

Family Information

Northland 50th Anniversary

2018 will be a great year of celebrating 50 years of God's faithfulness! Everyone is invited to share pictures, any historical Northland Family data and your favorite Northland memories with the "Northland 50th Facebook" and/or with the 50th historical committee. Please pray that our 50th Anniversary year will be a blessing to many and an amazing year of gratitude to our Faithful Loving Lord! Thank you for all your help church family! Vicki Cowans and Robbie McVicker"

Hospitalized

Clyde Rollie is in Grant Hospital, room 647. Please continue to pray for him.

Jesus Loves The Little Children

In our loving and serving body here at Northland, we have many beautiful opportunities to care for the children God has given us. One way is to support our children's Bible classes, by sharing in teaching needs, preparing class materials, and serving on planning teams. We are embarking on a new curriculum for our children and hope to have help to provide a God-filled experience. Please see Art Silva if you can help in any of these areas for our children's classes.

Another great opportunity is with our Child Care ministry. Northland chose to minister to God's children through this work. Lately, the body has been interacting more with this mission, and there will be new ways to serve. Please see Jeff McVicker or Tara Bell for more information on these plans and to participate in a Child Care support team.

See Lynn Paden's article on page three in this bulletin, it will have more details about the children's ministry at Northland.

Calendar

January

27 Snow Tubing @ Mad River Mountain
31 50's Plus at Willow Brook Village

February

2 TGIF Child Care, Movie Night, 6:30 pm
4 Congregational Devo 9:00 am
Combined Classes
7 Singing At Willow Brook Home, 10:30 am
11 Services At Willow Brook
11 Single Sisters Lunch
16-18 Winterfest At Gatlinburg
23 TGIF Meeting 6:30 pm
25 Combined Worship 9:00 am

Contribution Statements

The contribution statements for 2017 are available in the church office.

For The Month of January

Invitation/ Responses: Jeff McVicker
Foyer Duty: Jack Evans
Greeters: Art and Kythrie Silva

Communion Servers

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Patrick Boateng | Perry Coate |
| Jimi Foster | James Milnor |
| Yaw Odoom | Phil Stafa |
| Yaw Tiekou | Randy Yates |

Contribution

| | Last Week | Average YTD |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| General: | \$5242 | \$5344 |
| Designated: | \$185 | \$524 |



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A Highway Will Be There

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. . . they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. - Isaiah 35:1-2

Sometimes this world seems like a wilderness, a barren place without meaning or direction; yet God is faithful, and when we fix our hearts on eternal things, God can show us blossoms of truth. Perhaps he may help us understand a scripture that never made sense before, or perhaps he may show us a glimpse of his glory in his Creation, for the earth is full of the knowledge of his splendor.

Sometimes it seems as if we are in a desert where everything is harsh and hopeless; yet God is love, and when we walk by faith instead of by sight, he can give us blooms of grace. Perhaps God may show us kindness in an unexpected place, or perhaps he may simply reassure us that he rejoices in just being with us, for he is our Maker and he loves us just for who we are.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, Be strong, do not fear; your God will come. - Isaiah 35:3-4

When our knees give way and our hearts are overcome with fear, Jesus reassures us that he has come, and he will carry us each step. God is merciful, and he has delivered us from perils we didn't even notice. And in his overflowing grace, he opens the eyes and ears of our hearts so that we may understand the glory of the message of the cross of Jesus -

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. - Isaiah 35:5-6

How gracious is our God, who gives our spirits the quiet joy of knowing that he cares for us. How compassionate is the Lord our God, who makes living water gush forth in this wasteland to renew our minds, to cleanse our hearts, and to reassure us that he is with us.

