
- We look to God and His Word to find our identity as worthwhile and loved human beings.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTIONS

The Problem

When you are honest with yourself, do you find you cannot quit drinking or using drugs entirely? Do you have little control over the amount you consume? You are probably an alcoholic and/or an addict.

Characteristics of someone struggling with chemical dependency may include, but are not limited to:

- My addiction isolates me from people except when I am getting, using, and finding ways and means to get more.
- I have tried drugs or alcohol or combinations of both to find contentment in a seemingly hostile world.
- At times, I have been defensive about my addiction and justified my right to use, especially when and if I used legal prescriptions.

The Solution

- I will accept Jesus Christ as my Higher Power and follow His plan for my life.
- I will work through the 12 Steps and 8 Recovery Principles found in the Beatitudes. With Jesus Christ as my Higher Power, I can and will change!



If you or someone you know identify with some of the struggles listed above, now is the time to seek help. We all hope 2021 will be a better year with fewer challenges. However, for that to occur we must dedicate time for healthy self-care. We would love to help you with a New Year's resolution toward overcoming a stronghold. God's plan is for us to fulfill His purpose in our lives but we need to heal first before we can truly become "Fully Alive" in Jesus!

NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/CELEBRATERECOVERY

ACCESS MINISTRIES

Include. Equip. Entrust.

Access Ministries strives to include individuals and families living with disabilities in all aspects of Church life. We firmly believe that to build the Kingdom of God, we must include our brothers and sisters of all abilities, recognizing and celebrating the unique giftings of each individual as a co-laborer for the Gospel message of Jesus.



MY NORTHLAND JOURNEY

Jill Roosa

I started attending Northland in the Spring of 1998. I am an adult female with cerebral palsy who uses a wheelchair for mobility. Finding a home church where I felt comfortable has always been a challenge. Northland was different -- almost immediately when I went through the doors, I felt at home. I learned about Access Ministries and not only got involved in the Church but also found a way to start serving.

During my 16 years of attending Northland in person, I had the privilege of meeting dozens of people and serving in many different ways: as a Special Needs Sunday School teacher, a buddy for Buddy Break, and as a volunteer at Give Kids the World. I am a people person; being around others, and using my talents to serve others fills my heart with joy.

Sadly, I left Florida in 2013 to move back to New York. That was by no means the end of my connection to Northland. I continued to watch worship services online weekly. I stayed connected to my Northland family and continued to foster healthy friendships and relationships that I will have for life.

Welcome to 2020 and the worldwide pandemic. New York was hit hard and after several months of isolation and not leaving the house, I was feeling so alone. The need to connect with others and to gain some interaction was strong.

In June of 2020, I heard about Community Arts Connection, an arts-program offered at Northland for adults with disabilities. Due to Covid-19 and the inability to gather in-person, they held their art and community classes online through Zoom. I was so excited to have a great opportunity to get involved with CAC, meet some new friends, and take some awesome classes. This was the outlet and the opportunity to interact with others that I needed so badly.

The initial feeling of isolation turned into something that would have never happened if the Coronavirus had not hit our country. I have met many new friends and have a class or group meeting almost every day of the week. I take classes as an artist and volunteer to help in online classes for teens.

This has been a hard year for so many people, including me, but there have also been blessings to find along the way.

Reconnecting with my Northland family has been one of those blessings, and I am thankful for the journey of this past year!



CONGRATULATIONS

to Lois Hale for being recognized as Outstanding Access Volunteer! Lois has served in many roles over the past six years -- Buddy Break volunteer, Sunday School Buddy, and most recently, leading online classes for Community Art Connection. A graduate of Lake Howell High School, she is now a UCF Knight! When asked why she volunteers, Lois said, "I love having a connection with each and every student. It always brings me a smile at the end of the day!"

Thanks for your dedication and love, Lois!

We are so thankful for YOU!



CREATIVITY TAKES COURAGE

Heather Subbert
Director of Access Ministries

You've probably heard the quote from Henri Matisse before, but at Community Art Connection, we firmly believe that creativity does take courage. The past year has not unfolded in a way that any of us could have anticipated, and yet, here we are, learning and growing together!

Community Art Connection is an arts-based program held at Northland and online that provides amazing art classes, creative expression, and social connections to adults with and without disabilities. We currently have 43 artists taking online classes through our "Paint Outside the Lines" program and 24 artists participating in classes held weekly on campus. Classes include subjects like watercolor, drawing, drama, ASL, singing, and dance. Through this past year, we have seen our artists share smiles, laughter, friendship, and artistic development -- and do it with grace, style, and a little sass.

We are so proud of our courageous artists for weathering the dramatic changes 2020 has ushered in, and we look forward to what 2021 will bring. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in Community Art Connection, visit us at CommunityArtConnection.com or email CommunityArtConnection@gmail.com.



TALKING WITH TYLER

Tyler Lam

My name is Tyler Michael Lam. I live with my mom and dad and my sister, Sadie. My family started attending Northland after I was involved in the Community Art Connection program for a couple of years. I love worship music, and I especially love a good Christmas song. My favorite is the Hallelujah Chorus.

I also love to hear the Word of God and learn about how much God loves us! I dream of being a missionary because I want to share the Gospel with people who don't know Jesus. I know that Jesus calls me to share His Holy Word.

I'd like to share this with you, one of my favorite Bible verses: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are new when we believe in Jesus and love Him. He is calling you to love Him and share His Holy Word too!

ONGOING MINISTRY EVENTS

TEENS CONNECT CLUB

Did you know that Access Ministries has an active community of teens? Your teen will find a fun group of friends, amazing activities, buddy support when needed, and a community that understands and values their unique abilities! We meet online and in-person throughout the week.

CHECK OUT THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

Monday Online Singalong | 4 P.M. (all ages)

Tuesday Teen Connect Club Online | 4:30 P.M. (teens only)

Wednesday LUG | Middle School Youth Group
6:30-8 P.M.

Thursday Online Game Time | 4:30 P.M.
(all ages)

Sunday Upper Room Online Bible Study
11 A.M. (teens/young adults)

Sunday High School Youth Group | 6:30-8 P.M.

For more information or to register for any of these events, contact Heather at (407) 937-1828 or Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net

YOUNG FAMILIES: 3 SIMPLE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

PASTOR NATHAN CLARK

Christmas is fast approaching, and it's been a strange and hard year for so many families. So here are a few simple ways to find some Christmas cheer for your family by embracing the real joy of Christmas, even in hard circumstances.

READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY TOGETHER

Sit down and read through the Christmas story together. If your kids are younger, the Beginner's Bible or the Storybook Bible have great kid-friendly language. Let your kids read and ask them questions as they go through the story. What would it be like for the shepherds to see the angels? You can even lookup what a "manger" looks like, and talk about what it might have looked like when Jesus was born.

PRAY AS A FAMILY

An easy way to start is to pick another family, a friend, or someone from your extended family, then the family can create a prayer board where you write down not just who you are praying for, but also the ways you're praying for them. Then make it a part of your daily routine to pray, and update the prayer board. You can pick a different person every month, or just add people over time. Prayer is a gift, and focusing time on praying for others is a great way to stay focused on loving your neighbor.

