

NORTHLAND  
CHURCH

# ENGAGE

WINTER 2021-22



ENGAGING PEOPLE TO BE FULLY ALIVE IN JESUS

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### OUR VISION:

## ENGAGING PEOPLE TO BE FULLY ALIVE IN JESUS.

**Jesus made an amazing declaration:**  
*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

For Northland, our aim is to see the Life movement Jesus launched continue into the 21st century.

The scope of what He came to do is way more than inventing some religion and introducing a thing called church that happens in buildings on Sunday mornings. It's a goal aimed at the renewal of the cosmos and it starts with us as His image bearers.

The Gospel enables us to dance as human beings to the glory of God — to do that in community, to do that in our culture, and to see salt and light unleashed by the church, not just by yelling orthodoxy at a culture, but by also demonstrating vibrancy.

Put simply: We believe the church is more than a place you come to on Sundays ... it's people. People fully alive in Jesus — not just lung-breathing, heart-beating life, but abundant, thriving Life that can only come from Him.

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

— John 10:10 (NIV)

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# WORSHIP TIMES

Online and On Campus

Saturdays . . . . . 5 p.m.

Sundays . . . . . 9 & 11 a.m.

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

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

**ANNIE F. DOWNS**

**That  
SOUNDS  
FUN**  
TOUR

*Coast to Coast*

Compassion  
Like your cause



**Thursday | February 24 | 7-9 p.m. | The Rink**  
Tickets available at [NorthlandChurch.net/AnnieFDowns](http://NorthlandChurch.net/AnnieFDowns)



**SEU WORSHIP**

Come enjoy a night full of worship with  
the SEU Worship Band.

Sponsored by  
Northland Student  
Ministries



**Sunday | February 20 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Main Sanctuary**  
Tickets available at [NorthlandChurch.net/SEUWorship](http://NorthlandChurch.net/SEUWorship)

# Welcome TO NORTHLAND!

**Thank you for joining us** whether you're here in person or tuning in online! If this is your first time, you're back after a while, or you've been around for ages, we're so glad you're here!

Northland is a community that gathers regularly to worship God, learn from the Bible, and pray. As Christ-followers, we believe we are called to live a life of worship everywhere and every day as we serve others, live generously, and share stories of who God is and what He is doing in the world. These practices are essential for every follower of Jesus Christ and we offer them in response to our God.

We acknowledge that Jesus is Lord over all. This truth is the impetus behind our obedience to the great calling God has put on our lives – to go and make disciples. To be a disciple simply means following, loving, learning, and living for Jesus. The word discipleship encompasses loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves. This is the reason we live. We offer resources for everyone, no matter where you might be on your discipleship journey. It would be our privilege to help you take your next step.

Ministries designed to serve our diverse community throughout the various stages of life flourish here at Northland. Your kids can

grow in their faith as they get to know God for who He is and what He has done in Children's Ministries and Student Ministries. Young adults can find community with other Christians their age in College and Young Adults groups. Access Ministries strives to create a welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Missions is also an important area here at Northland. 121Hope brings hope to victims and survivors of human trafficking and empowers local abolitionists, all through one-to-one discipleship. Disaster Response provides teams that train for and respond to disasters, complementing and supporting government and emergency agencies as they respond to communities in need. Prison and Jail Transition serves those who are incarcerated in the local jail, state prison, and therapeutic facilities, and Homelessness assists in coming alongside individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community in various ways.

If we have not already met, my name is Gus Davies. My wife, Jeneba, and I have been part of the Northland family for 24 years. We have seen God's faithfulness firsthand through Northland. After moving here from our home country,



Sierra Leone, our Northland family greeted us with open arms. Since then, we've raised two daughters who are now grown and married. This church community has loved and disciplined my family through thick and thin.

In the summer of 2020, I was appointed to the role of Interim Senior Pastor as we launched our search for our next long-term Lead Pastor. This is an exciting yet challenging time in the life of our church. We look forward to building on Northland's rich history and legacy while also embarking upon and dreaming about our next season of ministry together. Here is a verse that has inspired me during this time:

*"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."*  
1 Corinthians 13:12 ESV

The past two years have certainly been challenging. On a larger scale, we have endured a pandemic and suffered social and political unrest. Many have faced and are still facing personal difficulties like broken relationships, job loss, financial struggles, addiction, depression, anxiety, faith crisis, death of a loved one, or health challenges. Sadly, the list goes on. We want you to know that whatever you're going through right now, you're not alone. Not only is Jesus there with you, we're here for you too.

It's the relationships that make up the church, not the walls. We know how easy it is to slip in and out of a service without being noticed or talking to anyone. Would you consider letting us know you are here and making a connection? We would love the opportunity to help you take the next step in your spiritual journey.

## CONNECT WITH US

### IN-PERSON OR ONLINE:

TEXT: "Northland" to 97000

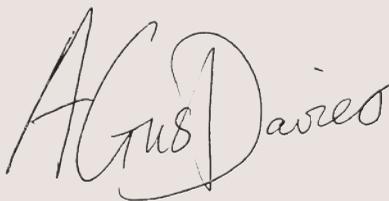
CALL: (407) 949-4000

EMAIL: Hello@NorthlandChurch.net

DM US: Head on over to one of our social media platforms and send us a direct message.

