

## Family Information

### From The Elders & Ministers

While we pray and hope for "normal" church service life to resume at some point in 2021, we do not know when that will be, so please continue to practice safety and caution, and know that each week we do this is a testament to our love for each other and respect for our neighbors. 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., and dismissal by sections, starting in the back.

### Thank You

Thank you dear Northland Church family for you love and support since the passing of my father. Your prayers, flowers, cards and notes of love mean a lot! - Robbie McVicker

### Marie McMasters

Marie McMasters will be celebrating her 97th birthday on January 31st. Please send her a card or call her and wish her a happy birthday. Her address is 55 Lazelle Rd., Room 203, Columbus, OH 43235 and phone is 614-896-3463.

### Collection For The Russia Ministry

From the elders: Several members have expressed interest in helping financially with the work in Russia. Northland will be taking up a collection during the month of January to send to Vlad Osinovsky to help in his ministry. Please mark any contribution you would like to make as: Vlad or Russia on your contribution. Thank you.

### Contribution Statements For 2020

Contribution statements for 2020 are available in the church office. See Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement. Call the church office if you would like your statement mailed to you.

### 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

## Calendar

### On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is: "God's Good, Pleasing, & Perfect Will" (based on Romans 12). 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. Everyone is welcome to join.

### More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session January 29 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details about the next session.

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. 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.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$7283	\$5530
<b>Designated:</b>	\$10	\$55
Scholarship Fund Current Balance		\$ 516
See The Elders If You Have Any Questions		



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## There Was A Man

I know of a man - and I just want to talk about him a minute, and maybe you will discover who I'm talking about as I go down the way because he was a great one. And he just went about serving.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a poor peasant woman. And then he grew up in still another obscure village, where he worked as a carpenter until he was about thirty years old. Then for three years, he just got on his feet, and he was an itinerant preacher. And he went about doing some things.

He didn't have much. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never owned a house. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never went two hundred miles from where he was born.

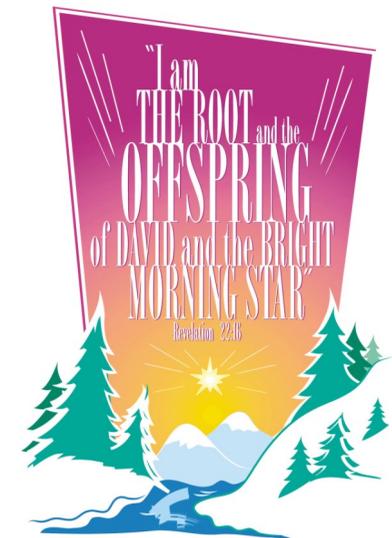
He did none of the things that the world would associate with greatness. He had no credentials but himself . . .

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he stands as the most influential figure that ever entered human history. All of the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all of the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

His name may be a familiar one. Every now and then somebody says, "He's King of Kings." And again I can hear somebody saying, "He's Lord of Lords."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

(excerpts from a sermon in Atlanta, February 1968)



## Renewed In The Image Of Our Creator

*Now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language . . . since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. - Colossians 3:8-10*

In our Heavenly Father's unfailing understanding, he made every one of us in his own image and he poured out his faithful care on each of us; yet we all went astray like wandering, confused sheep. We were sheep without a shepherd, so in God's everlasting compassion his Son redeemed us, and he renews us inwardly when we walk by faith in Jesus.

When we turn to Jesus, God not only washes away the dirt and mire, he also replaces them with the grace and truth and mercy of Jesus, he makes us his own children, and he renews us in the image of our Creator. When we put our trust in the Lord instead of relying on human ways, he can drive out the worldly thoughts from our hearts, and can fill them with the fruit of the Spirit - *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. - Colossians 3:11-12*

God desires to transform us from within, for he sees through the world's outward appearances, and he looks at our hearts and our inmost thoughts. Philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) wrote, "The gods we worship write their names on our faces; be sure of that. And a man will worship something. That which dominates will determine his life and character. Therefore it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming."

Indeed, what we value will fill our minds and our souls and our hearts; so God calls us to fix our thoughts on the Lamb of God instead of following this world's thinking, and to acknowledge our constant need for God's overflowing grace; as Teresa of Calcutta says, "It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself." God calls us to walk humbly in the light and grace and truth of Jesus - *Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. - Colossians 3:13-15*

As we put our faith in God instead of in this world's false hopes, God fills us with himself. Teacher and poet Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911) writes about her walk with God, "He found me weary, faint and worn, On barren mountains cold; With love's constraint he drew me on, To shelter in his fold. Close to his side, oh! may I stay, Just to behold his face, Till I shall wear within my soul The image of his grace." For God calls us to hold fast to the message of his Son - *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly . . . singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. - Colossians 3:16*

There is no one like our Heavenly Father, and it is good to give praise and thanks to our God.

- 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, Dot Duncan writes about God's promise that he will not leave us.*

### I Will Not Leave You As Orphans . . .

John 14:18

Each year I choose a topic of focus for my personal Bible study. During 2017-2019, my topic of choice was the Holy Spirit. Over this two-year period my understanding of the Holy Spirit has grown.

Though there are many scriptures that speak to us about the Holy Spirit, one of my favorites is John 13-16. Jesus is preparing His disciples for His death. In John 13:33 He breaks the news to them "[Dear] little children, I am to be with you only for a little longer . . ." Feeling their grief, He comforts them in 14:16-18 with "And I will ask the Father and He will give you another comforter . . . The Spirit of Truth . . . I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, helpless]; I will come [back] to you" (Amplified Bible).

You see, Jesus knew it was time to say good-bye to the disciples that He had come to know and love. There was a tug at His heart as He looked at them, knowing that they did not quite understand what was about to occur. To comfort their grieving hearts, He made a promise of assurance "I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, helpless]; I will come [back] to you." Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in them. "I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you" (verse 20).

"If a person love Me and keep My word . . . My Father will love him, and We will come and make Our home (a special dwelling place) with him" (verse 23).

It's as if Jesus was saying, "continue to believe in Me, obey My commandments, love God, and others. I must go, so that He, the Holy Spirit may be able to indwell all who believe in Me as you have." We are heirs of same promise.

Though we are experiencing turbulent times, Christ has not left us as orphans. He is always with us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. We were stamped with the Holy Spirit when we put our confidence in Christ (Ephesians 1:12-14). He has placed us in a body of people who cares for us.

- Dot Duncan