

Family Information

Holiday Schedules

Sunday Morning Bible Class (9:00 AM) - The class is taking a break for the holidays, and will resume next week (on January 9).

Sunday Evening Worship (4:30 PM) - Sunday evening worship will not be meeting for the next several weeks. It will resume meeting in February. See Mike Paden or Jeff McVicker for further information.

Monday Women's Prayer Group - The prayer group resumes meeting this week (on January 3).

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - The Tuesday study is taking a break for the holidays, and will resume meeting on January 11.

Friday TGIF Bible Study - See Mike Evans for updates and details.

Second Sunday Morning Bible Class

2022 will bring a second Sunday Morning adult Bible class. Beginning Sunday January 9th at 9am, Jack Dinkin will teach the first week, and then Caleb Dillinger will begin a class on the 16th on the book of Ephesians. The class will be from 9:00-9:45 am in the auditorium.

Offering Envelopes

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2022, for those who have requested them or have used them in the past. The names are written on each box. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler.

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM
Sunday Spanish Worship 3:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship 4:30 PM

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

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

On Line Bible Studies

What's The Point Of Numbers?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb Dillinger and Mark Garner have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Numbers?"

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. The group resumes this week (on January 3).

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ" is taking a break for the holidays, and will resume on January 11.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Area-Wide Worship Night On January 30

Sunday January 30th Northland will be hosting an area-wide worship night. Time is still being decided, but mark your calendars for Sunday evening January 30th with a theme of "Singing Through the Ages."

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4152	\$4454
Designated:	\$0	\$88

Every Good & Perfect Gift...

Every Good & Perfect Gift Is From Above

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James 1:4

This life often calls for perseverance in numerous ways, from remaining calm during this world's times of trouble and fear, to the daily burdens and anxieties and unexpected problems each of us faces. So God reassures us that he is always near, he always understands what we need, and he is always ready to give us guidance and understanding whatever circumstance we may encounter - *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. -James 1:5*

Since ancient times, palm trees have been considered as symbols of peace, triumph, and life, because of the way that palm trees are notable for the way they hold up against the strongest winds and the fiercest storms. Palm trees sway in hurricanes and other powerful tropical storms without collapsing or breaking, and can even seem at peace amidst the surrounding turmoil. This is due to several differences between palm trees and most other trees. The trunk of a palm tree is essentially a fibrous stem that does not become harder or thicker with age like trees such as maples and oaks. While seemingly less sturdy, palm trees' trunks give them the amazing flexibility that allows them to survive storms that would break or topple other trees.

Likewise, when we put all our trust in God, and keep our hearts and spirits soft, he will carry us through this world's storms and uproars and confusion as he does the palm trees. Moreover, our Heavenly Father gives the crown of life to those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus - *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. - James 1:12*

Also, palm trees are also known for the ways they gently sway in the slightest breeze; their flexible stems and the shape and arrangement of their leaves create the comforting sense of tranquility and contentment. Similarly, the closer we stay with God in prayer and through pondering his words, the more we will be comforted and encouraged as we notice the many gentle 'breezes' he gives us, and as we appreciate the gifts and kindnesses our Father in heaven pours out on us - *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. - James 1:17*

Palm trees need a lot of water, so our Creator designs their roots accordingly. Their roots grow horizontally instead of vertically (which also gives them additional stability), and they grow many soft, thin roots, enabling palm trees to soak up nourishment constantly. Likewise, God continually renews us inwardly, and moreover he has given us rebirth in his Son - *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth. - James 1:18*

God gives us so many blessings, and he gives us especially the priceless gift of being with him.

- Mark Garner



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January 2, 2022
Volume 31, Number 1

The Measures Of God's Love

Man has no measure for that height of love,
nor any plummet for the depth thereof;
its length and breadth he may not comprehend,
Nor its beginning find, nor reach its end.

But in the vast illimitable space,
Whose boundaries he may not learn no trace,
Something there is that stretches arms as wide,
That fills the void and touches every side:

The Cross of Christ that spans God's wondrous love
And shows the length, breadth, height and depth thereof.

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932



"Blessed
is he
who
comes
in the
name
of the
Lord!"

Mark 11:9

Answer To Last Week's Puzzle

The answer to last week's mystery verse puzzle is *I live by faith in the Son of God.* - GALATIANS 2:20

Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

This world's futile thinking may perplex us, and its empty ways may hard press us, so in our Heavenly Father's unfailing care he renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Don Milnor writes about the eternal future that we have in Jesus.

Focusing On Our Bright Eternal Future

We are children of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ. By his grace, we have a glorious future in heaven to look forward to. While God also gives us great blessings in this temporal life, for which we should be grateful, this life should not be our focus. God's word teaches us not to lay up our treasures on this earth, but in heaven, and not to worry about our provisions for this life, but to know God will take care of our needs here (Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34).

Nevertheless, for us as Christians, living in this world, and in our fleshly bodies, though we know these things, it is so easy to focus on this life. It's very tangible, and both the pleasant and unpleasant times have immediate effects on us. We know that the length of this life, compared to the eternal life to follow, is a drop in the bucket. We also know that this life is going to fade away quickly. But it pulls at us, every hour of every day.

Many in this world blatantly focus on what we have here and now, without even acknowledging God. In the short term, they may look like they have the upper hand vs. many others. A good example in Scripture is the account of the rich man and Lazarus:

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table.
-Luke 16:19-21

When they passed away, things quickly became much better for Lazarus, and much worse for the rich man:

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.' -Luke 16:22-24

But for us as God's children, thankfully, we face a very different eternal future. But we still have a battle to fight, and would do well to remember these passages when this world pulls on us:

Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming . . . do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." -1 Peter 1:13-16

Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is . . . Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. -Colossians 3:1-4

- Don Milnor