We're glad to have you as a part of our community. The worship service you attend is only the beginning of your journey.

***Wishing you a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!***



**Gus Davies**

*Interim Senior Pastor*



# WAITING CAN BE HARD

BY BRADLEY NOLFF, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR,  
WITH THE SUCCESSION PLANNING COMMITTEE

**I've been part of the Northland family** since I was a little kid. There's been ups, downs, and moments in between. But God has been present in all of it.

This process of searching for a lead pastor has been exciting, frustrating, exhausting, and mysterious all at the same time. It's a challenging time in the life of our church because it requires an extra degree of trust and faith in God, but that's why this season has been equally as rewarding.

Think about a time in your life when you felt closest to God, was it a good situation or a bad situation? I don't know about you, but my closest moments with God are when I'm at my worst. I'd like to say that I'm mature enough to be consistent regardless of my circumstances, but that's just not the case. Unfortunately, or fortunately, God uses uncertainty to bring us closer to Him. I think He probably knows that if things were going great all the time we would slip away from Him. I know I'm guilty of that. I'll think, "oh, everything is going great, guess I don't need God right now." And then he'll wake me up.

As we continue to pray throughout this process, let us remember that God has a plan for each and every one of us and our church. Some members of our Succession Planning Committee shared their thoughts and Scriptures that God has laid on their hearts during this long season of waiting.

*John Tardonia*

"As in the search for a king of Israel it was not what people expected, but it was God's choice in His time. He always keeps His promises."

**"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."**

- Deuteronomy 31:8

*Brenda Beaver*

FOR THE NEW PASTOR:

**This is God's word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing, I have it all planned out-plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. "When you come looking for me, You'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." - Jeremiah 29:11**

FOR US AS A CHURCH BODY:

**"Stop dwelling on the past. Don't even remember these former things. I am doing something brand new, Something unheard of. Even now it sprouts and grows and matures. Don't you perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and open up flowing streams in the desert." - Isaiah 43:18-19**

*Tom Horvath*

"God has a plan for Northland. Our journey of faith is waiting for that plan to be revealed in His timing, in His way, in His purpose. In our waiting we praise the God of perfect faithfulness."

**Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. - Isaiah 25:1**

*LeDonna Almon*

Lord, we desire your plans, your choice, your will. That is my heart's desire. Amen

**Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there**

is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a distant country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, I will certainly do it.

- Isaiah 46:9-11

*Matt Shiles*

"When this process began, I felt a sense of being unprepared for the task ahead. But when I looked through the list of committee members, I felt a sense of peace. I recognized a cross section of Godly men and women with unique giftings. Over the last months, this has proven to be true. Each of us have been used by God in the unique ways He has created us. It reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12:12," **"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ."**

*Carroll Woehr*

God has been faithful before ... He will be faithful again.

**"So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you (we) need now, so that you (we) will continue to do God's will. Then you (we) will receive all that he has promised."** - Hebrews 10:35-36

God shows his faithfulness in ways we do not see.

**"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts/"** - Isaiah 55:9

His answers are not always immediately evident.

**"For we live by faith and, not by sight."**

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

*Rebecca Lang*

"I recently read this in a devotional and it was encouraging to me in my personal life as well as the season we are in at Northland. 'Waiting is used to test our faith. Waiting can bring out our impatience, worry, discouragement, and lack of trust in God. God uses times of waiting to allow

us to demonstrate our obedience and faith. He calls us to wait patiently on Him while He prepares us for the next step. The joy in which we endure trial is a sign of our hope in God. With endurance, we see that this isn't a time that we can just sit around and wait for an answer. The purpose is to make a believer mature and complete, meaning God wants us to be actively participating in the work He has for us.

**"Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."** - James 1:2-4

*Danny Jordan*

"God has shifted our thinking from "What's good for Northland" to "What's good for the Kingdom!" Our focus has become more about working together for Kingdom causes in order to make Jesus known to those who don't know him and to deepen the relationship of those who do. The Gospel has become more central through evangelism and discipleship and we are grateful for the unity we have felt around that mission... the Great Commission!"

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.** - Matthew 28:19-20

*Mike Kemp*

It's so comforting to remember that God is working at Northland, just as he promised. He is at work throughout Northland's ministries, and He is at work in our search for a new Lead Pastor. May we continue to seek His will and trust Him. **Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."** - John 5:17

**STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR LEAD PASTOR  
SEARCH AT [NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/  
LEADPASTORSEARCH](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/LEADPASTORSEARCH)**

# GIVING TUESDAY 2021 RECAP

# TOGETHER WE GAVE.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

BY KATIE CRAWFORD,  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

**For decades, Thanksgiving** has been followed by a significant shopping day where shoppers rush to the stores to get holiday gifts. But it wasn't until the 1980s that the term Black Friday was coined. In 2005, Cyber Monday joined the Thanksgiving weekend shopping lineup. Small Business Saturday was introduced as a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday in 2010. And most recently, in 2012, Giving Tuesday was introduced as a global day of generosity.

In 2021, Black Friday saw a decrease in spending. Traffic in retail stores dropped 28.3% compared with 2019 levels, and online spending

decreased from what was seen in 2020. After almost two years in a pandemic, one could argue that people must just be spending less money. But as Black Friday and Cyber Monday saw declines in spending, Giving Tuesday generated a historic amount. Giving Tuesday raised a record \$2.7 billion in 2021. Based on this data alone, it seems that people are prioritizing giving to others over spending for themselves.

