



Winter 2024

Upcoming Events

Slam Dunk with Dad!

Saturday, February 3rd @ 2pm

Watch the Bears shoot some hoops while getting to hang out with your Dad! Sign up on REALM for tickets.

Service Saturday

Saturday, February 10th @ 10 am

We will be throwing a Valentine's Day party for the residents at Bolingreen Health & Rehabilitation. All ages welcome!

Easter Resurrection Garden

Sunday, March 17th at 3 pm

Come make a resurrection garden to celebrate our risen Savior!

Toddler/Preschool Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 23rd @ 10 am

A fun gathering for our littlest ones (4K and younger) to enjoy the sweetness of Easter!

Sticks and Stones

Have you ever heard the saying "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" This untrue rhyme was once popular on the playground in my day. And while I never got in a fistfight at school, I do remember being hurt by or hurting others with unkind words or insults. Is there anything wrong with calling people names or using unkind words towards others (especially when we feel they deserve it)? Let's look at what the Bible says!

All people are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26)

God created in His image every person that has and ever will live. And we know that God is perfect so He doesn't make any mistakes in His creation. So that boy in your class who gets on your nerves by bragging about the better grade he made on a test? God made him and loves him. Or that girl who bosses everyone around and pouts unless you play her way? God made her and loves her. Or how about your sibling that is always playing with your toys or shoving you in the backseat of the car? God made everyone in your family and put you together exactly according to His perfect plan. So when we speak unkindness or insult others, we are hurting those created and beloved by God.

Jesus calls us to respond in love. (Matthew 5:43-48)

Let's be honest, sometimes it is hard to live with fellow image-bearers. But has Jesus called us to be kind only to those that we like? No! Jesus tells His followers to "love your enemies [and] pray

for those who persecute you." (verse 44) By responding to others in this revolutionary way, Jesus says we are acting as God's "true children" for God shows His love and goodness to everyone (verse 45) and calls us to do the same.

Jesus understands how difficult it is to live with others. He had siblings and friends too! However, Jesus came to Earth and lived a perfect life. He showed perfect love to everyone He met. (Just read the gospels to see what this looked like!) Even more amazing, He lived and died to fix our broken relationship with God and break the curse of sin. Because of Jesus's sacrifice, we are no longer bound by our sinful nature that makes it impossible for us to love those that are difficult to love. When we put our faith in Jesus, He gives us a new heart so that we can see and treat others as God sees and treats us - with a never-ending love that we did nothing to deserve. As 1 John 4:10 says, "we love because He first loved us."

So the next time you are tempted to speak unkindness or use hurtful words, ask Jesus to help you see that person as He sees them and to give you the courage and wisdom to treat that person with the love God has shown to you.

Family Time

- Ask your parents if there are other silly rhymes or sayings they remember from childhood. You might be surprised that you recognize some of them!
- After reading the above referenced Bible verses, discuss how the Scripture applies to you and your family. Take time to pray and ask God for His help and forgiveness if this is an area of struggle.

NMPC Kids Spotlight

Let's get to know the wonderfully kind and fun, Clifton Shepley!

What is something you are looking forward to in the new year?

I made some new friends this year at school so I am looking forward to playdates with them.

What do you know how to do that you could teach other kids?

I am interested in astronomy and learned a lot last year. I could teach other kids about the planets. For example, Saturn is losing its rings.

Would you rather have a pet unicorn or dragon?

I would rather have a pet dragon because I could burn things with it.

What is something God has been teaching you?

God is teaching me about being kind to others.



Clifton, age 9

Children's Choir

Our children will be singing on Palm Sunday (March 24th). Enclosed are the lyrics, along with instructions on how to find an audio version of the songs.

We will practice on Wednesday evenings or you can learn the songs at home.

We will practice with the Ensemble on Sunday, March 17th at 4:30 pm.

There will also be an opportunity for our younger children to participate in Palm Sunday.

Stay tuned for additional details.

What a wonderful way to reflect and remember the season of Easter!

NMPC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open! Applications can be found on the website or in the preschool office. Please direct any questions Holly Shepley (holly@nmpc.net).



WE CAN HELP!



Last semester our Wednesday Night crew partnered with Lydia Johnson's 4th grade class at Springdale Elementary to collect can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and we collected **over 1,200 tabs!**

Keep saving your can tabs and come join us on Wednesday Nights!

(Psst....there will be more prizes if we hit our goals....another playground pizza party, perhaps?!?)



BUT I TELL YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU, THAT YOU MAY BE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5:44 -45