

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Next Phase of Covid Adjustments: We still have a lot of adjustments to plan this summer - Bible class, Wednesday activities, church events, communion supplies, etc.

Here are the continued precautions we are taking: 1) Face coverings are now optional. We will continue to provide face masks for those who desire them. 2) Regarding Lord's Supper: We will have individual cups with bread on top packed and ready for each of you. As you come into the foyer, head to the table on the left. 3) We will have a contribution plate alongside the communion table as well as immediately inside the auditorium near the doors. 4) There will be no invitation song. In place of the invitation, An Elder will be at a table in the foyer for you to come to and submit any prayer requests. These prayer requests will be prayed over after our final song.

Baptism

At about 11:15 AM on Friday July 2nd, Geneva Fleming was baptized at the church building. We rejoice in her decision to put on Christ in baptism.

Summer Camp Week

Our camp week is July 19th through July 25th at Fort Hill. Camp registration: Cost is currently \$200. 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.

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "That Grace May Overflow" (based on Romans 5 & 6). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Phil 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:	\$4587	\$4606
Designated:	\$205	\$87

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: Luis Valdez

The Spirit Testifies...

The Spirit Testifies That We Are God's Children

Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind . . . Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! - Romans 7:21-25

Our Heavenly Father's words bring delight to our inner being, yet our earthly nature so often has different desires; the message of Jesus and him crucified and him raised brings peace and hope to our spirits, yet so often our human nature fixes its thoughts on this world's false hopes and its empty glitter. Truly, thanks be to God whose Son came to deliver us from spiritual death and to bring eternal life to those who recognize his voice and follow him - *There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. - Romans 8:1-2*

In Carmen Bernos de Gasztold's "The Creatures' Choir", a centipede prays for God's help, "With innumerable little footsteps I go through life but, Lord, I can never get to the end of myself." We too take many small steps each day, and so often we have difficulty even finding the path. So, as the centipede's prayer continues, "All that matters is to be in step with one's self. I only ask, Lord, to jog along one in spirit."

For indeed, when we trust in the message of Jesus instead of in human thinking, when we let him teach us to walk in step with his Spirit, God can help us set our minds on things above, and he can help us fix our thoughts on eternal, imperishable things - *Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. - Romans 8:5-6*

In de Gasztold's earlier book "Prayers From The Ark", an elephant is mindful of its own size, and prays for God to help it to "be careful and behave wisely" so that it doesn't accidentally hurt anyone. The elephant also philosophically asks God to help him to learn to "rejoice everywhere I go in the lovable oddity of things." Indeed, elephants themselves are an oddity, perceptive animals known for their attentive care for one another, yet also quite large and strong.

Just as there are many lovable oddities in the natural world, each of us is unique and has our own oddities; our Heavenly Father considers each of us lovable regardless of what this world thinks of us, and God makes us his own children when we turn our hearts and minds to Jesus - *Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God . . . by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. - Romans 8:14-16*

Our Father in heaven is full of compassion and truth and mercy; it is good to be with God.

- Mark Garner



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

Website
ncocfamily.org

July 11, 2021
Volume 30, Number 28

Thou Lovely Source Of True Delight

Thou lovely source of true delight,
Whom I unseen adore;
Unveil Thy beauties to my sight,
That I may love Thee more.

Thy glory o'er creation shines;
But in Thy sacred Word,
I read in fairer, brighter lines,
My bleeding, dying Lord.

'Tis here, whene'er my comforts droop,
And sins and sorrows rise,
Thy love with cheerful beams of hope,
My fainting heart supplies.

But ah, too soon, the pleasing scene
Is clouded o'er with pain;
My gloomy fears rise dark between,
And I again complain.

Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light,
O come with blissful ray,
Break radiant through the shades of night,
And chase my fears away.

Then shall my soul with rapture trace
The wonders of Thy love;
But the full glories of Thy face
Are only known above.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778



*Break forth into joyous
song and sing praises!*



As The Mountains Surround Jerusalem . . .

Psalm 125 uses this image of the ways our Heavenly Father surrounds us and protects us and guides us. This week, Don Milnor writes about God's protection.

God's Protection and Faith

There are many threats to the safety and security of individuals, families, homes, businesses, electronic accounts, and various institutions. Some protection methods used are quite obvious. But many buildings only have a few mildly visible signs of protection. Some have a sign saying that the home is protected by some monitoring service. We can't see the protection itself, but we see a statement, a claim, that it's there.

God's protection is often like the monitoring service. We can't see it, but we can see some statements that it's there. Here is some of what God's Word says about his protection:

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. -John 10:27-28

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin....If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:7, 9

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (what we need for this life, mentioned in the previous verses) will be given to you as well. -Matthew 6:33

Like many things pertaining to God, believing these passages requires faith. Jesus promises no one will snatch his sheep out of his hand, but we can't see that. God promises via John of his protection if we walk in the light, and forgiveness if we confess our sins. But not only can we not see this, we often don't "feel" forgiven. Jesus promises us he'll take care of our needs if we seek first his kingdom, but believing and acting on this is often easier said than done.

Sometimes I would like to be in the position of Elisha's servant, who got to see what we usually don't, when the Israelites were vastly outnumbered by the enemy, or so he thought: *Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.* - 2 Kings 6:15-17

We probably won't get to see spiritual reality in the same way, but God is still protecting us, spiritually (the most important way by far), and if and when he so chooses, physically and in other ways. Sometimes we have "close calls", such as when someone almost smashes into our car at high speed. I wonder if God allows such close calls so we'll see a little of how he's protecting us. Who knows how often God protects from something, and we see nothing of the battle going on?

Let us reason, considering what God has already done for us, and from there have faith that he will protect us in every way we need.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. -Hebrews 11:6

- Don Milnor