SEND A CHRISTMAS LETTER

You might be the kind of family who can manage proper Christmas cards. Don't worry if you're not - often our Christmas cards show up closer to Spring Break! Instead of worrying about getting family photos, ordering prints, and sending copies everywhere, focus on just one person your family can send a letter to. You can let the kids decorate the letter, or even draw some extra Christmas art! Not only will that spread Christmas joy, but lowering expectations and spending time reaching out as a family will provide you all with some great memories.

Remember, Christmas is all about the story of Jesus. So this is a season for us to remember how God delivers family, love, miracles, and real connection. This Advent, no matter your circumstances, remember God can still bring joy and hope, just like He did that first Christmas. And look forward to what God has got in store for you!



We asked some of Northland's Young Families what they're looking forward to this Christmas season. Here are some of their answers!



THE RATTIGANS

"We are looking forward to doing less and being with each other more. 'Less presents and more presence!'"



THE SIMS

"My 3 boys who are all under the age of 7 are looking forward to seeing the lights, playing games and opening presents. But as a family, we are looking forward to being with each other and celebrating all of the things that make Christmas special."

THE ELLISONS

"We are looking forward to celebrating all that God has done through his Son, but also this year, through the trials that 2020 has brought. We can't change our circumstances but we can change how we react or respond to them. This year has taught us how to better respond and grow and TRUST and there have been many blessings throughout this crazy season. We are also looking forward to gifting our kids a trip up north to see and play in the snow! They have been begging to go and we are excited to experience it with them!"



THE CARDONAS

"We're most looking forward to quiet moments and time with each other."



THE JULIENS

"In this not-so-normal year, we're looking forward to spending time together and having our first Christmas in our home. And really praying and hoping my brother and his fiancé who is in the navy, whom we haven't seen in over a year, can come home for the Christmas season."

THE CLAIRS

"We are most looking forward to decorating the house and making Christmas cookies. Carrying on with these traditions will bring some much-needed normalcy to our lives and help us feel more connected with our family back home."



THE CORTINES

"On Christmas Day we have a tradition of acting out the Christmas story with all the kids before any presents are opened. We look forward to it every year and is one of the most meaningful parts of our Christmas break! In a year of unpredictability, we can still fulfill this simple tradition that brings our family so much joy and many memories, while teaching the kids what Christmas commemorates!"

NORTHLAND STUDENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Starting back on January 4, Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This small group Bible study will be online with occasional off-campus events to be determined. Students will meet with middle schoolers weekly to dig deeper into God's Word and join in community with each other online! All students must be pre-registered. Zoom details will come soon.

Questions? Contact Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net

PKG UNPLUGGED

Starting on January 13, Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Calling all middle school students who love video games! Join us for PKG (Powder Keg Games) as we explore the question, "How do we use Gaming for the Gospel?" Come hang out before LUG starts! Space is limited and all students must be pre-registered.

Contact James Li at James.Li@NorthlandChurch.net or Austin Bowlin at Austin.Bowlin@NorthlandChurch.net for more info.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL PROGRAMMING KICKOFF!

Starting on January 13, LUG IS BACK FOR 2021! We are so excited to get our students back together for LUG in another new year! We will have socially distant games, giveaways, worship, and a message from our Student Ministries Pastor Rob Hemphill.

WEDNESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 13

All students must be pre-registered.

DOORS OPEN @ 5:45 P.M. FOR 6 - 8 GRADE STUDENTS

Questions? Contact Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

2021 YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF!

Starting on Sunday, January 10, we are back AT THE RINK IN PERSON! We are so excited to get our students back together for worship in the RINK! We will provide a safe environment to hang out and laugh together again. Get ready as we open God's Word, worship, and find creative ways to engage. Student Ministries Pastor Rob Hemphill will have a challenging message, and rest assured it will be a fun night.

6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS STARTING JANUARY 10

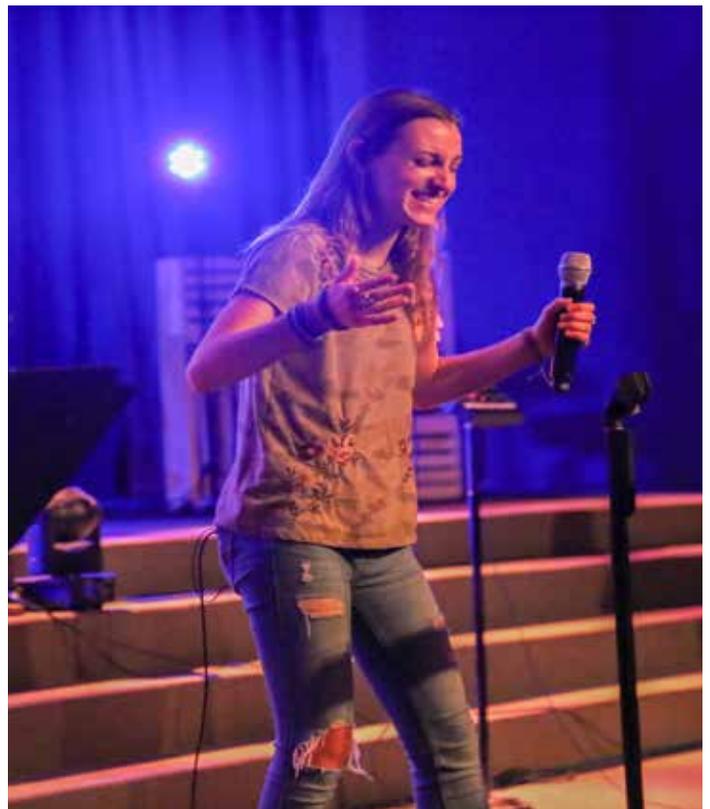
All students must be pre-registered.

Questions? Contact Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net

SENIOR LIFE PREP

Have a senior in high school? We would love to get them connected with Senior Life Prep! This is a time of team-building and fun for high school seniors as they prepare for life on their own. The teaching is on topics such as finances, life skills, the transition into the next season of life, and apologetics/Bible study.

Questions? Contact Alex Anderson at Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net.





WHO IS READY FOR CAMP?!

WE ARE!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP*

(completed 6-8 grade)

June 21, 2021 - June 25, 2021

Southeastern University

Cost: \$350

*pending relaxation of COVID protocol

Register online! To reserve your student's spot, you must submit your \$60 camp deposit by January 30.

We believe God uses summer camp to grow students in their commitment to follow Jesus and grow their relationships with each other. Your student will spend the week in small group Bible study, engaging worship, and activities built around strengthening relationships. God remains center-stage in every aspect of Student Life Camp and we will have a blast while we do it!

What is Student Life Camp? Student Life Camp exists to serve your church in its mission of making disciples. We do this by providing you tools to disciple your students and content that always points back to Scripture. We promise to serve you and your church in every way possible so that your week at camp can create lasting relationships that will continue to grow long after you return home.

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP*

(completed 9-12 grade)

July 11, 2021 - July 16, 2021

Charleston, South Carolina

Cost: \$450

*pending relaxation of COVID protocol

Register online! To reserve your student's spot, you must submit your \$60 camp deposit by January 30.

