

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Next Phase of Covid Adjustments: Beginning today, Sunday June 6th, we will be removing all tape in the auditorium. This will allow people to sit wherever they like, but we'll continue with masks.

Beginning Sunday June 20th, we will transition the wearing of masks to "optional". CDC and Governor Dewine seem to believe this would be acceptable, even as early as Sunday June 6th - but for an extra layer of safety and buffer in case of unknown events, we're going to wait two weeks until the 20th. We understand not everyone will immediately be comfortable with this change. This gives a couple weeks of society's adjustment before the church service starts any adjustment.

This still leaves us with a lot of adjustments to plan this summer - Bible class, Wednesday activities, church events, communion supplies, etc. At least for the month of June, all those will continue "as-is". We'll re-assess come end of June what to start doing for July.

We will continue to only make changes after giving advance notice - if you have concerns, questions or issues with any changes, please reach out and share. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Graduation Party

There is a graduation party for Summer Kaiser today, Sunday June 6, from 12:00-5:00 PM at 4802 Manitoba Road, Columbus, OH 43229, and everyone is invited. Summer graduated from Centennial High School on June 2nd.

There is a graduation party for Jimi Foster on Friday, July 9 at 4:00 PM, at 8480 Columbus Road, Mount Vernon OH 43050. Please RSVP by July 2, either by calling or texting 740-358-3776.

Summer Camp Week

Our camp week is July 19th through July 25th at Fort Hill. Camp registration: Cost is currently \$190.00 if paid 2 weeks before camp, and \$200 at camp.

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

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, this week we're beginning a new series, "Praise The Lord, Our Souls" (based on Psalm 103). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Mark 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 June 18 - 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: | \$4819 | \$4642 |
| Designated: | \$35 | \$92 |
| Scholarship Fund Current Balance | \$ 1378 | |



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It Is Because of God's Compassion...

It Is Because Of God's Compassion & Grace

The weakness of God is stronger than human strength . . . Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. - 1 Corinthians 1:25-27

Our Heavenly Father knows each of us by name, and every one of us is dear to him, regardless of what this world may think of us; he rejoices in being with those who walk by faith in Jesus, regardless of what we may be by human standards. We are all so weak and all of us know so little, yet God still chose us.

The 1960s television comedy series "Get Smart" parodied spy and secret agent movies; it featured inept agent Maxwell Smart facing the world's most evil villains, while making numerous mistakes, yet in the end somehow prevailing due to his persistence and considerable help from his partner, Agent 99 (who later became his wife).

When Smart did something that went disastrously, he would often downplay it by placing his thumb and forefinger about an inch apart, saying, "Missed it by that much." Similarly, we have 'missed it by that much', yet God washes away our sins and mistakes when we walk humbly in the light of Jesus. We are lowly and weak, yet God makes his strength perfect in our weakness - *God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . . so that no one may boast before him.* - 1 Corinthians 1:28-29

Maxwell's blunders would often allow a villain to capture him; instead of panicking, Smart would usually bluff his captors, making a series of extravagant claims, starting them with "Would you believe . . ." The villain would naturally scoff at each one, yet this tactic usually gave his partner or his boss the time to rescue Max.

Likewise, any claims we make about ourselves are highly exaggerated; yet we can truly claim that the Creator of this universe has compassion for us, that his Son died for us to cleanse and sanctify us, and then rose from the dead. All of this is because of God's unfailing care and grace - *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.* - 1 Corinthians 1:30

When Smart was sent on a particularly dangerous assignment, his boss would warn him that he would be facing especially ruthless enemies and their diabolical schemes. Max invariably replied, ". . . and loving it." Similarly, as we face this world's fears and its empty hopes, as we acknowledge our own faults and mistakes, we can rejoice that God loves us and is always with us - *Therefore, as it is written: Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.* - 1 Corinthians 1:31

There is no one like our Heavenly Father, and it is good to give him glory and honor and praise.
- Mark Garner

