

Family Information

Children's Classes Update

We now have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them will begin after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details.

What's The Point Of The Book Of Ruth?

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 Ruth?"

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30 PM. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry, including Sunday ministry and our Child Care. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Camp Weeks

July 17th through July 23rd is Northland's camp week with Bill Hopkins at Fort Hill. Sign up as soon as possible to receive a discount. July 24th through 30th is Northland's 2nd camp week with Nick Strawser at NWO-CYC. Sign up as soon as possible to receive a discount. Both weeks are in need of staff. If you can help out in any way for either week, contact Josh Evans to sign up. If you have any questions, or for more details, also see Josh.

On Line Bible Studies

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. 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. The current study is on Colossians. Contact Karen for more details.

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

Work Days Schedule

The next work/clean-up date will be on August 20th. If it rains, then the following Saturday, August 27th, will be the backup date. See Mike Evans for further information.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3104	\$4466
Designated:	\$25	\$37

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

Service Times

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

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

Drawn With Unfiling Kindness

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. - Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord cares for us with unfailing compassion, our Heavenly Father draws us to him with everlasting kindness; God is always near and he always knows our deepest needs. When we turn humbly to Jesus, God rebuilds the ruins in our hearts, he renews our weary spirits, and he strengthens us with his grace - *I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. - Jeremiah 31:4*

Scientists have long studied salamanders for their remarkable ability to regenerate lost body parts. These small amphibians face many dangers, yet our Creator enables them to regenerate lost tails and entire lost limbs, and some salamanders can also regenerate parts of organs and even parts of their brains and spinal cords. Within a few weeks, the lost part is completely restored, and the seams are indistinguishable.

Similarly, God does the same thing with the spiritual wounds we undergo in this world's harshness and confusion; his words open the eyes of our hearts as he patiently unfolds his truths, his grace cleanses us through and through, he makes his strength perfect in our weaknesses, our Heavenly Father carries us every step, and he gives us his Spirit as a guarantee of eternal life - *See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame . . . - Jeremiah 31:8*

Salamanders also have the ability to secrete a slippery substance around their bodies that makes it difficult for predators to catch them. Moreover, it keeps them from becoming dehydrated, and protects them during extreme temperatures. Just as the Lord gives all this protection to the salamanders, God gives us even more thorough spiritual protection.

God surrounds us with his presence as we walk by faith in Jesus; his words remind us of what is true, his Spirit reassures us that God is with us, he watches over us every moment, he turns back the accuser's reproaches and guards us from spiritual dangers that are too strong for us - *He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd. For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. - Jeremiah 31:10-11*

We are weak and we understand so little, so in his unfailing compassion and his everlasting understanding the Son of God has come to be our Redeemer, our Savior, our good Shepherd, who guides us and sustains us every step.

- Mark Garner



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Constantly Abiding

There's a peace in my heart
That the world never gave,
A peace it cannot take away;
Though the trials of life
May surround like a cloud,
I've a peace that has come here to stay!

All the world seemed to sing
Of a Savior and King
When peace sweetly came to my heart;
Troubles all fled away
And my night turned to day,
Blessed Jesus, how glorious thou art.

Constantly abiding, Jesus is mine;
Constantly abiding, rapture divine;
He never leaves me lonely,
Whispers, O so kind:
I will never leave thee, Jesus is mine.

- Anne Sebring Murphy, 1877-1942

Ohio musician Anne S. Murphy wrote this poem and set it to music as a hymn. She also co-founded a campground designed for church camps; she and her husband ran a pottery shop as well.



God Gives Us Hope & A Future

In Jeremiah 29, God reassures the exiles in Babylon that he is near, that he cares for them, and that he will give them hope and a future. This week, Steve Carver writes about some of God's promises that give us lasting hope.

Call On God, & He Will Listen

I remember one early afternoon when I was four, I was in my bedroom for a nap. But I had gotten my hands on a pair of scissors and before laying down had decided to see how sharp they were by hacking tufts of my hair. I knew mom would be displeased if she discovered the act by seeing hair lying around on the floor, so I hid it and the scissors under a throw rug in my room. I remember being amazed that mom had discovered my transgression when she woke me up, because the rug remained undisturbed (I was never the sharpest pencil in the pencil box).

Being human, we are all susceptible to using metaphorical scissors and sinning willfully. If only we could break the scissors rather than ourselves and our relationship with God. How do we respond when we make a hash of things? Even if the world doesn't see our willfulness, we certainly do and more importantly, God does, he sees our hearts and actions. As Paul says, there are two ways that we can respond. "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

What is the difference? Worldly sorrow is all about me, how I rely on myself to deal with my wrong. This might include trying to sweep it under the rug, deflecting it, or trying to fix it on my own terms. In Numbers 13 and 14, the 12 Israelite spies had returned with a report of the land of Canaan that God has promised them. Ten of them acknowledged that while the land was indeed fruitful, the inhabitants were large and mighty. They viewed themselves as grasshoppers by comparison and warned that they would be slaughtered if they went up against the Canaanites. This caused the Israelites to reject God and his promise to direct and protect them. In turn, God, in his sorrow, declared that the Israelites would wander in the desert for 40 years until only Caleb and Joshua were left to inherit any portion of the land. Rather than humbly accept God's judgment, turn, and earnestly seek to serve him, the Israelites presumed to go up against the Canaanites on their own, against God's purpose, and were soundly defeated.

Godly sorrow gives us a hope and a future because it is about God, his love, and what he has done to mend the relationship, which we broke, with him. Even in the days of Jeremiah when God through Nebuchadnezzar had exiled a major portion of Judah because of the Jews rampant rebellion against God, our Lord did not punish them as a harsh task master but disciplined them as a loving father. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13). "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalms 103:10-12) Easter is a guarantee of that promise!

- Steve Carver