MFUGE is a hybrid of camp and missions. Every moment spent at MFUGE is intentional. Camp programming is designed to take students out of their normal routine and place them into an environment that is focused on life-change through a relationship with Christ.

REGISTER ONLINE
FOR ANY OF THESE EVENTS AT
NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/STUDENTS

HEY PARENTS!

In addition to our on-campus Children's Church, did you know that we have many online resources available for your children? Our hope is that these will be good options to continue learning about Jesus and His love for His children. All can be accessed at NorthlandChurch.net/Children

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERVICE ONLINE!

We will learn a new Bible story each week in a fun and engaging way aimed at children aged four to twelve! We will worship with Ms. Marisol and the children's worship team. There will be a time to read scripture and learn the Bible story, we will have sketches with some of our favorite characters, puppets & crafts led by some of our favorite children's ministry leaders.

VOICES OF PRAISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

(Kindergarten Through Grade 2) Virtual

Mondays, January 25-April 12, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Children will learn to match pitch, sing as an ensemble, and lead worship together. We are not able to meet on campus so we are going to try a virtual experience. One way or the other, we are going to sing God's praises. We look forward to performing with other young artists for a very special program on April 18. Details: Marisol LaBoy at Marisol.Laboy@NorthlandChurch.net or 407-937-1742

VOICES OF LIGHT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

(Grades 3 Through 5) Virtual

Mondays, January 25-April 12, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Children will learn to harmonize, blend voices, and lead worship together. We are not able to meet on campus so we are going to try a virtual experience. One way or the other, we are going to sing God's praises. We look forward to performing with other young artists for a very special program on April 18. Details: Marisol LaBoy at Marisol.Laboy@NorthlandChurch.net or 407-937-1742

VOICES OF TRUTH CHOIR

(Grades 6 Through 8) Virtual

Wednesdays, January 27-April 14, 5:15-6 p.m.

Middle Schoolers will learn to harmonize and blend voices in the style of a Gospel Choir and lead worship together. We are not able to meet on campus so we are going to try a virtual experience. One way or the other, we are going to sing God's praises. We look forward to performing with other young artists for a very special program on April 18. Details: Marisol LaBoy at Marisol.Laboy@NorthlandChurch.net or (407) 937-1742

PSALM & DANCE 1 DANCE TROUPE

(Grades 2 Through 4)

Wednesdays, January 27-April 14, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Young dancers will learn dance technique and choreography. We look forward to performing with other young artists for a very special program on April 18. Details: Nichole Gordon at nicholerg95@gmail.com

PSALM & DANCE 2 DANCE TROUPE

(Grades 5 Through 8)

Wednesdays, January 27-April 14, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Young dancers will learn dance technique and choreography. We look forward to performing with other young artists for a very special program on April 18. Details: Nichole Gordon at nicholerg95@gmail.com

SPRINGTIME CELEBRATION OF PRAISE

Sunday, April 18, 4 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a celebration of praise and worship led by Northland's Children's Choirs, Community Arts Connection Choir, Northland's Sign Choir, and The Psalm & Dance Troupes.

YOUNG DISCIPLES STEP 1

Wednesdays, January 13-February 10 6-7:30 p.m.

Is your child ready to be baptized? This class guides children in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in a child-friendly environment. It is designed to help children in second through fifth grade understand salvation, baptism, and other tenets of the faith. This five-week study concludes with a Celebration of Baptism on Sunday, February 14th at 2 p.m.

A parent or adult must attend classes with the child. The one-time fee to participate is \$5 per child and can be paid at the first class.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

Friday, January 8

Drop your kids off at Northland between 6-9 p.m. and... GO OUT! It might be a date night or a group date. We'll have options available for people looking to use the time to connect with other young families.

Registration is required.

When you register and you don't see your child's name, click "+ Add someone else" when choosing attendees in the registration process.

Cost for Parent's Night Out is \$5 per child and includes dinner (pizza for grades 1-5, chicken nuggets for 2's-K's). If your child has specific dietary needs, please provide dinner for them.

In order to participate in Parent's Night Out, parents must stay within 20 minutes of Northland (Sanford to Winter Park), be reachable by phone, and be back no later than 9:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE EVENTS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/CHILDREN





COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT GATHERING
STARTING JANUARY 12, TUESDAYS, 7-8:30 P.M. | THE HUB

Have a question? Contact Bethany at (407) 937-0541 or email Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net

Connect, grow, and serve with other college-age students and young adults (ages 18 through 29). No matter where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to join us and explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Local Engagement

MATTHEW SHILES, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

A LOOK BACK AT SERVE DAYS IN 2020

This year started by planning on three Saturday Serve Days in the spring, summer, and fall. Although we accomplished that goal, like so many other things, Serve Days looked much different this year. We began in March, the same weekend as the Daddy Daughter Dance. This coincides with the Saturday following the dance as an opportunity to clean up from the night before. Although we hadn't begun to feel the full effects of COVID-19, it was starting to become a concern. This day included many typical tasks such as yard debris cleanup, writing to missionaries, and helping local non-profits in the area. It was a typical Serve Day that I so look forward to every few months. Little did we know that the following week would change the course of the coming year.

As COVID-19 hit and every aspect of our daily lives had been affected, we were unsure if doing a Serve Day in June would be possible. It was clear that things wouldn't be normal, but there were still opportunities to serve, so we responded. Prior to our summer Serve Day, in May many of you responded to the opportunity to give during the Giving Tuesday Now fundraiser. This day was specifically designed for COVID-19 relief. We had a drive-thru canned food drive led by our Disaster Response Team. I remember feeling so excited and grateful to see so many of your faces through car windows as you drove through the parking lot. I hadn't realized how much my soul needed that interaction until that moment. After this, I was determined to make the Serve Day in June a reality.

Although we couldn't gather in person, we met online for worship, prayer, and instructions for the morning. This was the most unique day of serving I've been a part of. It included three projects in person and five projects online. We gathered online to write letters to children in Uganda and Egypt, make masks for Access Ministries, write letters to missionaries, and create letters of encouragement for our frontline healthcare workers. We even had a team making phone calls to seniors at Wayman Place. Wayman Place has been a consistent serve project, so although we couldn't physically go there, making calls to their residents was at least one thing we could do. What an incredible experience to see people show up to focus on something other than their current circumstances.

As always, connections were made in ways that only the Holy Spirit can orchestrate.

The mask project was having way too much fun for a video call. The phone calls to seniors project seemed to make immediate bonds with one another, and they even ended up buying a plant for one of the seniors who was having an especially difficult time after the loss of his wife.

We finished the year with our fall serve day in October and our Christmas House outreach in November and December. You can read more about Christmas House in the other article featured here.

As the fall Serve Day approached, it was clear that things would still not be back to "normal" but that didn't stop us. We were able to include even more in-person projects and still included some online ones as well. Again, we gathered online for worship, prayer, and announcements, and even more of you signed up and participated. You cleaned up five yards in the community, prayed through every seat in the sanctuary, served at the Christian Sharing Center and Tools4Seminole schools, and many other projects. It is so encouraging to offer projects and see you respond!