For Northland's 2021 Giving Tuesday project, we chose to raise money for our Benevolence Fund. We strive to help those inside and outside

the church in their time of need and provide spiritual, emotional, and relational support. When it comes to financial emergencies, we have a rich history and tradition of walking with those in need during times of crisis. The current Benevolence Team consists of a rotating group of staff and congregants dedicated to offering compassion and assistance during a financial crisis. This assistance comes in the form of listening, praying, providing references to other resources in the community, and, when possible, paying for part or all of a one-time financial need.

Since 2020, our Benevolence Team has helped 120 families and individuals by providing over \$92,000 of support. We allocate a monthly amount from our budget to the benevolence fund, but the need is more significant than what is currently designated from our budget. We have used these funds to assist those in our community facing medical issues, loss of job, and other unforeseen crises.

We set our goal at \$30,000. And early on Tuesday, November 30, the giving began! By as early as 6:49 that morning, we were already halfway to our goal. At 11:30 that morning, we hit our goal of \$30,000! But the giving didn't stop there. By the end of the day, we raised a grand total of \$49,114.25!

"I'm always blown away by the generosity of the Northland congregation," said Bradley Nolf, Communications Director and former Benevolence Team member. "Sometimes we're afraid to put a need out there and ask for too much, but every time they step up and many times exceed our hopes and goals. I love this church."

"It always amazes me when we give the Holy Spirit free rein to work," said Donna Gagnon, Accounting Manager. "We always see how we ask, get out of the way, and God works and people respond from the heart!"

"I find that God always exceeds expectations when we open our hands and our hearts to meet the needs of others," said Accountant, Cynthia McInvale.

We are overwhelmed by the generosity displayed by you, our

Northland family. Through your generosity, we will be able to serve so many people in our community who are facing financial hardships.

"The last two years have been tough, especially financially," said Bradley. "Many have lost their jobs, received pay cuts, lost loved ones, and are worried about what the future will bring. I think many people are much more cautious to spend and donate money, so I anticipated this being a tough year to raise money. However, it's clear that our church family knows how to give generously and with abundance. My prayer is that this benevolence fund will impact our local community for Jesus in a big way over the next year."

"What I would like to say to the people who are truly living and giving generously - THANK YOU!" said Cynthia. "Your gifts of time, talents, and financial resources truly do make a lasting impact on the Kingdom of God!"



**GRAND  
TOTAL:  
\$49,114.25!**

# YOUR GIVING CAN HELP OUR CHURCH GROW

We want to introduce you to two outstanding Northland Finance Team members, Brenda Beaver and Donna Gagnon. Between the two of them, these women have served our church for 28 years. We've asked Brenda and Donna a few questions. Their answers show valuable spiritual maturity and knowledge, and can inspire us all to give.

*We need Revival!*

– DONNA GAGNON, ACCOUNTING MANAGER



*Prepare to be  
Amazed!*

– BRENDA BEAVER, ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE SPECIALIST

**Q: If you could give one reason why you think it's important for Christians to give financially to their local church, what would it be?**

**Donna:** Because we serve a generous God. The Bible teaches us about God's generosity. He blesses those who give sacrificially. 1 Kings 17 illustrates this. A widow gathered sticks to bake her last loaf of bread, she and her son on the brink of death. The prophet Elijah asked her to make him a small loaf. Because she was obedient, her bowl of flour and jar of oil never ran out. God wants to bless us, but we need to have faith and trust Him with what we have to give.

**Brenda:** Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so there may be food in my house." I've always equated the "storehouse" to the place where I am fed spiritually and relationally. For me, this is Northland. I desire to follow God's word and to worship my Heavenly Father with the first fruits of my financial blessings.

**Q. How did you learn about biblical giving?**

**Donna:** From the time I was a small child I knew about giving. However, I did not understand what it really meant until I attended a Generous Life study at Northland in the late 2000s. The concept of giving generously, whether 10% or more, and doing so joyfully and without coercion gave me a new perspective on what God wanted. He is seeking our hearts, not our wallets. Besides, it all belongs to Him, we are just stewards of His property.

**Brenda:** I learned biblical giving from my mom. As children we worshiped every week, attended Sunday School, and learned the ways of God. Giving of our finances was a part of our learning. I tithed out of my babysitting money. This wasn't easy at first, but it was a spiritual lesson that has been a part of my walk ever since.

**Q. What do you see is the difference between tithes and offerings?**

**Donna:** A tithe of 10% is a base amount. Offerings are above and beyond our tithe, perhaps gifts for a specific appeal, a special collection, or support of other ministries. Offerings should not be a replacement for our financial support of the church.

**Brenda:** Tithes are the first fruits of all the financial blessings that God provides. An

offering is "sacrificial giving" above and beyond my tithes. I always go back to Luke 6:38 from The Passion Translation: "Give generously and generous gifts will be given back to you, shaken down to make room for more. Abundant gifts will pour out upon you with such an overflowing measure that it will run over the top! Your measurement of generosity becomes the measurement of your return." I believe offerings raise us to a higher level of obedience and gives God a greater opportunity to show how BIG He really is as my provider. He says, "Test Me and see what I will do."

