

Family Information

Clothing Closet Updates

The Clothing Closet at Northland is finding ways to adapt to the covid restrictions, yet be able to offer assistance from our wealth/supplies. For at least one Wednesday evening per month (December 16 this month), the Clothing Closet is open to shoppers with winter essential needs, from the safety of one's car! We have available the following items: coats/jackets, hats/gloves/scarves, socks, blankets/sheets/bedspreads, boots. Christmas shoppers - we will have just a couple of tables of gift type items, stuffed animals and a few toys available for this coming Wednesday as well.

1) If you know of anyone, including yourself, who has needs of this kind, please let them know to come by on Wednesday, December 16, 6:30-7:15pm. This invitation includes the Child Care families and staff as well.

2) If you have any of the above items to donate, in good condition, we would appreciate having them. Please Note: we have no room for donations of any other kind at this time. Feel free to donate those items to other organizations. We will let you know when we are able to accept donations of non-winter essentials. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your prayers and support of this ministry.

A Need In Our Family

If you have time, please send a Christmas card to Marie McMasters. She has been quarantined in her room for the better part of 6 months. She needs a little something to lift her spirits up. Her son Gary got to visit her a few times outside in the fall and twice inside, but all visits have been stopped for the foreseeable future. Her address is:

Marie McMasters
Willowbrook Christian Home
55 Lazelle Road, Room #203
Columbus, Ohio 43235
(614) 896-3463

Adjusted Service Times

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12:00 PM Sunday Ghana Worship
3:00 PM Sunday Spanish worship

Classes and devotionals are
Currently meeting on-line

Calendar

From The Elders & Minister

As many of you are probably already aware, Covid-19 cases are spiking and the risk of the virus is high - please continue to follow all CDC guidelines and recommendations so that we are still able to meet in person. Take extra time to wash your hands before coming to services on Sunday, touch as few surfaces as possible, and continue to maintain distance and keep masks on while talking and worshipping with one another.

During the month of December we're having sermons focused on hope. Today's will be from Matthew 12:9-21. For the precautions we are currently taking with the building worship time, please check with the elders or see recent bulletins.

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, a new series begins this week: "A Branch That Bears Fruit In Every Season" (based on Isaiah 11). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Steve will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM (next session will be in January) - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

Wednesday evenings after 7:00 PM - Pre-recorded Instagram Devotional by Caleb Dillinger will be available. Contact him for details.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study, "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. Contact her for details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5392	\$4699
Designated:	\$60	\$67
Scholarship Fund Current Total		\$ 622
See The Elders If You Have Any Questions		

Minister: Caleb Dillinger

Elders: 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, Luis Valdez



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Jesus Calls Us His Friends

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. - John 15:15

Jesus showed us his great love for us when he died on the cross to redeem us; the Lamb of God showed us his unfailing love for us when he poured out his lifeblood so that God's grace might flow to those who recognize the voice of his Son and follow him. Jesus calls us his friends, and he wants to help us to understand God's nature and to see the many ways he cares for us - *Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. - John 15:15*

In Jane Seabrook's "Furry Logic" series, each watercolor combines amusing depictions of animals (some furry, some feathery, and more) with quotations to reflect on human nature and on the problems large and small we face. One of Seabrook's paintings depicts two puzzled flamingos, with the caption, "Is it you and I who are crazy, or is it everybody else?" Indeed, this world can make us feel like outcasts or worse, when we handle things much differently than it does.

Yet God's words are trustworthy, Jesus calls us his friends, and God reminds us not to follow this world's thinking or its ways, instead to walk in the light and grace and love of Jesus - *You did not choose me, but I chose you . . . This is my command: Love each other. - John 15:16*

In another of Jane's paintings, as two timid frogs look anxiously at what lies ahead, one of them gives the other the ironic reassurance, "Of course we're friends - you know I'd share my last piece of trouble with you." Similarly, Jesus is our friend we can trust with our fears and sorrows, a true friend who knows what we really need and who speaks the truth kindly, as well as our Lord and Savior who knows us by name - *If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. - John 15:19*

Another of Seabrook's watercolors pictures a cautious bear saying, "I keep having a strange, uneasy premonition that everything is going to be all right." Similarly, in this world we often uneasily face its harshness and confusion, yet God protects our spirits, he pours out his care on us as we endure this world's loudness and emptiness, and the Spirit of truth lives within us - *When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. - John 15:26*

Jesus is our friend, God's Spirit reassures us of God's care for us, and our Heavenly Father gives eternal life with him to those who believe in Jesus and hold fast to him.

- Mark Garner

Immanuel, God With Us

Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God; he is also called Immanuel, God with us. This week, Karen Susenna writes about a Psalm that reassures us that God is with us.

Echoes Of Immanuel

The echoes of “Immanuel, God with Us” is evident all throughout the Book of Psalms. David had a close relationship with the Lord and spoke about it honestly, and unashamedly, never doubting the Lord’s presence in his life or the Lord’s unfailing love. Listen to the strains of “God with Us” in this excerpt from Psalm 27:

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?
. . . Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.
One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock . . .
My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, I will seek . . .
I remain confident of this;
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

- Psalm 27:1, 27:3-5, 27:8, 27:13-14

David had a hope for his daily-life and he had a hope for the future. He encouraged the Israelites to wait for deliverance from their enemies, as well as wait for the fulfillment of God’s promised Messiah. We as modern-day Christians know that Messiah has indeed come, but we know so much more about the fulfillment of God’s promises. We know that after His death and resurrection, Jesus left us His spirit to inhabit us always.... a true spiritual fulfillment of “Immanuel, God with Us”.

As we come to this annual celebration of God breaking into history and joining us on this Earth, let’s remember it’s a display of how He longs to be close to us. All we need to do is say “yes”.

- Karen Susenna

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #2

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 22 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

APPEAR	DISHES	MICMASH	SEASON
ARTAXERXES	ECBATANA	MONTH	SERAI AH
CAPTIVE	FASTED	NEIGHBORS	TRANS - EUPHRATES
CHAMBERS	FORMER	OFFERING	TREASURY
DILIGENCE	GATEKEEPERS	PREDECESSORS	TWO HUNDRED RAMS
DISCOURAGE	MEHIDA	PROCLAMATION	UNFAITHFULNESS

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T R A N S E U P H R A T E S
W N N O A R T A X E R X E S
O U O F F E R I N G R P Y E
H D S I G O H D H C R A R N
U I A D T R S F H E S N U L
N L E O I A A A D T F O S U
D I S H E S M E H I D A A F
R G R S T B C A P T I V E H
E E A E E E I O L P N K R T
D N D R S A M E U C A O T I
R C S S R N R E M R O F M A
A E O E C B A T A N A R U F
M R S R O B H G I E N G P N
S R E P E E K E T A G S E U
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The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's mystery verse answer: *How great you are, Sovereign Lord.*

- 2 SAMUEL 7:22

- Mark Garner