As I reflect on this year, Serve Day will stand out as a unique expression of how the Church will adapt and change based on our circumstances. It is clear that God has been moving, and it was evident in the lives of many of you who showed up either online or in person. You serve as an example to our community partners, neighbors, and friends. I look forward to 2021. We will continue to work towards getting back to our large in-person gathering. Until then, we will adapt and serve right where we are. Thank you for your heart and dedication during this time.





many were happy to stand in the gap for those that weren't able to give this year. An incredible \$14,873.61 was given in addition to thousands of toys! It took our team 16 shopping trips to use that money to purchase gifts for the Christmas House. Incredibly we had more gifts this year than last year! This resulted in 74 families shopping for 205 children. It also allowed for us to be generous to 8 local ministries both in and outside of Northland with the leftover toys!

Second, the Christmas House shoppers continue to encourage and inspire my faith. Through the application, orientation, and shopping, we get to hear the stories of so many that are struggling. Some have been affected by the current year's events, and others are in a multiple-year struggle that is so very difficult to break from. But above these circumstances we get to hear of their faith, the ways they point their children to Jesus, and the ways they are looking to give back. This heart of giving back has led some shoppers to volunteer for hours after they completed their own shopping. We've received thank you notes and have had several shoppers give up bikes to make sure another family that needed it more could receive it.

Finally, the connections made are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Each year I get the opportunity to see Christmas House shoppers connect with one another during orientation. We get to witness the volunteers and shoppers make connections, and I have had the chance to help a few with their budgets through the years. In some cases, these relationships have led to shoppers coming back to church for the first time in years. In all cases, we know we are planting seeds of hope and love with these families during a very stressful time. Because of Christmas House, these families can provide for their children in a wonderful way on Christmas morning, and we are blessed to play a small part in that.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE RECAP

As Northland's Missions Director, I get a front-row seat to see God work in the lives of so many here, there, and everywhere. Christmas House is one of those events that fulfills that every single year. I started on staff in October 2015 and one of my first projects was to join the CARE Center Team as they had been working on creating a new local Christmas outreach project called Christmas House. It was an idea from the book "When Helping Hurts" to create a Christmas shop where families in need would be empowered by shopping for gifts for their children. Fast forward to 2020, and we just completed our 6th annual Christmas House. Here are a few ways I see God move through Christmas House each year.

First, the toys needed are always a "fishes and loaves" moment for us. We invite the congregation to donate gifts in the weeks leading up to Christmas House. At the same time, we are receiving shopper applications and make decisions on who to accept. Because we invite the shoppers to an orientation, the decisions need to be made prior to knowing how many toys we have received that year. Those days and weeks leading up to the event lead to worry, then giving it to God through prayer to provide. In God's grace, I've seen the people of God step up over and over again. We've had anonymous congregants hand us a stack of Target gift cards. We've been the recipient of a dozen bikes donated by the same family. And of course, we have the consistent outpouring of hundreds of you that put time, effort, and money into getting just the right gift for the shopping experience.

This year has been different in so many ways. Due to COVID-19, we opened up monetary donations online and have been so thankful for the incredible generosity. It is clear that



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Declaring His Glory Among the Nations

MATTHEW SHILES, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS AMONG ALL PEOPLES. PSALM 96:3

Northland has a rich history of looking outside the walls of the church. This includes outreach and partnership here, there, and everywhere. In this new season of ministry, Northland continues its commitment to seeing God's glory declared among the nations. Let us look at some categories of ministry that illustrate our work and commitment to this end. These are areas that highlight our heart for nations all around the globe. Missionaries and nationals in many missions organizations are involved in the work of each of these areas.

Compassion & Justice, Community Outreach and Short-Term Trips

Many of our local missions' efforts fall into this category, and we also work with missionaries, churches, and nonprofits globally to affect change worldwide. Our compassion and justice ministries right here in Central Florida include 121Hope (Northland's response to Human Trafficking), Prison and Jail, Disaster Response, and Homelessness. Our community outreach includes Local Serve Days three times a year, school outreach programs, and Christmas House. In addition to these ministries and outreaches, we partner with some amazing organizations that complement the work of our local church. These local partners include Christian Help, Young Life Seminole County, Latisha's House, SafeHouse of Seminole, The Pregnancy Centers, Harvest

Time International, and Meals on Wheels. We also partner with many others in the area during our Serve Days. Around the world, we work with partners that provide essential compassion work to allow for the Gospel to spread effectively.

Short-Term Mission Trips have long been an example of who Northland is around the world. For this upcoming year, we have short-term trips planned for Brazil, Cuba, and Costa Rica. These trips include medical missions, compassion, and outreach—working alongside long-term partners in those countries. Lives are changed for those we serve as well as those who go to serve. For more information on trips, go to SomedaysToday.net.

Discipleship, Leadership Development, and Pastor Training

Development and training work take time but are essential to building a spiritually mature church. This work must be strong here locally in order for our community to bear fruit globally. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Introduction to Missions, and When Helping Hurts are a few courses developing our local congregation to lift our eyes to God's global purpose. Our monthly missions prayer time is another wonderful opportunity for us to learn and be challenged by God's heart for the nations. Around the world, we leverage partnerships with local churches and relationships through missionaries to train God's people for the work He has given them. These relationships include partners in Brazil, Uganda, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Sudan, Ukraine, South Africa, and others. Over the years, we have sent

Northlanders to do the training, provided training materials, supported in-country workers, paid for continuing education, and more.

Church Planting and Bible Translation

Church planting movements and Bible translation work are essential to God's glory declared among all nations. Romans 10:14 (NIV) describes this need by asking, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" We partner with missionaries, missions organizations, and local churches around the world to further God's Word—including work on five continents in nearly 20 countries. These efforts are essential in creating indigenous, local, and multiplying churches.

We hope you are encouraged and inspired by the partnerships and ministry accomplished through your tithes, offerings, and service. We are helping declare His glory among the nations and invite you to join. Would you prayerfully consider how you might engage with your time, talents, and treasures?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MISSIONS

Missions Director: Matthew Shiles,
(407) 937-1768, or email
Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net.

CALL TO PRAYER

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
– Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
– Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

- **Join our monthly prayer time on the 3rd Saturday of each month.**
- **Find an in-depth Northland Missions prayer guide at NorthlandChurch.net/Missions**
- **To be added to the monthly invites, contact Sharon Germaine at 407-694-9659 or segermaine@cfl.rr.com.**

BE THE BRIDGE

PASTOR SEAN COOPER

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! - 2 Cor 5:16-17 (NLT)

How often do we consciously or subconsciously evaluate others from a human point of view? For all of us, this is a function of our existence that happens so quickly and fluidly. We are often unaware that it's even taking place. What an awesome perspective the apostle Paul gives us in his letter to the church in Corinth! We no longer view either humans or Christ the same! We are a new person, a new creation! The radical change that has taken place within us deeply impacts the literal way we see people around us!