**Q: When you pray for the financial future of Northland, what do you pray?**

**Donna:** I pray over every gift and every giver and ask God to help us steward every penny well to His glory. I pray I will be an instrument of God's purpose for Northland and cooperate with His will for what He wants us to accomplish. I pray that God will multiply all the financial blessings and that they would be used to reach more people so that they can be saved by the message of the Gospel that we share each and every day.

**Brenda:** When I pray for the finances of Northland, I thank our Father God for His faithfulness. In the last 14 years, I have cut every check for every invoice expensed by Northland Church. I can surely testify to His goodness. I continue to be amazed by and am so grateful for our church family's commitment and generosity. In lack and plenty, Northland's ministries are still impacting the world and continue to do so for His Glory. Never in my time at Northland have I been so confident of the integrity and the trustworthy stewardship of every gift given. Even though we are in a time of challenge and testing, I believe, without a doubt, as we humble ourselves, we are going to see a move of God that many of us can't even comprehend. I am blessed to be a part of this church and move forward committed to preserve and pray that my life would glorify God. I'm so thankful to walk this journey with my Northland Church family.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FINANCES  
AND THE WAYS TO GIVE AT  
[NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/GIVE](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/GIVE)**

# BROKEN INTO *Beautiful:*

## *A Glimpse into the 121Hope Rise Up Retreat*

BY MEG JOHNSON, 121HOPE MINISTRY LEADER

**Five years ago,** I journeyed to Costa Rica with the 121Hope ministry to love on vulnerable women trapped in human trafficking. During our goodbyes, one woman said to me, "Please don't forget us. We are not a ghost of a population." Those words have haunted me since that day and the 121Hope ministry has been built on that very sentiment: we recognize victims and survivors and not turn them away. Equally important was ensuring our ministry honored Northland's vision of engaging others to be fully alive in Jesus.

During the first week of November, the Rise Up Retreat took place at a beautiful 400-acre center, which we believed was the perfect location for survivors to unwind and refresh as they relaxed, played, and enjoyed the serenity of this property.

Our purpose was to inspire these women to embrace God's splendor through body, mind, and spirit. We promoted love, compassion, respect, and beauty in all things, particularly wellness. We honored all and served to enhance the fullness and meaning of life. The retreat offered a safe environment with Christ-led leaders and volunteers who ministered to women, encouraging them to open their hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to take residency in their lives.

The women immediately bonded with the use of photographs they used as a visual to share their spiritual journey, keeping in mind that some women were angry with God and felt forgotten. But something remarkable happens when life stories are shared with one another. The women



realized that while they each experienced trauma differently, there was a commonality amongst each other in the form of being broken and turning it into something beautiful.

Scheduled activities included sunrise devotionals by the lake as the women leaned in to hear God whisper, "Good morning." Yoga, canoeing, nature walks, and a team challenge took place as well as offering time and space for their own self-expression. The bonding that took place during the group challenge was quite noticeable and the retreat staff leader complimented our women and said she had never experienced such power of positivity from any group with whom she had worked.

Our hope for each participant was to continue the healing journey from past traumas, reclaim their true nature, build confidence and self-worth, recharge their energy while reducing

stress and anxiety, and help set them on a path of wellness long after they departed. Ultimately, our goal was to restore their faith in Jesus Christ. The 121Hope team witnessed an extraordinary moment when our guests asked to stay up late one evening to praise our Heavenly Father. At that moment, the participants started singing, "The Blessing,"

*"Amen, Amen, Amen.  
May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children."*

And the beautiful part was that they believed in what they were singing. In fact, five women made public declarations of faith during a baptism following Sunday's worship service.

One of the survivors shared about her retreat experience, "Attending Rise Up was a unique experience that I will always remember. It was a weekend that provided me with the love, support, and encouragement that I didn't know I desperately needed, and it also helped me strengthen my relationship with the Lord. God used [one of our volunteers] to get through to me for the first time in a while with my verse Romans 12:2."

*"The body heals with play, the mind heals with laughter and the spirit heals with joy." - Ancient Proverb*



## 121HOPE EVENTS

### Annual Prayer Gathering

**Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. at Northland**

Join 121Hope for their annual prayer gathering to remember all those whose lives have been impacted by human trafficking: victims, survivors, law enforcement, social service providers, and victim advocates, just to name a few. It will be a beautiful time of reflection and prayer.

### 121Hope Fair Trade Market

**April 23 and 24, before and after worship services**

Need to shop for Mother's Day or graduation presents? Look no further as the 121 Hope ministry will be hosting their 2nd annual Fair Trade Market during the weekend of April 23 and 24! You will learn how to be a conscious consumer while getting an early start to your shopping in a fun, market-style fashion. This two-day event will be held in the foyer of the main church building. Vendors from Central Florida will be here to present information and engage in one-to-one conversations on the topics of labor trafficking and fair trade, while showcasing many amazing brands, both globally and locally, without supporting the world's modern-day enslavers.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT 121HOPE AT  
[NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/121HOPE](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/121HOPE)**



# Christmas House RECAP

BY MATTHEW SHILES, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

**Christmas House** is Northland's annual Christmas outreach. We collect unwrapped gifts throughout November, and the first week of December. Families are able to shop for and provide gifts for their children on Christmas morning.