And no matter where we have wandered and no matter how thick the darkness we wander into may be and no matter how deep the miry pits we stumble into may be, whenever we call on God with our hearts, a highway will be there that takes us to God's side -

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. - Isaiah 35:8

Jesus came to be the Way, a highway that human hands couldn't have built, a highway paved with truth and understanding and grace, a highway where we may have the lasting peace of knowing that our Heavenly Father is near. - Mark Garner

Services

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 am |
| Sunday Ghana Bible Study | 9:30 am |
| Sunday Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Sunday Ghana Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Sunday Spanish Worship | 3:00 pm |
| Wednesday Evening | 7:00 pm |

Evangelist: Bobby Graham

Elders: Steve Carver, Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos

The Beginning Of Wisdom

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. - Proverbs 9:10

You have brought me so far.

I know so much. Names, verbs, images. My mind overflows, a drawer that cannot close.

Unscathed among the tortured. Ignorant parchment uninscribed, light strokes only, where a scribe tried out a pen.

I am so small, a speck of dust moving across the huge world. The world is a speck of dust in the universe.

Are you holding the universe? You hold onto my smallness. How do you grasp it, how does it not slip away?

I know so little.

You have brought me so far.

- Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

Announcements

The Roar of the Crowd

On a balmy October afternoon in 1982, Badger Stadium in Madison, Wisconsin was packed. More than sixty thousand diehard University of Wisconsin fans were watching their football team take on Michigan State University. It soon became obvious that MSU had the better team. What seemed odd, however, as the score became more lopsided, were the burst of applause and shouts of joy from the Wisconsin fans. Even though their team was being pummeled on the field by the opposing team, they were smiling and high-fiving each other as if they were winning rather than losing. How could this be?

It turned out that seventy miles away, the Milwaukee Brewers were beating the St. Louis Cardinals in Game Three of the 1982 World Series. Many of the fans in the stands were listening to portable radios—and responding to something other than what they saw on the field.

How is it that Paul could write, “. . .For I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties” (I Corinthians 12:10)? He always seemed to have a positive attitude when things were going badly. Did he enjoy pain? Did he enjoy losing? No, not at all. But he was tuned in to another reality—he knew that even though he was experiencing bad news, he was in touch with the good news about Jesus Christ, through the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

If your only reality is the world—what you see and hear all around you—you will become discouraged and begin to feel like a loser. But if you listen to the voice of God, you will be aware of a different reality—one that is cause for rejoicing. God is in control. “The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6) In the midst of problems and difficulties, we know that “all things work together for good” to those who are tuned in to God. (Romans 8:28)

Jesus Loves The Little Children

Mark 9:36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, **37** “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Psalms 127:3 Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

Matt 18:10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Our great God is clear in His word in the Old and New Testament of the precious value of children. He teaches us how we are to welcome them, embrace them with love, and to teach and nurture them because they are gifts from God. We have some wonderful little gifts in our midst; in our church family, in our neighborhood and in our Child Care Center.

We have just had an uplifting cultural season of generosity to others and especially to children. God reminds us that our care and nurture of others and especially children is not limited to a season but always.

In our loving and serving body here at Northland, we have many beautiful opportunities to care for the children God has given us. One way is to support our children's Bible classes, by sharing in teaching needs, preparing class materials, and serving on planning teams. We are embarking on a new curriculum for our children and hope to have help to provide a God-filled experience. Please see Art Silva if you can help in any of these areas for our children's classes. You need not worry about having to teach alone because we are hoping to be able to teach in pairs for support and continuity and to be in a rotation so that we may all have our own class and worship time. You will be blessed in this work.

Another great opportunity is with our Child Care ministry. Northland chose to minister to God's children through this work. Lately, the body has been interacting more with this mission, and there will be new ways to serve. On November 18, the Child Care staff, an elder, a deacon and several church members met for an inservice on a new curriculum for the children that would include Bible teaching. In our efforts to fulfill God's commands, we hope to support the staff with Bible lessons, develop an ongoing volunteer program, and continue current Congregational involvement. Please see Jeff McVicker or Tara Bell for more information on these plans and to participate in a Child Care support team. Also please remember to look at the scheduled events for ongoing childcare opportunities. Be assured, God will bless these efforts.

- Lynn Paden