Growing up in Brazil, I had the privilege to make many friends who looked different, spoke another language, ate delicious Brazilian food, and lived in a different culture. I'm so grateful for all those years of playing soccer every day in the streets of São José dos Campos. My worldview was deeply shaped by those early years and the diversity of those relationships very much impacted my perspective of God.

Fast-forward to the present day. For about two years, a group of like-minded friends joined together every week to discuss issues of polarization, division, and racial tension in our country. New relationships were forged, perspectives shared, and life experiences began to help each other see the vastly different challenges we each face. These conversations not only changed hearts and minds; new actions took place. Coffee dates and lunches began to fill the calendar. We listened to each other, shared stories, and had open conversations with others about various ethnic struggles that started to surface. Birthday parties with friends who would not previously have attended those celebrations began to take place. Invitations to panel discussions and participation on various non-profit boards took shape. A community of people committed to living as a uniter has taken root, and there is a new commitment to discovering the great character of God displayed in the vast gifts of Christ's Church.

At Northland, two groups launched into a study this year that explored how to experience greater diversity, bridge the divide around us, and grow in God's passion for people of every tongue, tribe, and nation to form a unified body of Christ. Jamila Millete and I had the privilege to co-facilitate these groups and have meaningful discussions not only with our local congregation but also with others who joined from out-of-state. These two groups met weekly and went through a

study called Be the Bridge, where we prayed together, explored Scriptures, and broke into small groups to share our own experiences and transformation.

Sydney Mycroft, a college student in the group, recently said this—

"The time with this group impacted me in multiple ways. What started as a group of almost strangers by the end became family. Meeting with these people each week taught me how important hard conversations and vulnerability are in relationships. We sat in hard spaces and had tough conversations and only grew closer because of it. Having a group where I could bring my honest opinions and questions, knowing I wouldn't be judged, but would rather be embraced, was a beautiful space. It changed me for the better."

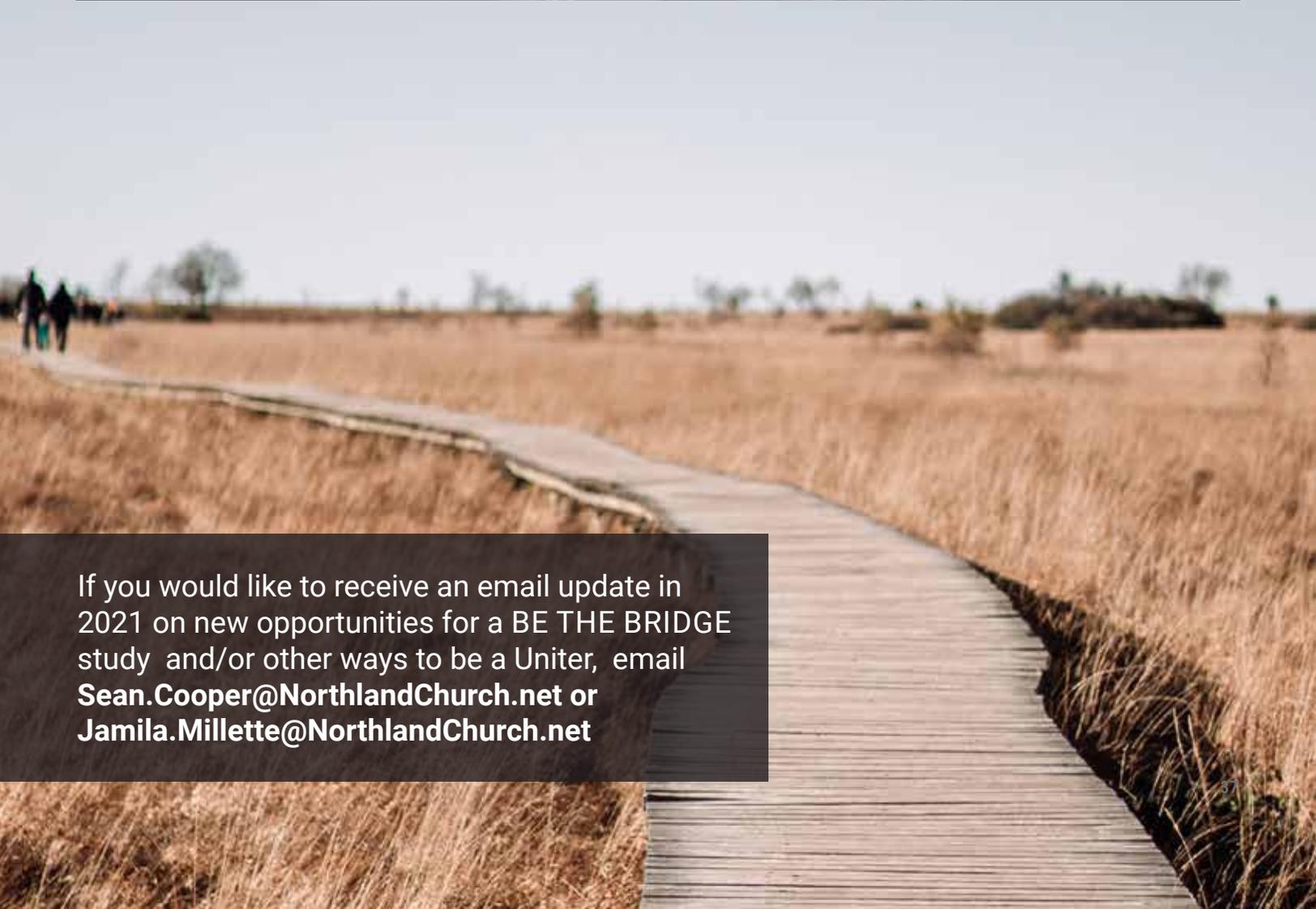
Another college student, Uneeke Armani, highlighted how this time changed her view of the future—

"My time with everyone gave me hope. Hope for a better tomorrow. To see younger and older generations come together to change something bigger than ourselves was a beautiful sight."

One of the great truths that we discussed is how we are all made in God's image, which biblical scholars often refer to as imago Dei. As Christians, we view the world as a new creation in Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us a new lens to see people and evaluate our circumstances. Because we are all made in God's image, every time we are in a room where people look differently, we actually see God better! The greater the diversity in our skin color and ethnicity and backgrounds, the more we see Jesus in our midst!

Are you looking to dive into a diverse community in 2021? Would you like to see more of God and discover more of the Creator's character? Join this amazing group of Uniters. Next year, there will be even more opportunities to meet people, hear stories, and participate in the work that Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21—

*"And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. **And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin so that we could be made right with God through Christ.**"*



If you would like to receive an email update in 2021 on new opportunities for a BE THE BRIDGE study and/or other ways to be a Uniter, email Sean.Cooper@NorthlandChurch.net or Jamila.Millette@NorthlandChurch.net

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

WRITTEN BY REBECCA LANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY LIFE
WITH SUSAN MCGAHA-GURNETT AND TOM HORVATH

As our church explores more of what it means to be a church of disciples making disciples, we wanted to share the journey with you from the perspective of two of our congregational leaders who have been part of the discipleship team. Tom Horvath and his wife Janet have attended Northland for 23 years. He is actively involved in men's ministry and also serves as a longtime shepherding elder. Susan McGaha-Gurnett is newer to Northland, but just as involved. She and her husband, Bob, both serve with the Connections Team, and are actively involved in Belong & Grow. Susan is one of the fantastic leaders in Northland's Flourish ministry, a one on one discipleship and mentoring journey for women. Let's hear from them about the discipleship team's work over the last 20 months, what God has taught them along the way and how they believe God will use disciple making to transform the community at Northland and beyond.