At Northland, this idea began back in 2015 from a book called, "When Helping Hurts." We were encouraged to create a Christmas Shop where families in need would be empowered to provide gifts for their children, with some assistance from the church congregation.

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 fulfill that every single year. Now years later, we completed our 7th annual Christmas House. I love reflecting on the way we see God move through this ministry.

First, the generosity is so very evident. This year we provided a shopping experience with 1,319 toys! This was all through toy and cash donations from the congregation! In addition to the toys brought in, \$7,600.46 in financial contributions went directly toward shopping for additional toys for the Christmas House. The generosity also included 73 congregants offering their time to collect gifts in the foyer, set up and tear down the shopping experience, be a personal shopper, wrap gifts, pray, and more! This generosity resulted in 77 families shopping for 200 children. It also allowed us to be generous to 5 local ministries both in and outside Northland from the abundance!

Next, the Christmas House shoppers each year encourage and challenge my faith. We hear the stories of so many struggles through the application, orientation, and shopping process. This year during orientation, we tried to lift their gaze to something more than their circumstances. I asked them, "What would your closest friends and family describe as your best quality?" This was more than a time of bragging, but a recognition that God has gifted each of us with unique skills and abilities. During their stress, I wanted to remind them of their inherent dignity and worth given to them by their creator! It was incredible to hear the answers and for others to make connections with each other based on how they responded. I even got the chance to assist one shopper with their Excel spreadsheet skills. I included that in part of my answer to the entire group, and during shopping, she asked if I could help with some training she was going through. God can even use spreadsheets for His glory!

**... THE CONNECTIONS  
ARE ALWAYS INSPIRED  
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

This year, for the first time ever, we had not one but two women who were in labor while shopping! One of our lead volunteers jumped into action and helped keep her and everyone else calm. These moms were able to make it home safely, and we are looking forward to seeing pictures of these Christmas House babies!

Finally, the connections are always inspired by the Holy Spirit. These connections happen at orientation, and they continue when the shoppers come to the Northland Rink for the shopping experience. Before shopping, volunteers get a chance to sit with them in our hospitality room to learn more about their story, hear about their kids, and connect, even if it's just for a few minutes. That connection time resulted in many prayer gatherings between two, three, and four individuals this year. 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.

## UPCOMING

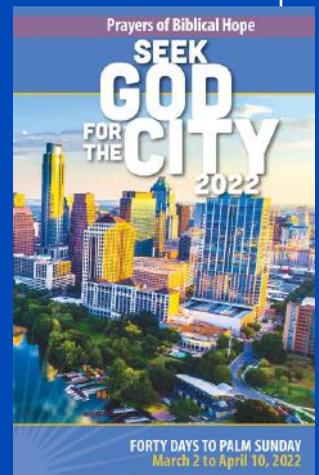
### Seek God for the City 2022

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A FORTY DAY PRAYER JOURNEY

**Seek God for the City  
Prayers of Biblical Hope Forty Days to  
Palm Sunday  
March 2 - April 10, 2022**

Pray powerful prayers of biblical hope for the people of your community. This 64-page prayer guide makes it easy for you to pray rich, biblical prayers for spiritual awakening throughout your city.

Join us as we unite in prayer during the 40 days leading to Palm Sunday, March 2 through April 10, 2022. Pick up your limited copy in the Northland bookstore or online at [NorthlandBookstore.com](http://NorthlandBookstore.com), starting in February. For questions or comments, contact Matthew Shiles at [Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net).



### Short Term Mission Preparation Class and Trips

Short-Term Mission trips have long been an example of who Northland is around the world. We continue to be dedicated to this unique opportunity to learn and be challenged in profound ways. Participate in our 6-week preparation class and learn more about how to go. For upcoming class dates and also an up to date list of 2022 trips go to [NorthlandChurch.net/Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions).

# LET'S *Flourish* TOGETHER!

## *A Women's Mentoring Journey*

BY REBECCA LANG,  
WITH JILL BOWLES AND DOROTHY MOWBRAY

**In 2021, under Pastor Gus' leadership,** Northland shifted to be more intentional about discipleship and began a focus on becoming a disciple-making church. While some people prefer a structured class or small group, others prefer a more personal and one on one approach when it comes to discipleship. In October of 2019, we launched Flourish, a mentoring journey designed for women. God has used this ministry to transform lives through dedicated time in Scripture, prayer, and ultimately, grow women closer to Him and one another, even in the midst of the pandemic!

Year one of Flourish has been an incredible journey for many women! They have spent time reading God's Word and learning more about the Word, prayer, identity, calling, kinship, and gratitude.

Year two, which launched in the Fall of 2021, includes topics like feminine heart, whole and

holly, under new management, beauty from ashes, be welcomed in this place, and strong and courageous.

Heading into 2022, Flourish has a new leader! Jill Bowles, along with a small team, will be leading this ministry moving forward. Jill has a deep passion for women's ministry and mentoring.

