

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Next Phase of Covid Adjustments: Today, Sunday June 20th, we are transitioning the wearing of masks to "optional".

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.

Prayers

ed Szajna passed away Monday evening, after a long period of illnesses. Ted is expected to be returned home to Detroit where his family is buried, so the funeral will likely be there. Please keep the Szajna family in your prayers.

Lunch With The Preacher

For anyone interested, Caleb will be setting up a few tables and chairs outside under the overhead on Saturday June 26th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a casual fellowship time for anyone who would like to come. Bring your own lunch (takeout or brown bag, however you like) and spend some time chatting with the preacher! This is weather dependent, so if it's raining it will be postponed to a later date.

Graduation Party

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. 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.

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, the current series is, "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, Steve 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 - 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3692	\$4590
Designated:	\$55	\$88



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

Website
ncocfamily.org

June 20, 2021
Volume 30, Number 25

Fathers, Children, and God's Love

My feeling is that God created the role of father to help reveal the relationship he wants to have with us as, His ultimate creation. Jesus gave us The Prodigal Son to give us a picture of God as a father. God then created teenagers to help us realize how unfathomable his love is for us as a father(!)

I can remember when our first born, David, came home from the hospital. I was stunned at the responsibility God had given me to be a father. I held proudly in my hands a gift that showed the trust God had in me to partner with him in raising a child. The thought of what was ahead was all consuming. After a couple days of adjustment, my wife Robbie convinced me it was all right to leave for a few hours and go golfing.

As time went on, God blessed us with a beautiful daughter, Lauren. God again revealed his glory and showed me there are no limits to the love a father can have for each of his children. When our third and final child came along, Timothy, God revealed to me that I didn't pick my children, but that God had given them to me with purpose and forethought. They all had their own personalities and each their own special gifts that God had blessed them with. The bonding with each child was endearing each in unique ways and each brought its own special delight to my life.

When I think back to my earthly father, I realize how many of his traits were passed down and are now displayed in my own life. The similarities are surprising and stunning in their likeness. Many are good but unfortunately not all. As earthly fathers we have a lifelong commitment to pass on the qualities of God especially to the children God has given into our care. We need to show our children humility, honesty, and faith in God in every aspect of our lives. Regrettably, we are weak and vulnerable to Satan's influence. We therefore as fathers, must rely on God to fill in for our weaknesses. I know in my own life I have often failed to be the example I should be. If I look at the father (God) in the story of The Prodigal Son, I see the most important gift I can give my children is my unconditional, never ending, and never in question love.

Just as God has not held anything back when it comes to loving us, we too need to hold nothing back in letting our children know of our great love for them. It is never too late or outdated to tell our children we love them, and we can do that because God as our Father loves us.

- Jeff McVicker

My Home is God Himself

My home is God Himself; Christ brought me there,
And bade me dwell in Him, rejoicing there;
He bore me where no foot but His hath trod,
Within the holiest at home with God.
O holy place! O home divinely fair!
And we, God's little ones, abiding there.

A long, long road I traveled night and day,
And sought to find within myself some way,
Aught I could do, or feel to bring me near;
Self effort failed, and I was filled with fear,
And then I found Christ was the only way
That I must come to Him and in Him stay.

O wondrous place! O home divinely fair!
And I, God's little one, safe hidden there.

- Frances Brook, 1896

Little is known about the life of poet Frances Brook. She was born in 1870, and she endured a lifetime of ill health. This is the best known of her poems. (Note: Frances Brook is a different woman than novelist Frances Brooke, who lived in the 1700s.)



We Are In Jesus, & He Is In Us

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. - John 14:16-18

Who are we, that the Creator of the universe desires to live with us and to live within us. Who is like our Father in heaven, who is so mindful of us and who does not leave us as orphans. There is no one like our living God, who pours out spiritual blessings on those who walk humbly by faith in his Son. It is beyond earthly minds to fully grasp the depths of God's care; he gives us eternal life and gives us the priceless gift of his Spirit, who dwells within us - *Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*
- John 14:19-20

As English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) pondered God and his ways, he wrote, "If a man could pass through Paradise in a dream, and have a flower presented to him as a pledge that his soul had really been there, and if he found that flower in his hand when he awoke . . . and what then?" For our Heavenly Father has indeed given us the pledge of his Spirit, a promise of our eternal home with him, a foretaste of being in God's presence for eternity.

And as Samuel Coleridge implies, the promise of being with our God forever speaks to our spirits and moves our hearts, a timeless reminder of the blessings God gives to those who love him and hold fast to his words and to the message of Jesus - *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.* - John 14:21

Even as we live in this temporary world, God shows himself to us and teaches us profound truths that human minds couldn't ever have thought of. As Ghanaian scientist and writer Lailah Gifty Akita writes about her walk with God, "We have the keys to open the Heavens' door: Bible reading and prayer." Indeed, when we are in prayer with our Heavenly Father, he speaks to our spirits; when we read his words and ponder them, God speaks to our hearts and minds.

Moreover, God's compassion is from everlasting to everlasting, and as Lailah Akita also says, "The priceless gifts (life, love, joy, goodness, family, nature) are freely given by the Creator." We are mere dust and clay, yet our Father in heaven rejoices in making his home with us - *My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.* - John 14:23

No one can be compared with God; his vastness and compassion and wisdom transcend human understanding, and he delights in being with each of us.

- Mark Garner