You've been a part of a group that's been gathering for over a year to talk about discipleship. Can you tell us a little bit more about that team and what you've been working on together?

Tom: *The team is a mixture of staff and lay leadership. Everyone on the team is committed to creating a disciple-making culture at Northland - we often talk about how to make disciple-making a part of the Northland DNA - something core to who we are individually and collectively.*

Susan: *Jesus gave us a command to "go make disciples" (Matthew 28:19-20). Our team has been and still is, on a journey of discovering what it would look like at Northland to be intentional in making disciples who will make disciples the way Jesus did it. As we have studied Jesus' strategy together as a team and with other leaders, we are amazed how the Holy Spirit is using all our insights from the study to bring together an approach to disciple-making appropriate for our context at Northland.*

How is this different from other "initiatives" we've rolled out at Northland over the years?

Tom: *In my experience, one difference is the amount of time we have invested in prayer, discussion, research, and learning the "leading practices" of churches and ministries that make disciples. Another difference is that I don't believe we would call this an "initiative" - our goal is not to design another initiative or program but rather to be obedient to what the scriptures teach all believers to become - disciples that make disciples. Disciple-making is a way of life.*

Susan: *I have only been at Northland about 2½ years so I'm not sure about other "initiatives"; however, our intentionality to equip Northlanders to "go make disciples" is not a "program" or "initiative" that is here today and gone tomorrow. Disciple-making should be the lifestyle for every follower of Jesus, and it is Northland's responsibility to equip everyone who calls Northland their church home to make disciple-making part of their lifestyle with those in their spheres of influence as they move through day-to-day life.*

What does being a disciple mean to you?

Tom: *A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus (Matt. 4:19).*

Susan: *Tom's definition nails it!*

What's the difference between being a disciple and being a Christian? Is there something about being a disciple that's different than our view of being a Christian, going to church, studying the Bible, etc. How does this view impact the priorities in our life or what we value in our church?

Tom: *The term "Christian" describes anything associated with Christianity (Christian believer, Christian music, Christian church, Christian doctrine...). "Disciple" is a personal calling and identity - a person who is actively imitating both the life and teaching of King Jesus. Jesus specifically commanded His followers to "Go and make disciples" before he ascended into heaven - nothing more and nothing less - disciples.*

Susan: *Back in Biblical times, when followers of Jesus were first called "Christians," it was because of their identification with Jesus. Unfortunately, today people consider themselves Christians if they go to church at least on Christmas and Easter, or even if they believe in God. A "disciple" is a follower of Jesus, a learner, someone who strives to be obedient to the commands of Jesus and be transformed by His teachings... and all this is motivated out of love for Jesus. A true "disciple" of Jesus alters their priorities to align with those of Jesus and is willing to submit their perceptions and preferences to Jesus' priorities in their personal life or in the church's corporate life.*

What's the difference between being a disciple and a disciple-maker?

Tom: A disciple is in a life-long journey following King Jesus. A disciple-maker is a disciple of Jesus who enters into relationships with people to intentionally help them follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus.

Susan: There should be no difference between a disciple and a disciple-maker. It is so easy for us just to want to soak up information like a sponge to become a better person for Jesus, but not squeeze it out to intentionally pour into someone else's life for Jesus. However, Jesus wants us to be more like Him so that we can be an example to others and pour into the life of others who need Jesus. Therefore, there is no distinction between a "disciple" and a "disciple-maker." Part of being a "disciple" is being a "disciple-maker."

What does the future of Northland look like when we are a church where discipleship permeates all we do? What does that mean for our congregation, our community, and our world?

Tom: A group of disciples who make disciples are themselves transformed, and they change everything around them to the glory of God. We sit here today in the 21st century because men and women who followed Jesus in the first century obeyed Jesus by making disciples.

Susan: As we grow as a church in making disciple-making permeate all we do, I believe we will experience a passion

for Jesus greater than ever before. We will hear testimonies of how God has worked in discipling relationships within our church, our spheres of influence, and ultimately impact our immediate communities and the world beyond.

If someone wants to learn more about becoming a disciple who makes disciples, what is their next step?

Tom: Learn about King Jesus - read your Bible, pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you, and get connected with others who are following Jesus. Here at Northland in 2021, we will be providing specific opportunities to learn more about disciple-making a - some potential first steps include *Belong and Grow*, *First Steps for New Believers*, and *Essentials to Becoming a Disciple*.

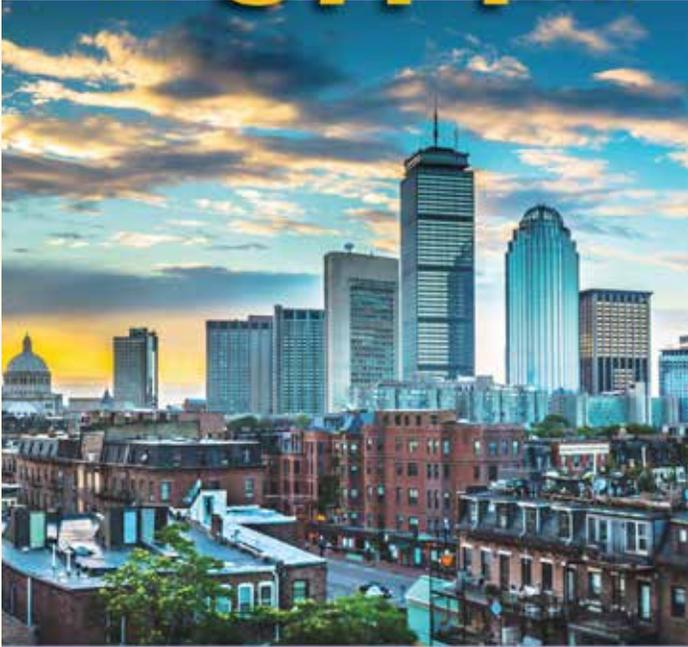
Susan: Leaders are being trained to help each of us determine our next right step wherever we are in our spiritual journey. Reach out to your class teacher, small group leader, ministry leader, or staff person. There are opportunities to help you whether you are new to Northland and want to know what we are all about and where you fit in, curious and exploring Christ, or you want to go deeper in understanding and application of God's Word. We are here to help!