"I am thrilled that our Women's mentoring ministry is set to begin our third year in February!" said Jill. "But what is mentoring, and what is Flourish? Flourish calls women to a higher standard of living following the commands in Titus 2:3-5, a God-filled life for the sake of the Gospel. A life where we love and follow Jesus and see our lives and circumstances through scripture. We can benefit from the women who have gone before us and who reflect Jesus. We believe a mentoring relationship can be a rich experience for growth. I was privileged to



be mentored in my early years of marriage by some women who had been there, done that, and could help me navigate through those years as I struggled to balance life as a wife and mother with my spiritual growth as a woman of God. What a blessing they were to me! I had the opportunity years later to help launch a mentoring ministry in my previous church and see firsthand God's imprint in the relationships that He brought together. Some are still going today! I am beyond blessed to be once again a part of raising women to love God and process their lives through the lens of Scripture. God has made us as women to be relational, and mentoring is a prime example of following Titus 2:3-5."

One of our mentors, Dorothy Mowbray, has been amazed by God's work through her time as a Flourish mentor. Her experience has been incredible. "How comforting is a well-worn book—one that has faithfully served its purpose again and again! It is no surprise that the cover of my Flourish book shows purple smudges from its intimate relationship with my purple leather Bible! The pages are littered with various bookmarked lessons learned and hand-written notes of dawning perspective scribbled in the available space like fond memories. All of these to keep track of the four unique, beloved ladies that God has placed in my path to walk alongside in their journey of discovery of how much God loves them just as they are. And yet, Jesus' love is too great to leave them where they are! What a privilege to come alongside and encourage, pray with them in times of trouble and discovery, and witness how God changes their hearts and minds, along with the circumstances around them, all in His timing!

"Flourish is a resource book of Bible verses and study questions that prompt weekly hour-long mentee and mentor discussions. At first, it was one lady who wanted to deepen her prayer life. Despite COVID's quarantines, we continued to meet and pray outside on my backyard deck. Both of us grew and flourished during this time, and as our year-long mentee/mentor relationship ended, I wondered what the next step was. I didn't have to wait long.

"A few weeks later, God placed an older lady who lived in another state on my heart, who could be described as a negative and prickly kind of person. Out of sheer obedience to God's prompting, I purchased a mentee book for her before I traveled, knowing that I would be spending time with her. Before my trip ended, I told her about the Flourish book and Bible study

experience and asked, 'Would you be interested?' After how I had seen God move in the life of my first Flourish mentee, I shouldn't have been surprised, but when she said, 'Yes,' I still was.

"She had a Bible, but it had never been read. Quite literally, I had to explain that the books aren't in alphabetical order and that when she saw a chapter and verse, it would be represented with the number of the chapter: number of the verse! After returning home, we started meeting via phone weekly, at a time when her husband, who confessed that he doesn't believe in God, isn't home. Over the months, I could hear God softening her heart and heard her describe reports from others around her that had also noticed her changing into a more positive person! All this, despite the persecution she faces in her home, as she says that her husband accuses me of brainwashing her. As a mentor, it reminded me to be grateful for the loving Christian man that I get to serve God together with each day!

"God has brought two more ladies—wives and mothers, like me—who are currently enjoying the Flourish Bible study. Although we all have our own stories in life, it ensures that the vertical relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior, is strong, influencing all the horizontal relationships we have with our husbands, children, and others. If there is struggle in these horizontal relationships, often it's because the vertical relationship isn't as it should be! Flourish provides a one-on-one way to be accountable to another loving, caring, Christian woman who can help guide you to the Creator. For it's in Him that we need to have our identity."

2022 is going to be a year full of God's faithfulness, and we believe Flourish will be just a small part of it. If you're a woman who is looking to grow in your relationship with God or want to help other women grow, we'd love to talk with you! Check out [NorthlandChurch.net/Flourish](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Flourish) to learn more about Flourish! You can reach out to Jill directly by emailing [Jill.Bowles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Jill.Bowles@NorthlandChurch.net).

***Ladies, let's grow and flourish together!***

**FLOURISH INFORMATIONAL GATHERING**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 12:30-2 P.M.**  
**ROOM 4206/07**

# Family

## CHILDREN

**Hi! My name is Bethany Durys, and** I'm thrilled to be the new Director of Children's Ministries at Northland. We have enjoyed the long and successful ministry of Debbie Blahnik, and I am pleased to carry on in her place as she enjoys her retirement surrounded by her grandchildren.



Along with my husband, Chris, and my grown children, Taylor and Emily, we have been "Northlanders" for 18 years. I've been on staff at Northland for 15 years, where I've served in various roles. Originally from upstate New York, we transplanted to Florida 22 years ago. I am a graduate of Houghton College and Concordia University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Education.

Having grown up a PK (Pastor's Kid), my experience in Children's Ministry started in grade school as an assistant in Children's Church. Through the years, I've served in various capacities as a volunteer Children's Church teacher, Children's Ministry leader, and Student Ministries leader. I was also blessed to be part

of the Northland team who wrote The Worship, The Word & The Way, the Bible curriculum we use today in Children's Church.

I can't wait to see where God will lead Children's Ministries. After a long pause due to COVID, we're looking forward to helping our families connect back into the Northland community, but more importantly, to one another. Our goal is to host smaller family fun gatherings more often. Maybe you joined us for the Family Fun Night in September or went skating with us in October! These are the kind of fun, family events you can watch for in the spring! Come for activities such as ice skating, a return to Semoran Skateway, Family Fun Night on April Fools' Day, park days, and the "not-so-small" Daddy-Daughter Dance. Visit [NorthlandChurch.net/Children](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Children) for all the details!

