

HIS JOY IS YOUR STRENGTH

Pastor Justin

Nehemiah 8:10 “...Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” The setting of these words were spoken in a time of great distress for the people of Israel. With the majority of the people held in captivity, and only with a remnant making it back to Israel to repair the walls and the city of Jerusalem. The leader, Nehemiah has been falsely accused, he has been threatened and had false prophets attempt to lie to him concerning God’s will. Nothing seems to be going right for Nehemiah. One step forward and two steps backwards. Yet, in the midst of all the trouble around him he declares these words, “that the joy of the Lord is his strength.” Why joy? He could have used different words like, power, or might, something depicting strength. But instead he picks the word joy! Joy is not just being happy because circumstances are going good. Joy is a state of being produced by the Holy Spirit dwelling on the inside of you. Paul tells to us in Romans 14:17 “the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Notice the byproduct of dwelling in the Holy Spirit is 3 things, one of which is joy. That the nature of God wants to manifest itself through you! When we allow the joy of the Lord to manifest itself in our lives, we throw the enemy a curve ball. Our enemy has no idea what to do when we are joyful despite our circumstances! So the next time you want to complain, shout for joy instead!

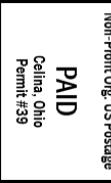
newLife THRIVE YOUTH CORNER

Tis the Season to be... You know the song, but I want to ask you, “What is the Lord saying it is the season for?” Grace? Mercy? Charity? Boldness? Evangelism? Let’s be intentional about what the Lord is saying in our lives. We are always in *a* season, but knowing which season we are in is the hard part. Take the time to hear the voice of God and boldly proceed where He tells us to go! Be bold! Do something! Our Father will be pleased with your motivation and bless you for taking the step! Be listening!

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The Connection

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Check out our Audio and Video Podcasts or Live Stream our services at:

nlcc-celina.org

We will be printing our annual "Classified Ad" insert page in January.

This is a list of church members who have a business or a service they would like people to know about. We really want to bless those in our own body first if we can. Anyone wanting to advertise will need to submit an **electronic**, business card sized ad to Nichole by January 17, at atmoffice@atmintl.org. If you submitted one for the last ad please send an email letting her know you wish to place the ad again or if there are any changes to it. Those not responding will be removed from the ad.



The office will be reopening on Monday, January 3, at 9:00 am.



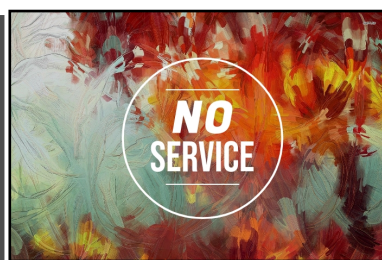
Due to the holiday and the offices being closed, this will be the last newsletter of the year. Our next newsletter will come out on January 12, 2021. Please be sure to read your bulletins to keep up on any events or check out our Facebook group page for any upcoming announcements and news.

January 20-22

Eschatology



Save these dates for our next DSM conference that is available to all! Pastor Gary will be leading this seminar so you won't want to miss it! You can register online at garyking.brownpapertickets.com



**Wednesday,
December 29**

There will be no service on this day. We encourage you to spend time in worship as a family instead.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Tom Sanford

Let me introduce you to Ted and Alice Dull. They are a sweet couple from St. Mary's who have been attending New Life for a little over a year. They greatly enjoy how friendly everyone is and how transparent the teaching is from the Word of God. They have been faithfully attending church almost all of their lives! Alice grew up catholic and graduated from Coldwater. Ted grew up in St. Mary's and his family raised him in the methodist church. When these two lovebirds met they knew instantly they were meant for each other. In ministry, they have enjoyed teaching through the young kids years. They've taught Royal rangers classes, worked in the nursery at church, and also were custodians at church! Ted and Alice have been married 42 years and have 2 adult sons. Lincoln is married and has two sons where they live in Seneca, South Carolina. Ben is their youngest son and attends New Life regularly with his family. Ted and Alice have enjoyed for a long time going camping and also watching trains. They love to see the trains go by and find it relaxing. Dresher, OH is one of their favorite destinations to camp and watch the trains go by. If they were given a million dollars, they would love to bless the church and then get a nice camper! Make the time to get to know Ted and Alice soon! They are a great couple!



DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Discipleship 1: December 19, 5 - 7 pm

Discipleship 3: December 19, 26, 8:00 - 9:15 am



TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

Pastor Bruce

God can give you lasting benefits and blessings as you learn how to rejoice in trials. Sometimes, life is tough. And sometimes things that happen in our life seem to just plain STINK! All of us have been through trials and temptation. The enemy is still at work in the earth, so there are likely more trials headed our way. Therefore, you need to know what to do during seasons of trouble. How do you even get out of bed in the morning when you are in a season of trials? How do you begin to attain to what James said in the Bible: "**Count it all JOY when you fall into divers temptations?**" Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. And you will be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4 When I talk about counting it all joy, I don't mean being fake and trying to put on a superwoman or superman attitude, beaming from ear-to-ear about some tragedy in

your life. I mean that you can seek Father God in the quiet place in your heart in the midst of the trial and learn to trust Him through the trial. It is through this process that you will find that JOY begins to well up in your spirit. In a trial, feelings of heaviness, stress, fear, doubt, and other difficult emotions often come up. You need to practice responding in new ways to various trials because your emotions may not naturally line up with the Word of God until you learn how to actively put on the mind of Christ. Maybe you need to reframe how you view your trials. It would be easy to accuse God or others and become angry and frustrated. Begin to see them through the lens of the Word of God. "**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.**" Romans 8:28

*How to
rejoice
in trials*