Whether you are a new Christian, new to Northland, or a disciple who is already making disciples, we want to help resource you. If you're ready for your next step in making disciples, you can get more information by filling out this short form and a member of our team will connect with you soon! NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples

HERE ARE SOME OTHER WAYS YOU CAN EXPLORE YOUR NEXT STEPS:

- Email Bethany.Durys@northlandchurch.net
- Join our next *Belong & Grow* class. Register at NorthlandChurch.net/Belong
- Visit NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples

SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2021



PRAYERS OF BIBLICAL HOPE
FORTY DAYS TO PALM SUNDAY
February 17 to March 28, 2021

**Join us this February as we embark on
40 DAYS OF PRAYER.**
**Pick up your limited copy in the
Northland bookstore for \$3.**
**FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS,
contact Matthew Shiles at
Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A FORTY DAY PRAYER JOURNEY

Join as we engage in **Seek God for the City 2021**, a 40-day prayer guide leading up to Easter. This guide begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 2021, and includes Sundays, ending on Palm Sunday. Many Northlanders have participated in this journey through the years and we are encouraging even more to join this year. You can pick up your copy in the Northland bookstore as we anticipate this upcoming season of transformation for individuals, groups, and family study.

The period leading up to Easter is traditionally a time when we prepare our hearts by sacrificing something. As we fast, we must make the most of this sacrifice by replacing it with the intentional spiritual discipline of prayer. This guide shares, "It's hard to pray beyond our own problems, especially in difficult times. But since God does great things in the midst of troubled times, now is actually the best time to pray beyond ourselves with expansive prayers of solid hope."

Created by Steve Hawthorne, each year a new 40-day prayer guide is published by Waymakers. The format leads us first to seek God's face, and then we will seek God's Kingdom. Each day six different aspects engage in specific, intentional prayer.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Each day focuses on different people such as healthcare workers, police, marriages, and more. This will expand your understanding of how to pray for groups of people with intentionality.

PRAYER WALK

This might be the most challenging section since it forces us out of our homes and out of our comfort zones. I would encourage us to be challenged by this section and not just pass it by. How might you include your family members and friends to join you?

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

This is my favorite section because it lifts our eyes to the vastness of God's world. At the end of the 40 days, you will have prayed for each country. Regardless of your knowledge of geography, world history, or other countries, you will start to appreciate for the bigness of God. His glorious deeds among the nations become more real as we learn and pray more broadly.

Each year Pastor Gus takes the opportunity to connect with his friends from other countries and nationalities when their country is featured that day. This is a great chance to reach out to them and share that you have been praying for their country and people.

I would also encourage you to be open to where God is stirring your heart. Is it to a particular country, region, or continent? Use the following resources to learn more about specific countries as you pray.

Joshuaproject.net - Focused on Unreached Peoples

OperationWorld.org - The definitive prayer guide for every country

Opendoorsusa.org - Support for the persecuted church

Prayercast.com - Specific prayer videos created by people from that county.

WEEKLY THEMES OF HOPE

Each week is a new theme. The themes from last year included Seeking His Face, The Gospel of the Kingdom, The Righteousness of the Kingdom, The Peace of the Kingdom, the Joy of the Kingdom, and the Visitation of Christ the King.

OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGE

Next, we are presented with promises from the Prophets and other Old Testament passages. This is an excellent opportunity for you to reacquaint yourself with the Old Testament. What wisdom and messages do Isaiah, Joshua, Proverbs, and Psalms have for us today?

NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGE

Here we read about the hope we have in Jesus Christ. We will read a selection from the Gospels and a prayer that connects to it.

In addition to the printed guide, Waymakers will be offering an app called Seek God for the City 2021. This will appear in the app store as we get closer to February. This app has printed material and includes other videos by a country that serves as a great resource.

Join us this February as we embark on 40 days of prayer. Pick up your limited copy in the Northland bookstore for \$3.25. For questions or comments contact Matthew Shiles at Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net.

DAY 22

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 10



SEEK God...

for the fruit
of His righteousness

ON BEHALF OF
BUSINESS
PEOPLE

But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

— Deuteronomy 8:18

Ask God to bless those who base business practices in righteousness. Pray that God will prosper those who pursue their business as mission for God's kingdom. Pray for the gospel to spread in the marketplace; for righteous managers and executives; for creative, godly entrepreneurs.

PRAYERWALK: As you pass through a place of business today, pray for Christ to be followed and for His name to be honored in that setting. Pray for God to bless the endeavors that exemplify His kingdom.



ON BEHALF OF

SEEK God...

for Christ's followers to
seek and make peace

*Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springs from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
Indeed, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its produce.
Righteousness will go before Him,
and will make His footsteps into a way.*

— Psalm 85:10-13 (NASB)

Walk before Your people, Risen Lord. Train us to follow in Your footsteps – to walk in Your life-giving ways. Move with Your people throughout our city, transforming barren places into bountiful gardens. Where there is evil, implant what is good. Breathe heaven's life into our homes and workplaces. Cause Your people to bear the fruit of Your Spirit, bringing You joy as we bring forth righteousness and peace.

*Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God
will be taken away from you,
and be given to a people, producing the fruit of it.*

— Matthew 21:43 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, Your kingdom will not fail to bear fruit in the days of this age, flourishing on earth with the life of heaven. You have long promised that You will bring forth a people who serves You as King, and who exhibits Your love in their community. Cause us to be that people. Empower us now to bring forth tangible signs of Your righteousness, peace and joy. *Pray:*

- For people to see and experience the fruit of the Spirit in schools, homes and workplaces.
- For God to enable ordinary believers to live in the kindness and righteousness of Christ.

*Seek the peace and prosperity of the city
to which I have carried you into exile.
Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers,
you too will prosper.*

— Jeremiah 29:7

We find it difficult to believe that You will actually bring peace and blessing to our city. We sometimes speak of it with pessimistic scorn, as if nothing will ever change. You preserve and protect Your people, but You have great love for all, even those who oppose You. And so we pray: Bring Your peace! Bring blessing upon the people of this city. Move among the poor so that they trust You. Reveal Yourself to those who are blessed so that they openly thank You.

But I tell you who bear Me:

Love your enemies.

Do good to those who hate you.

Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who mistreat you. — Luke 6:27-28

We like to imagine that we have no enemies. But in these days we see antagonism rising against You and Your people. We are often disdained and excluded because we name You as Lord. Do miracles in our hearts so that we sincerely love and bless those who are hostile to the gospel. Train us to follow Your ways of giving and forgiving. Shape our thoughts and direct our deeds so that we become the blessing You have called us to become. *Pray:*

- That Christians would respond to opposition by doing good in Jesus' name.
- For persecuted believers, near and far, to experience God's strength and encouragement.

NEW TO NORTHLAND?

Do you have questions ... about God, Northland or anything else?

Fill out our digital connect card by texting "Northland" to 97000.

We are here to answer questions, help get you involved, pray with you, sign you up to volunteer, or just to give you a virtual hug.

Questions? Email [Hello@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto>Hello@NorthlandChurch.net) or visit NorthlandChurch.net/New.

WORSHIP TIMES

LONGWOOD and NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET

Saturdays 5 p.m.

Sundays 9 and 11 a.m.

Spanish interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 a.m. service.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 a.m. service.

