

North Main



2024 | October Newsletter

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Excerpt from Chapter 9: Facing Ourselves by Ruth Haley Barton

When we find ourselves in the rugged terrain of deeper self-knowledge we may feel very alone, we may feel ashamed, we may feel as if we are the only ones who have ever had to experience such a soul shaking experience. For some of us – especially those of us who have been Christian for a long time – the view of the self that we gain in solitude is shocking. We thought we were better off than that! We thought we had come farther. By now we have a lot riding on our ability to keep these false expressions of ourselves under cover. What's more, we're not sure there is any other self than the self we we have constructed in reaction to the wounds and pains of our life. We have identified with this false self for so long and so relied on its energy to propel us forward that we don't know who we will be if this precarious cliff we are standing on, this place where God has instructed us to stand and wait.

It is comforting – and absolutely essential – to know that this is a very predictable place on the spiritual journey. In classic Christian tradition it is known as the process of illumination (waking up to what reality actually is) and purgation (being stripped of that within us that is false). If we are unaware of this stage, we might fear that we are somehow falling off the spiritual path rather than trusting it as one of the most important passages of the journey.

The purgative passage is characterized by a fierce stripping away, a dying to the only self we have ever known. Intellectual categories, relational and behavioral patterns, even theological beliefs and spiritual practices that have served us in the past begin to crack and crumble. There is a profound sense of vulnerability and disorientation. We feel like a mess – completely out of control.

At first we try to grasp at any handhold that might keep us from falling into the abyss of our nothingness. We hold on to whatever we can for as long as we can, but eventually we must let go... The struggle is real because the danger is real. It is the danger of living the whole of our life as one long defense against the reality of our condition.

October Sermons

beyond
the

NOISE



SEPT. OCT. NOV.
2024

10/6 Burnout

Psalm 131:1-3; Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Key Point: "Knowledge and understanding is good, but when it becomes all-consuming it leads to burnout."

10/13 Soul Rest

Matthew 18:1-4

Key Point: "Childlike faith and trust in GOD is the key to true contentment and soul rest."

10/20 Empty

Philippians 2:1-11

Key Point: "We must be empty in order to be filled."

10/27 The Mirror

Lamentations 3:22-33

Key Point: "When GOD makes us wait upon Him we are forced to truly look at ourselves."

Wednesday Nights

Starting September 11th @ 



Dinner
6:00



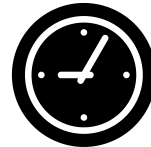
**Adult
Studies**



**Youth
Group**



**Kids
Ministry**



Ends
8:00

Programming starts at 6:30

RSVP for your group at:
northmaincog.org/wednesday

When you register Yes or No to the question "I am planning on coming for dinner at 6:00pm" we plan our food accordingly for the entire length of the group and you will not need to RSVP again until we announce new groups. If you are not sure if you've registered for your group, you can reach out to our Office Administrator, Marylou Palmer at MarylouP@northmaincog.org to ask.



October Events

northmaincog.org/events

06

Connection Luncheon

@6:00pm

Join us for our October Connection Luncheon held after the Sunday Morning service. Any newcomers to North Main eat for free, so make sure to invite a friend!

On the menu:

Bacon-covered Meatloaf with Redskin Smashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Fresh Baked Roll, and Chocolate Chip Cookie.

12

Women's Hike

@10:00am

2 CHALLENGING Hikes at Cook Forest in Clarion County!

All women 18 years and older are welcome to join us on Saturday, October 12th. Our 1st hike will be on the Longfellow trail. We will meet at the parking lot at the Log Cabin Environmental Learning Classroom in Leeper, PA., off of Forest Road at 10 am. This will be a 2 to 3-mile hike lasting 1 to 2 hours.

Before heading to the 2nd hike, we will be eating lunch at the picnic tables located in the parking lot. (Please pack a lunch for yourself).

The trail for the 2nd hike is called Cook Trail. It is located off of River Road. We can carpool to this location. Cook trail is 2.5 miles and will take 1 to 2 hours to complete.

Again, these hikes are going to be CHALLENGING due to the change in elevation!! Be sure to dress for the weather & bring plenty of water & snacks. Please email Beth Marino bamjeep8@yahoo.com or Melissa Hickman MelissaH@northmaincog.org to RSVP so we know you'll be joining us.

Dogs are welcomed at the park, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

****Please note: not all cell phone service works in Cook Forest, so be sure to plan ahead.**

Driven Youth Events

All Students in Grades 6-12 are welcome. Invite your friends!

Wednesday Nights

6:00p dinner 6:30p group

Youth Pickup is at 8:00pm. Drive around to the back of the church and pick them up at Entrance 10.

28

Reality Tour

@6:00pm

North Main is hosting this Reality tour on September 30th here in the Life Center. It is a drug prevention program for youth and their parents/guardians. Talking about substance use disorders is hard, but talking about it is one of the most important protective factors. How do you start the conversation? Reality Tour is an inclusive drug prevention program developed by a parent for parents where you and your child will learn coping skills and hear real experiences that will be remembered for years. **Get tickets at RealityTour.org.**



CARE TEAM

Volunteers Needed

Meal Train♥Funeral Meals♥Card Writing♥Phone Calls

northmaincog.org/SERVE

Our Meal Train team is still looking for a few more volunteers to share their culinary talents with our church family on an as-needed basis. If you aren't a cook but would still like to get involved, purchasing a pre-made meal or a gift card from a local restaurant is a great way to help. Sign up on our website: northmaincog.org/serve and find the Care Team option on page 2.



North Main Street Church of God
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www.northmaincog.org



Sundays at 10:30am



724-285-4214



info@northmaincog.org



Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm



[/northmaincog](https://www.facebook.com/northmaincog)



[@northmaincog](https://www.youtube.com/northmaincog)



whitehallcamp.org/revive-ladies-retreat

Ladies will once again have the opportunity to worship, learn, relax, spend time in prayer, fellowship, laugh, and be revived! Ladies will also get to choose from a variety of breakout sessions to attend on Saturday with relevant topics. There will be a variety of free-time options offered throughout the weekend, including spa stations, a coffee house, crafts, and a movie.



northmaincog.org/dedication

Our church commits to partnering with you as you strive to raise your children in the ways of the Lord & teach them to know, love, & serve Jesus. The next child dedication service is coming up on Sunday, November 3rd with a required class beforehand. Registration is required so make sure to go to NORTHMAINCOG.ORG/DEDICATION to sign up!