Another area we are very passionate about is discipleship. From the first days of parenting with your child's birth to their graduation from grade school to middle school, we want to partner with you and support you as you disciple your child. Through classes such as Young Disciples, parenting seminars, and community connection, we hope to provide opportunities for both you and your child to learn more about who God is and what He has done. Together, we can cultivate a safe and fun environment for our youngest church members to learn about the love of Jesus for themselves and the entire world.

I look forward to my new role and would ask for your prayers for the success and growth of our children's ministry and the church as a whole. If you have any questions or simply want to connect, let's grab coffee! You can contact me at [Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net).

**TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO  
NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/CHILDREN**



# STUDENTS

## HIGH SCHOOL

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**  
Sundays 5-7 p.m., The Rink

**HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMPOUT**  
December 29-30, 2021  
Cost: \$20

**SEU WORSHIP CONCERT**  
Sunday, February 20, 2022, 7 p.m.  
Tickets: \$10

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT: LIFT WEEKEND**  
March 4-6, 2022  
Cost: \$150 (\$60 deposit)

**MFUGE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP**  
July 10-16, 2022  
Cost: \$450 (\$60 deposit)

Text [northlandstudents](tel:97000) to 97000 to receive high school updates via texts.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**LUG (Living Under Grace)**  
Wednesdays 6-8 p.m., The Rink.

**PKG UNPLUGGED**  
Wednesdays, starting January 12, 4-5:30 p.m.,  
(Registration required)  
Cost: \$20

**MIDDLE SCHOOL VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY**  
Mondays, starting January 10, 7-8 p.m.  
Registration is required.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT**  
February 11-13, 2022  
Who: Middle school students (grades 6-8)  
Cost: \$265 (\$60 deposit)

**STUDENT LIFE CAMP**  
June 6-10, 2022  
Who: Middle school students  
(completed 6-8 grade)  
Cost: \$355 (\$60 deposit)

Text [middleschool](tel:97000) to 97000 to receive middle school updates via texts.



*Meet Kim!*

**Northland Students' new administrator!**

Email Kim at [Kim.Andrescik@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Kim.Andrescik@NorthlandChurch.net) to be added to Student Ministries' weekly email list!



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND REGISTER AT**  
[NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/STUDENTS](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/STUDENTS)

# SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES ... TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING!

**As God continues to build His Kingdom** everywhere, He calls us to respond to what He is doing right here in our community. Through the past several months, God has continued to grow our disability ministry at Northland, which presents a huge need for volunteers to serve in very specific ways!

- **Children's Ministries:** Teachers and buddies are needed to assist children with disabilities as they learn about the God who loves them.
- **Buddy Break:** a free monthly respite program designed to give caregivers of kids with special needs a break from their ongoing caregiving responsibilities. Commit to four hours a month and make a huge difference to families that need a break from their caregiving duties.
- **Community Art Connection:** a daily arts program for adults with disabilities. Join us as we draw, paint, act, sculpt, cook, dance, and have fun each weekday!
- **FaithAbility:** a monthly (third Friday of every month) Bible study and connection group for adults with intellectual disabilities and their family and friends.

We invite you to take some time to consider how you will respond to what God is doing in our midst! For more information, email [Access@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Access@NorthlandChurch.net).



# FAITH, *love,* AND KICKBALL

BY MARGO KRAGH (WRITTEN 10/30/21)



## Tonight was a night we will always cherish.

When we first found out we were having a boy, we imagined many things we could look forward to as he grew. Playing basketball like his dad or football like his grandpa, going to his games and cheering from the sidelines, Jim being his coach, seeing him be part of a team with lots of friends, winning trophies and awards like most kids do. And then the diagnoses came in, and the dots started to connect. Our son



Team Captain, Matthew

would not be typical as we had assumed. His muscle tone was weak, he had a large head, his development was extremely delayed, and he had autism. Years went by, and it was clear, our dreams for him wouldn't be met the way we had planned. There were times when we were angry at God, asking Him, "Why? Why us?"

But tonight, our church family and village showed up and gave us a piece of that dream. Access Ministries at Northland Church and Community Arts Connection put on a Costume Kickball Tournament/Fundraiser for the special needs kids and adults at Northland. This group is Matthew's world and our lifeline. They made him the Captain of the team and named it "Matthew's Mariners." Twelve teams played. We thought we'd be going home early, but game after game, Matthew's team kept winning. The team and spectators cheered him on, making him feel like it was ALL about him.

Three hours later, they won the tournament! Matthew was ecstatic and the pride on Jim's face was priceless. Lots of happy and grateful tears. Not because Matthew was gifted in kickball, but because his biggest supporters lifted him up and celebrated him for who he was.

Tonight God showed us another glimpse of His goodness and how much He loves us.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ACCESS MINISTRIES  
AT [NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/ACCESS](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/ACCESS)**

## 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](http://NorthlandChurch.net/New).

## WORSHIP TIMES

**ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE**

Saturdays . . . . . 5 p.m.

Sundays . . . . . 9 and 11 a.m.

*Spanish interpretation and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation are 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](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Access).

Questions? Email [Access@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Access@NorthlandChurch.net) or call 407-937-1828.



