

# new life *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST - NOVEMBER 2017

## Steve Says . . .

. . . that Chris Mulpas will be sharing with us at our annual Thanksgiving celebration this year. Here is a short bio that he has provided of himself.



Chris Mulpas is an evangelist who travels the country, proclaiming the Good News through song and sermon. After faithfully serving in located preaching ministry for twenty years, he and his family recently moved to his hometown of Centerburg, Ohio to begin this traveling ministry. His wife Amy, and boys,

Carson and Aiden proudly support Chris, and happily join him on the road whenever possible. Chris incorporates contemporary music and gospel music to encourage the Lord's churches and challenge the lost to obey Christ as Savior and Lord. Chris prays you leave his services encouraged and inspired to carry out the Great Commission, armed with the encouragement of one of his favorite verses, Revelation 2:10, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

I recently met Chris and was impressed by his heart and desire to trust God with his entire life. Part of the result of that faith is stepping out into a music ministry. I am certain that we will be greatly blessed by his music and message and that we will enjoy a memorable evening together. I am looking forward to sharing it with you.

## Church Events

- **Nov 6th - Upward Evaluations 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - Upward Evaluations 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Nov 8<sup>th</sup> - Upward Evaluations 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - All Church Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00pm**
- **Nov 23 - Thanksgiving**
- **Nov 24 - Office Closed**
- **Nov 29<sup>th</sup> - Beveridge Discussion Group 7:00pm**

## Mission and The Lorax

I recently watched Dr. Seuss' movie entitled "The Lorax" and it started the wheels turning regarding our mission statement here at New Life. Before I get into my musings, let me share a brief synopsis of the film. It's about a twelve year old named Ted who lives in a place virtually devoid of nature, no flowers or trees grow in the town of Thneedville. Ted would very much like to win the heart of Audrey, the girl of his dreams, but to do this, he must find that which she most desires: a Truffula tree. To get it, Ted delves into the story of the Lorax, once the gruff guardian of the forest, and the Once-ler, who let greed overtake his respect for nature. Aside from the environmental agenda of the movie, I really enjoyed the underlying storyline, which is based on a Seuss quote, "Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."

That simple and yet profound phrase made me think about how we are committed to following Jesus, by loving God, loving people, and making disciples. We would all agree that Jesus is the answer to all of the issues faced by the world, but He is not a magic wand that we can just wave around and make everything better. In fact, the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ will only make a permanent impact when it is planted in our lives and allowed to grow.

If we are truly going to be a church that lives out our mission we must ask ourselves a question, "how deeply rooted are we in Christ and the Gospel?" Many of us have grown up in the Church for most of our lives while others are just beginning their journey of faith. No matter where we are on the path of spiritual formation we need to do everything we can to allow our lives to be saturated by Jesus Christ and commit ourselves to following Him wherever, whenever, and however He leads.

We should also ask ourselves if we truly love God with **ALL** of our heart, mind, soul, and strength? In the movie, Ted, refused to obey the lesson of the Lorax and did not heed his warnings. Scripture tells us that we love God by keeping His commands. We must not only listen to His truth, but we must also act upon that truth in obedience.

When we think about loving others we often think of ways in which we can help and serve them. We want to find ways in which we can make their lives better. The most effective way to meet those needs and to love people is to be motivated by a spirit of caring. It's not enough to simply wave our wand of compassion without genuinely caring for others. Is Christ our motivation for loving and serving those around us?

At the end of the movie, Ted, is trying to convince the citizens of Thneedville to follow him and experience life-changing truth as he did. Ted shared about an environment that was filled with life and beauty, but how the people's rebellious actions landed them in a world filled with fake promises and perpetual destruction. As with any good storyline, redemption is found in a seed that is nurtured and allowed to grow and flourish bringing new life and authentic beauty back to the people of Thneedville. This is our role as disciples of Christ that are making other disciples, leading them to experience the truth of God's love in a life-changing way. Who are you influencing with life-changing truth?

Through it all, it is the genuine care of Ted that motivates him to make life better for himself, his family, and his community. When we as a church care about our God-given, biblical mission an awful lot, then our life and the lives of others will definitely get better. Not because we wave our wand and wish it so, but because our obedience will flow out of a genuine care for others and their journey of faith. There will still be hardships and it will require determination and intentionality just as it did for Ted, but the fruit of our labor will last for eternity and that is a happy ending that just keeps going!



## Kyle's Korner

As we move into a time of year where we are specifically reminded to be thankful for what we have been blessed with, I wanted to take time to thank many of you for all the ways you have allowed the Lord to use you as blessings. Many of you have been dear friends to our family and have shown kindness and generosity many times over, allowing the Lord's love to shine through you. From well-timed gifts to kind words, many of you in this congregation have gone out of the way to make sure that our family feels welcomed here and I thank you deeply for that. Also, in youth ministry, it is impossible to do the things we do without the committed help of many volunteer workers. Thank you all for your time and work that has been dedicated to serving the youth at New Life. The work you do for the Lord is appreciated and He takes note of those who serve to His glory. Also, we have several people who volunteer their time to help out with our Upward program. Coaches, referees, devotion givers and score keepers all keep the program alive and I want to thank you so much for all that you do.

Thank you brothers and sisters at New Life for your open hearts and your generous hands. Thank you for giving with your resources, words and time. Thank you for being the examples you are of Christ's love. Happy Thanksgiving!!

## Jason's Jam

Hard to believe, but the holiday season is here. One of my favorite events of the year, the All Church Thanksgiving dinner, is right around the corner. It's hard to believe how fast another year is going, but it is quite amazing how much there is to be thankful for. I am thankful to be part of a Church that is unified in our mission. I am thankful for all the volunteers that help train our little ones up in the ways of Christ. I am thankful to be a child of God, and all the joy he brings to every moment of life. Colossians 3:17 tells us, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." I challenge you to take time to stop and reflect on how thankful you are to God, for all he has done, and for all he is. He is so good.

## November Birthdays

- 1 – Joshua Hart
- 2 – John Ward
- 3 – Susan Arnold, Miriam Brokaw
- 5 – Maxine Hardin, Larry Thompson
- 7 – Alyson Noe
- 12 – Ilene Ridenhour, Renetta Shaffer
- 13 – Matthew South,
- 17 – Lori Shaffer
- 19 – Paul Hamilton
- 21 – Yvonne Beveridge
- 23- Emily Browne, Stacy Ward
- 24 – Auburn Bayse, Sue Beal, Merista Brown, Angela Jones
- 25 – Jennifer Hamilton
- 27 – Melissa Brokaw
- 29 – Missy Smith

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday, December 10  
Sonshine Singers Performance 6:00pm
- Sunday, December 10-24  
Christmas Card Exchange
- Sunday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Service – 10:00am (combined)
- Monday, December 25  
Merry Christmas to All