FOLLOW US

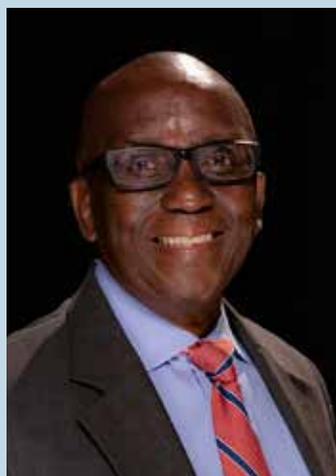
@NorthlandChurch



ACCESS MINISTRIES

We have programs and services for individuals with disabilities.

Find out more at NorthlandChurch.net/Access. Details: Heather Subbert at (407) 937-1828 or Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net



Gus Davies

Interim Senior Pastor

Pastor Gus was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa. His foundational years of discipleship commenced after he trusted Christ at a Youth For Christ rally. He and his wife, Jeneba, have been partners in the ministry since their marriage in 1984—Colossians 1:28-29 has been their goal for life and ministry.

Pastor Gus and Jeneba earned scholarships to receive their masters in Christian Education at Reformed Theological Seminary. While in America, their first daughter was born. After moving back to Liberia when the program was done, their second daughter was born. He and Jeneba both taught courses at the African Bible College.

Pastor Gus and his family returned to America for a year to assist at a church in Deland. Although he had

opportunities to continue ministry in Deland, he and Jeneba were reminded of Colossians 1:28-29 and decided to return to Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone, Pastor Gus served as the National Director of Youth for Christ and as national pastor and church leader at a local Presbyterian Church. He and Jeneba planted three other churches around the city.

Pastor Gus and his family returned to Florida in 1996, after the outbreak of the civil war in Sierra Leone. The warm welcome they received from Northland assured them that this was the body of believers they would call home. While at Northland, Pastor Gus has served in numerous roles.

Most recently, Pastor Gus was appointed Interim Senior Pastor, beginning July 1, 2020. Pastor Gus believes this role will strengthen and stretch him. He longs to finish strong with a legacy that Jesus is building His Church at Northland and beyond with the people He redeemed. He desires to see the fruit that abides in His Kingdom for His glory as we continue to worship, witness, and declare His Name.

Governing Elders

Danny Gordon

Chairman

407-937-1762

Danny.Gordon@NorthlandChurch.net

Pastor Vince Taylor

Vice Chairman

407-937-1769

Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net

Mike Kemp

Finance Committee Member

407-937-1765

Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net

John Cortines

Human Resources

Committee Chairman

407-937-1761

John.Cortines@NorthlandChurch.net

Dr. Nick Maroulis

Human Resources

Committee Member

407-937-1766

Nick.Maroulis@NorthlandChurch.net

Chris Storms

407-937-1763

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Owusu Amaning

407-937-1764

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530 Dog Track Road

Longwood, FL 32750

NorthlandChurch.net

Hello@NorthlandChurch.net

Main Phone

407-949-4000

Main Fax

407-949-4020

Northland Bookstore

407-949-7199

I am in crisis

Northland's main line 407-949-4000

I would like to talk to a minister

Minister on Duty (MOD) 407-949-4000

I want to seek counseling

Counseling referral line 407-949-7204

I have a prayer request

Prayer request line 407-949-4025 or

Pray.NorthlandChurch.net

I need the Hospital Ministry to

pay a visit

Hospital Ministry Team 407-949-7149 or

HospitalVisits@NorthlandChurch.net

I am interested in a Care Ministry

Barbara Olsen 407-949-7183 or

Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net

I want to become a member

Barbara Olsen 407-949-7183 or

Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net

I have accepted Christ into my heart and wish to be baptized

(Infants to 5-years-old)

Diane Jones

Diane.Jones@NorthlandChurch.net

(Grade School)

Debbie Blahnik 407-949-7162 or

Debbie.Blahnik@NorthlandChurch.net

(Adult/student)

Julie Meeker 407-937-1772 or

Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net

I need info about Student Ministries

Alex Anderson 407-949-7295 or

Student.Ministries@

NorthlandChurch.net

I need info about Children's Ministries

Debbie Blahnik 407-949-7162 or

Debbie.Blahnik@NorthlandChurch.net

I am interested in Mission Trips

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or

Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net;

or visit SomedayIsToday.net

I want to serve at Northland

The Connect Team 407-949-4000 or

Volunteer@NorthlandChurch.net

or visit NorthlandChurch.net/Serve

I want to get involved in a serve project

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or

Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net

I am getting married

Pastor Nathan Clark 407-949-4016 or

Nathan.Clark@NorthlandChurch.net

I need to plan a funeral?

Julie Meeker 407-937-1772 or

Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net

My family is living with disability

Heather Subbert 407-937-1828 or

Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net

I need information on jail/prison transition ministries

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or

Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net

I need information on 121Hope Anti-Trafficking Ministry

Meg Johnson 407-937-0547 or

Meg.Johnson@NorthlandChurch.net

I want to start/join a group

Bethany Durys 407-937-0541 or

Groups@NorthlandChurch.net or

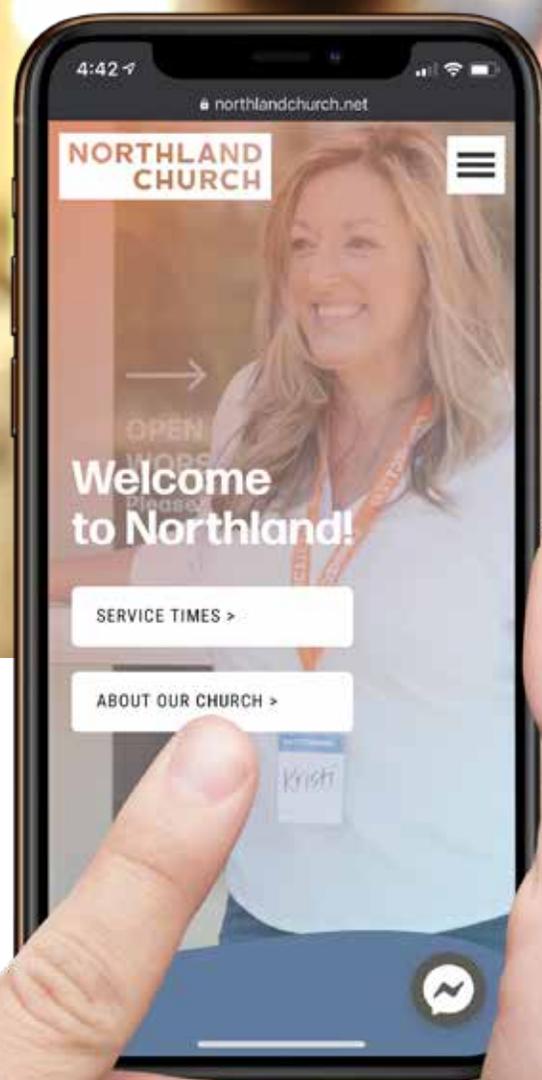
I'm interested in connecting with other young families

Pastor Nathan Clark 407-252-5847 or

Nathan.Clark@NorthlandChurch.net



CONNECT WITH US



**NEW TO NORTHLAND?
NEED PRAYER?
LOOKING FOR
COMMUNITY?**

Text "Northland"
to 97000