

## 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. 2) Regarding Lord's Supper: We will have individual cups with bread on top packed and ready for each of you. 3) We will have a contribution plate alongside the communion table as well as immediately inside the auditorium near the doors. 4) In place of the invitation song, an Elder will be at a table in the foyer for you to come to and submit any prayer requests.

### Update From The Allisons

Johnny and Beverly Allison would like to deeply thank all the Northland Church members for supporting Sir Charles while attending the Northland Child Care. This was important in helping Sir Charles prepare to attend kindergarten. He has completed his time at the Child Care and is scheduled to begin attending kindergarten on August 11th at the Columbus Arts and Technology Academy. Your support has been overwhelming, and we want to thank-you for your generosity. We continue to ask for your prayers for Sir Charles as he begins this new adventure in his life.

## 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, 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 - 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
<b>General:</b>	\$4490	\$4557
<b>Designated:</b>	\$25	\$83

### 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 Lord Shepherds His Flock

*So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter . . . Then I took two staves and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. - Zechariah 11:7*

We were the flock that the accuser had marked for slaughter, weak sheep who fell into his snares, wandering sheep who easily stray into this world's empty ways; so our Heavenly Father had compassion on us, and his Son came to be our good Shepherd. Jesus shepherds us with the favor of God's presence, and he makes his home with those who walk by faith in him.

We are often hard pressed by this world's false hopes and its futile thinking, and the accuser's schemes and his reproaches are gathered against us, so God is concerned for us, and he has become our immovable Rock of truth and grace and understanding - *On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. - Zechariah 12:3*

God's promises are trustworthy, and the words of our Heavenly Father are not mere human words speaking of human things, for his words bring light to our souls and bring hope to our weary hearts. As poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge writes, "Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a life and a living process." Truly the Word of God is alive and it renews our minds when we meditate on God's truths.

As we face this world's constant confusion and noise, our Father in heaven calls us to keep our minds and hearts on eternal things, as novelist Charlotte Brontë says, "I try to avoid looking forward or backward, and try to keep looking upward." For God strengthens our spirits and hearts with his grace and his words when we trust in him - *I will keep a watchful eye over Judah . . . then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the Lord Almighty is their God. - Zechariah 12:4-5*

Scientist and writer Lailah Gifty Akita wrote, "Always look heavenward in any situation. Trust God to grant you the needed grace and strength to overcome the situation." For the Lord sustains us with his hand; the Lamb of God was pierced to reconcile us with God, and he pours out his grace abundantly on those who look beyond this world's appearances and circumstances, and trust in our Heavenly Father - *I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced. - Zechariah 12:10*

By Jesus' wounds we are healed, by his overflowing grace we are forgiven, and God brings eternal life to those who believe in the message of his Son and hold fast to him.

- Mark Garner



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## Father And Friend

Father and friend! Thy light, Thy love,  
Beaming through all Thy works we see;  
Thy glory gilds the heavens above,  
And all the earth is full of Thee.

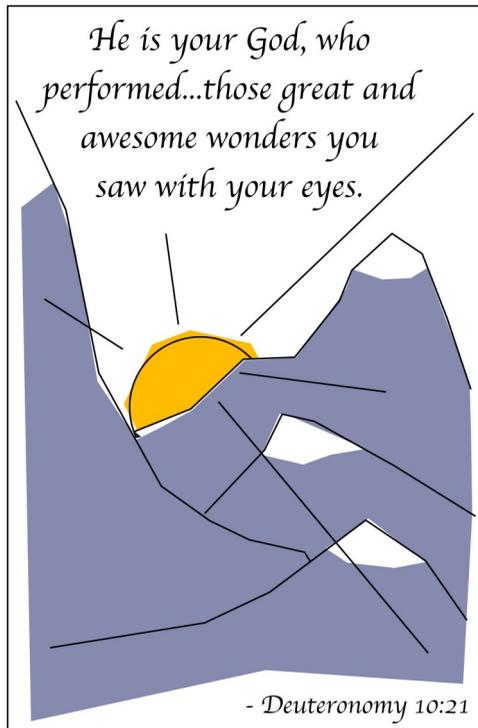
Thy voice we hear—Thy presence feel,  
While Thou, too pure for mortal sight,  
Involved in clouds—invisible,  
Reignest the Lord of life and light.

We know not in what hallowed part  
Of the wide heavens Thy throne may be,  
But this we know, that where Thou art,  
Strength, wisdom, goodness dwell with Thee.

And through the various maze of time,  
And through th'infinity of space,  
We follow Thy career sublime,  
And all Thy wondrous footsteps trace.

- John Bowring, 1792-1872

*This is from one of several dozen hymns written by 19th century British ambassador and diplomat John Bowring.*



## 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, Donna Smith writes about the ways God is present throughout our lives.*

### God's Presence Throughout Our Lives

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.  
-Psalms 125:2*

During personal loss, periods of discouragement, illness, and especially during the pandemic, I have found comfort and reassurance from God's word. The Psalms are a part of His word I have found easiest to read and commit to memory. With a world filled with changing values, economic climate, and changing environmental conditions, it is comforting to know there are constants. I can relax and take God at His word. There is no need to check a bureau or read a bunch of reviews to see what sort of reputation He has. The concrete evidence of His faithfulness and the history of His presence, throughout my life story, has made it easier to trust even when all circumstantial evidence suggest I doubt.

Psalms 125, lists several reasons to continue trusting. First, those who trust will be like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken but endures forever. This does not mean there will not be trouble. However, even with trouble, we can be certain of God's goodness. Paul writes in 2Corinthians 4:16 Wherefore we faint not: but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. Secondly, we are reminded in verse four of Psalms 125 that God does good to those who are good and upright in heart. In addition to trusting Him, because we know He is good and does good, we should thank Him. Psalms 107: 1 Says Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Lastly, in verse five He grants peace upon Israel. However, God's peace is often not the peace negotiated by world leaders. In John 14:27 Jesus promised a peace wherein we could enjoy security and lack of fear. Though there may be civil unrest all around us, we can remain confident that God is still sovereign and in control.

One final area I have noticed during the pandemic is that there has been an increase in cases of mental instability and insecurity. Psalms 125:3 promises that the scepter of the wicked would not remain over the land which was allotted to the righteous because it might lead to evil doing. For us God has given Jesus who has justified us by his blood and cleansed our consciences from acts that lead to death. He has freed us, mentally and spiritually, to serve the living God. He has made us new creations and has done what no self-help or rehabilitative program alone can do. He knows what it is like to stay up at night and struggle in prayer. Hebrews 4:15 states that Jesus can empathize with us because he has experienced some of the same temptations, we have yet did not sin. Even today, God has indeed surrounded us and provided everything we need for life and godliness.

*For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God. - Psalms 86:10*

- Donna Smith