**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.

**Read more about Pastor Gus** at [NorthlandChurch.net/PastorGus](http://NorthlandChurch.net/PastorGus) or scan the QR code below.



## GOVERNING ELDERS

**Danny Gordon**  
*Chairman*  
407-937-1762  
[Danny.Gordon@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Danny.Gordon@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Pastor Vince Taylor**  
*Vice Chairman*  
407-937-1769  
[Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Mike Kemp**  
*Finance Committee Member*  
407-937-1765  
[Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net)

**John Cortines**  
*Human Resources Committee Chairman*  
407-937-1761  
[John.Cortines@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:John.Cortines@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Dr. Nick Maroulis**  
*Human Resources Committee Member*  
407-937-1766  
[Nick.Maroulis@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Nick.Maroulis@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Chris Storms**  
407-937-1763  
[Chris.Storms@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Chris.Storms@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Owusu Amaning**  
*Human Resources Committee Member*  
407-937-1764  
[Owusu.Amaning@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Owusu.Amaning@NorthlandChurch.net)

## CONTACT INFO

522 Dog Track Road  
Longwood, FL 32750  
[NorthlandChurch.net](http://NorthlandChurch.net)  
[Hello@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Hello@NorthlandChurch.net)  
**Main Phone** 407-949-4000  
**Main Fax** 407-949-4020  
**Northland Bookstore**  
[NorthlandBookstore.com](http://NorthlandBookstore.com)

## CARE AND COUNSELING

**Crisis Phone line**  
407-949-7187

**Oviedo Counseling Clinic**  
407-244-3308  
[oviedocounseling.com](http://oviedocounseling.com)

**Open Doors Counseling**  
407-900-3218  
[opendoorscc.com](http://opendoorscc.com)

**Stephen Ministry**  
407-949-4013  
Lynda.Wgmason@  
NorthlandChurch.net

**Minister on Duty (MOD)**  
407-949-4000

**Prayer**  
[Pray.NorthlandChurch.net](http://Pray.NorthlandChurch.net)

## CONNECTING AT NORTHLAND

**First Steps**  
Lauren Travers  
407-937-1787  
Lauren.Travers@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
Text "Northland" to 97000

**Belong & Grow Partnership**  
Barbara Olsen  
407-949-7183  
Barbara.Olsen@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
Belong&Grow](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Belong&Grow)

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Serve](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Serve)

## GROWING AT NORTHLAND

**New Believers/Discipleship**  
Susan Gurnett  
407-760-6979  
Susan.Gurnett@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
Disciples](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples)

**Small Groups**  
407-937-1816  
Groups@NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Groups](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Groups)

**Classes, Studies and Ministries**  
Barbara Olsen  
407-949-7183  
Barbara.Olsen@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
Ministries](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Ministries)

## FAMILY AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

**Children's Ministries**  
Bethany Durys  
407-937-0541  
Bethany.Durys@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Children](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Children)

**Student Ministries**  
Student.Ministries@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Students](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Students)

**College & Young Adults**  
Bethany Durys  
407-937-0541  
Bethany.Durys@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
YoungAdults](http://NorthlandChurch.net/YoungAdults)

**Access (Disability) Ministries**  
407-937-1828  
Access@NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Access](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Access)

**LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS**  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions)

**Mission Trips**  
Matthew Shiles  
407-937-1768  
Matthew.Shiles@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[SomedaysToday.net](http://SomedaysToday.net)

**Disaster Response**  
Judy Head  
Judy.Head@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
DisasterResponse](http://NorthlandChurch.net/DisasterResponse)

**Prison and Jail Ministry**  
Matthew Shiles  
407-937-1768  
Matthew.Shiles@  
NorthlandChurch.net

## 121Hope Anti-Trafficking Ministry

Meg Johnson  
407-937-0547  
Meg.Johnson@  
NorthlandChurch.net  
[NorthlandChurch.net/121Hope](http://NorthlandChurch.net/121Hope)

## Homelessness

Thomas Denove  
tmdenove@gmail.com  
[NorthlandChurch.net/  
Homelessness](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Homelessness)

## PASTORAL SERVICES

### Baptism

- **Infants to 5-years-old**  
Pauline Hale  
Pauline.Hale@  
NorthlandChurch.net
- **Grade School**  
Renee Cantu  
407-949-4038  
Renee.Cantu@  
NorthlandChurch.net
- **Adult/student**  
Julie Meeker  
407-937-1772  
Julie.Meeker@  
NorthlandChurch.net

**Weddings and Funerals**  
Julie Meeker  
407-937-1772  
Julie.Meeker@  
NorthlandChurch.net

## PASTORS

**Gus Davies**  
*Interim Senior Pastor*  
Gus.Davies@  
NorthlandChurch.net

**Marshall Hall**  
*Worship Pastor*  
Marshall.Hall@  
NorthlandChurch.net

**Rob Hemphill**  
*Student Ministries Pastor*  
Rob.Hemphill@  
NorthlandChurch.net

**John Tardonia**  
*Pastor, Care and Counseling*  
John.Tardonia@  
NorthlandChurch.net

# CONNECT WITH US!

**New to Northland?  
Need prayer?  
Looking for community?**

TEXT "NORTHLAND" to 97000.

