

Family Information

Ladies Class

Ladies Sunday Morning Spring Quarter Class is "God's Gift of the Holy Spirit." Class begins **TODAY**, Sunday, March 4th at 9:30 a.m. in room E31. All women are welcome!

Save the Date!

May 4-5 at the Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, OH. Please mark your calendars for this Northland Women's Retreat. This will be Friday evening, May 4th thru Saturday, May 5th. More details to follow.

Northland Spring Banquet

Mark your calendars for the Spring Church Banquet!
"Through the Decades!"

Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City
 April 14th 5:30 pm Cost is \$16.50/adult
 Sign up will begin March 18th

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Donna Smith at the death of her mother.

Spring Sunday AM Adult Bible Class

This Spring, the Sunday morning class will be on Prayers From the Old Testament. We'll look at some of the longer prayers by David, Moses, Hannah, Daniel, Solomon and others, and will learn how prayer brought them closer with God. The class will meet in E41/42, and the teachers will include Steve Carver, Phil Stafa, Leon Norwood, and Mike Paden. Schedule note: on March 4, we'll conclude the Winter Hebrews class, and the new series will begin on March 11.

PRAYER REQUEST

Paula Robbins will be having hip replacement surgery on March 5th. Please be praying for her.

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 7:30 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

Calendar

March

4 Spring Bible Classes Begin
 4 Teen Meeting With Young Adults
 7 Singing At Willow Brook Home, 10:30am
 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
 11 Single Sisters Lunch
 16 TGIF and Young Adults Euchre Tournament
 24 Pizza and Prayer, 6:00 pm
 29 Child Care Easter Egg Hunt



Set Your Clocks Ahead Next Sunday

For The Month of March

Invitation/ Responses: Mike Evans
Foyer Duty: Bobby Graham Jr.
Greeters: Mike and Leisha Evans

Communion Servers

James Allison	John Allison
Lynn Champney	Glenn Culler
David Estep	Leon Norwood
Frank Rynearson	Art Silva

Contribution

Last Week	Average YTD
------------------	--------------------

General:	\$4307	\$5232
Designated:	\$120	\$294



**4581 Cleveland Ave.
 Columbus, Ohio 43231
 (614) 410-5860**

Website
 ncofamily.org

March 4, 2018
 Volume 27, Number 9

Jesus' Reassurance For The Fearful

(With A Brief Field Guide To Ohio's Sparrows)

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care . . . So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. - Matthew 10:28-31

This world is full of fears, and every day we read bad news about many dangers. Yet none of them can damage or kill what matters most, for God has our souls safely in his hands. God cares for each sparrow, and Jesus reassures us that we are worth more to him than many birds. All of the many species of sparrows look much the same, yet this is another subtle reminder to look beyond outward appearances. Each of these sparrows has a distinctive personality that tells us about God. There are over 15 types of sparrows living in Ohio, many of which you've seen or heard, perhaps without even realizing it.

The song of the Savannah Sparrow is simple yet quite soothing, so it is frequently used in movie soundtracks. The White-Throated Sparrow spends most of the year in Canada, yet it winters in Ohio. Its song is mournful, yet moving, as it sings of home. As each sparrow is dear to God, he gives each of us our own walk of faith and our own song to sing. Over the years, habitat changes keep forcing the Lark Sparrow to look for the special soil it needs. One such place is a park in Northwest Ohio where this pretty bird can stay. Likewise, God knows that each of us has particular needs, and he finds homes for each of us too -

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. - Psalm 84:3

The Vesper Sparrow actually likes barren surroundings; and it gets its name from its habit of being quiet all day, except for the twilight hours when it sings clearly. This eccentric bird reminds us that each of us is special to God in our own way. You've often seen the House Sparrow (the males have gray 'caps' and chestnut napes). Years ago, they were introduced from Europe by confused scientists who had wrong information about its diet and habitat. Yet God helps these resilient birds to live with the silly ways of humans.

In contrast are Le Conte's Sparrow and Nelson's Sharp-Tailed Sparrow. They tremble helplessly in the face of danger, so they live in tall, thick reeds, and God gives them streaks of orange and gray that make them almost impossible to spot. God cares for these fearful creatures, and we are worth more to him than many sparrows.

They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes, declares the Lord. - Hosea 11:11

Our flesh is weak and our hearts may tremble, the world may mistreat us and harm us, yet God has prepared a home for us where we may find peace and rest for our souls.

- Mark Garner

Loving The Unlikable

The Greek language comes out with another word for love. It is the word *agape* . . . *agape* is something of the understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill for all men. It is a love that seeks nothing in return. It is an overflowing love; it's what theologians would call the love of God working in the lives of men. And when you rise to love on this level, you begin to love men, not because they are likeable, but because God loves them. You look at every man, and you love him because you know God loves him. And he might be the worst person you've ever seen.

And this is what Jesus means, I think, in this very passage when he says, "Love your enemy." And it's significant that he does not say, "Like your enemy." Like is a sentimental something, an affectionate something. There are a lot of people that I find it difficult to like. I don't like what they do to me. I don't like what they say about me and other people. I don't like their attitudes. I don't like some of the things they're doing. I don't like them. But Jesus says love them. And love is greater than like. Love is understanding, redemptive goodwill for all men, so that you love everybody, because God loves them. You refuse to do anything that will defeat an individual, because you have *agape* in your soul.

- Martin Luther King, Jr., 1957

Youth Announcements

Friday March 9th- Youth game night at the Church. 6:30-9:30

Friday March 16th- Euchre tournament at the Church, 6-10.(All ages are invited)



Saturday March 24th- Pizza and prayer starting at 6:00 p.m.(All ages are invited)



The Sacred Fountain

Thou Whose hand did lead Thy chosen people
Through the desert on their pilgrim way,
In Thy mercy grant us now Thy blessing,
Jesus help us all to watch and pray.

Father, Thou art pure and holy, holy,
May our hearts Thy temple be,
O, make us humble, meek and lowly,
Poor in spirit, Savior, more like Thee.

Give us water from the sacred fountain,
While we journey in a thirsty land;
Strong in Thee no earthly foe can harm us,
Thou our Rock on which we firmly stand.

Father, Thou art pure and holy, holy,
May our hearts Thy temple be,
O, make us humble, meek and lowly,
Poor in spirit, Savior, more like Thee.

Gentle Savior, Thou wilt never leave us,
Still from danger and from storm defend,
Sweet the promise to Thy faithful children,
Thou wilt guide and keep them to the end.

Father, Thou art pure and holy, holy,
May our hearts Thy temple be,
O, make us humble, meek and lowly,
Poor in spirit, Savior, more like Thee.

Though we pass the dark and rolling river,
Thou wilt bear us safely to the shore;
We shall praise Thee in the vales of Eden,
With the saints and angels evermore.

Father, Thou art pure and holy, holy,
May our hearts Thy temple be,
O, make us humble, meek and lowly,
Poor in spirit, Savior, more like Thee.

- Fanny Crosby, 1868