

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Covid Updates: We will no longer do the closing dismissal process. Services will end with the closing prayer by the elder. We have also resumed printing bulletins; they will be set on the same table as masks and communion supplies. (No one will be passing them out.)

Continued Covid Adjustment: This is currently contemplation, nothing set in stone. The elders are considering some point in June to transition to optional face coverings, and some point around September to begin in person classes. Please be praying for wisdom, and please share your ideas on better ways to adjust. The elders will continue to check on the CDC and Statewide orders and cautions. We will continue with a minimum two week notice before making any changes.

When we meet in person, we will maintain all safety features until otherwise noted: mandatory face masks throughout the service, seating in every other pew, service approximately 1 hour, starting at 10:00 a.m. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Vicki Cowans at the death of her mother. The funeral was Thursday.

We want to express our sympathy to John Lindsay at the death of his sister. The funeral was Friday in West Virginia. Please pray for the Lindsay's as they travel home.

Summer Camp Week

Our camp week is July 19th through July 25th at Fort Hill. Camp registration: Cost is currently \$180.00 if you pay in full by May 15th, \$190.00 if paid 2 weeks before camp, and \$200 at camp.

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "We Have Come To Mount Zion" (based on Hebrews 12). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Leon will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session May 7 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

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

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Summer Camp Week

Josh Evans is putting together a list of staff and campers coming to camp this year. Please let Josh know if you plan on attending or are interested.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5299	\$4801
Designated:	\$130	\$107
Scholarship Fund Current Balance	\$ 1660	



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The Lord Has Determined To Do Good

This is what the Lord says: I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain. - Zechariah 8:3

The Lord rejoices in dwelling with those who believe in the message of Jesus and follow him, and when we open our hearts to our Heavenly Father, he renews them, strengthens them with his grace, and makes them a dwelling for his Spirit. Even as we endure this world's chaos and disasters, God is determined to good to everyone who seeks him with a soft and humble heart - *This is what the Lord Almighty says: Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me, says the Lord Almighty, so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. - Zechariah 8:14-15*

Poet Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932) describes this world's ways and its thinking as "Hammer thoughts that pound and shatter peace . . . thoughts that gnaw and will not cease" and then in the poem prays, "Oh, take them Lord, out of my heart . . . Give me those thoughts of thine, So crystal-clear, So holy, high and fine, That I shall grow By their pure grace enticed, Worthy to think The lovely thoughts of Christ."

This world is full of false hopes and loud voices and endless anxieties; as Annie writes, "In the world, tribulation; but in Jesus - peace . . . In the world, tribulation; but in Jesus - joy." For our Heavenly Father pours out his care on us, and the Lamb of God has proclaimed the good news of God's salvation and forgiveness and redemption in every nation and in every language - *This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people. - Zechariah 8:7-8*

Annie Johnson Flint took comfort from nature, and she compares God's many promises with the natural world and its subtle joys, "God's promises are like the birds of heaven That fill the hours with music all day long, Too oft unheard and oftener unheeded Amid earth's voices of despair and wrong; Each one a thought of God, a joy, a comfort, If we but pause to listen to its song."

Like the many wondrous sights and sounds of nature, God fulfills his promises in many ways we may see when we open our minds to him. Our Heavenly Father takes care of us each day and he guides us every step, he gives us many blessings in this world to show us his compassion for us, and he promises eternal life to those who walk in the light of Jesus. And God nurtures our mustard seed of faith and he produces a crop of the fruit of the Spirit that only he could have planted - *The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. - Zechariah 8:12*

There is no one like God, who gives us care and guidance and hope all day long.

- Mark Garner

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

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

Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise;
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.

While hope revives, though pressed with fear
And I can say, My God,
Beneath Thy feet I spread my cares,
And pour my woes abroad.

To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal;
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief
For every pain I feel.

Gracious God, where shall I flee?
Thou art my only trust,
And still my soul would cleave to Thee,
Though prostrate in the dust.

Thy mercy seat is open still;
Here let my soul retreat,
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778



All Kinds Of Prayers On All Occasions

God always welcomes our prayers, whatever our circumstances may be and however we may be feeling. This week, Lynn and Mike Paden discuss how prayer helps us stay close with God and helps us keep our minds on God.

Where Is Your Mind?

Lynn: So, Mike and I were walking and talking about prayer for this bulletin issue. Mike immediately broke out into an old campus ministry song, which he often does when thinking of our great God.

Mike: "Well I woke up this morning with my mind
Where was your mind?
Centered on Jesus"

Lynn: In Matthew 22:37, Jesus said, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." When we love someone we are aware of them, we think of them and want to be with them, share with them, understand them, talk to them and listen to them. Doing this with our God, our Creator, IS prayer. Our great God loves us like that, & more, even before we cared about Him, John 3:16.

Mike: And in Romans 12:2, Paul says "to renew our minds;" and in Colossians 3:1-2 he says "set our minds on things above where Christ is." When Jesus is at the center of our minds, our interactions keep us connected to God continuously as in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, when Paul says to pray without ceasing. One way to think about "prayer without ceasing" is to see that it is not talking about non-stop prayer, but rather Paul is encouraging the saints to never abandon God the Father, and pray only to Him. Once we made a commitment to God, never let that commitment cease.

Lynn: Romans 8:26 tell us we are not left alone with this command, but the Holy Spirit helps us pray, and when our minds are weak, we can ask God to strengthen us. And there are no limits to our communion with God for not only did Jesus open the door to full access, but also instructed us to approach God about anything and every situation. Ephesians 2:18, and Philipians 4:6-7.

Mike: In Greek, the root for the word "thanks" is "charis" typically translated as grace, (unmerited favor.) When we think about it in that way, being thankful is our way of acknowledging that we do not deserve the blessings we receive, and the obvious response is to express our thanks or gratitude in prayer.

Mike & Lynn: So praise be to God, His gift of prayer to us, is the tool and the pathway of power to live our lives in God's will.

- Lynn & Mike Paden