Christ's Birthday

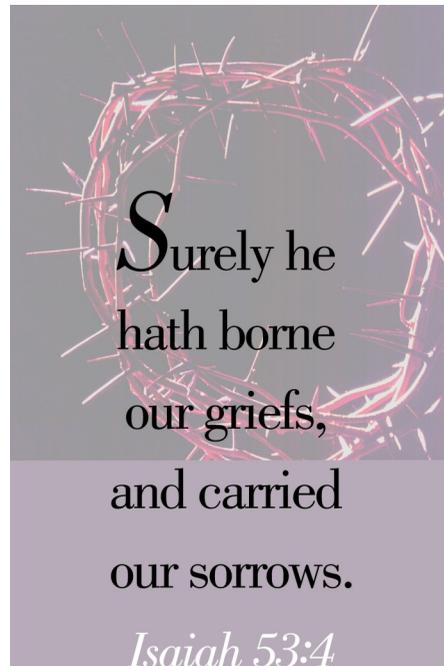
Christ's birthday! soft come floating down
The manger songs from bygone years;
Till earth's white robe new glory wears,
And brightly in her shining crown
Each lonely star a guide appears.

And softly on the listening ear
Do angel voices carol still,
Peace on the earth, good will to men
As on the wild Judean hills;
And waiting spirits breathe, Amen.

Our birthday! if we wake to life,
The life that ever moveth on,
That knows no change of time or death,
But, like a calm stream 'mid earth's strife,
Mirrors the Heaven it looks upon.

- Lydia Louisa Anne Very, 1823-1901

Lydia Very was a poet and an author of children's books. She is best known for being one of the first writers to publish a 'shaped' children's book, when she wrote a version (in verse) of the story "Red Riding Hood", and had it published in the shape of the title character.



As The Mountains Surround Jerusalem . . .

Psalm 125 uses this image of the ways that our Heavenly Father surrounds us and protects us and guides us. This week, Steve Carver opens this series with some thoughts about the security that God gives us.

God Is The Foundation Of Our Security

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore. Psalms 125:1-2

I believe that one of the most basic of human needs we all share a need for is a sense of security. To know that regardless of the stresses and strains we face or the craziness of the world around us, that the ground will not vanish beneath our feet. With a sense of security, we can feel a freedom to pursue possibilities and explore our surroundings. Without it, we are left in perpetual survival mode.

I remember watching scary movies (which were mild by today's standards) as a kid and enjoying the dangers vicariously, because I knew that I was safe in my home. It wasn't until some of those movies invaded my dreams, causing me to wake up in the middle of the night to run to the security of my parent's bed that they put the kibosh on those movies.

When I was a little older, I liked to watch lightning storms at night, thinking that I was "safe" (but not always dry) sitting on the front porch with my back against the door (ok, so I was/am a bit of a knucklehead). From my perch of perceived safety, I enjoyed experiencing the splendor of God's nature as lightning lit the sky from one end to the other, thunder rolled around me, and I was engulfed in the sound of the rain as it struck the umbrella and ground around me.

Today's world can often seem like living the scary movies I used to watch rather than just viewing them from a safe distance. That is because everything in this world that I still too often try to use as a foundation for my sense of security, self-worth, and identity are shallow and illusory. Whether it be family relationships; achievements in career, academics, sports, etc.; social popularity; or wealth and influence, all fall short in the end. Just as the grass withers and the flowers fall, depending on this world for my security is like trying to build it on shifting sand.

When I take my focus off my little world, fix my eyes on Jesus, and set my heart and mind on things above, my security regains solid footing. Because he has promised to never leave or forsake me, or to allow me to be tested beyond what I can bear, and continues to forgive me when I slip and fall in my walk with him, I know that my security cannot be shaken. It is built on the eternal solid rock of his love and his son's sacrifice. And he surrounds and protects me and my relationship with him both now and forever. To borrow from an Amy Grant song, "You (God) will protect what you (God) already own."

But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. Psalms 3:3

-- Steve Carver