

Family Information

Church Picnic This Saturday

This Saturday, June 18th from 4:30-7:30 at Blendon Woods we will have a church picnic with the Ghana Congregation. At this point we are planning on bringing and sharing food like previous years.

Wednesday Singing Practice

Northland's praise team is looking for additional people. Anyone who would be interested, can sing, preferably can read music, and would like to join us for a practice, please let Don or someone in the praise team know, so we can plan for you. We usually practice Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, in the auditorium.

Children's Classes

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.

The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. The classes already have teachers, so this is a good opportunity for training. These positions are staggered so that no one needs to serve for extended periods. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

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.

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.

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

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 in Philippians. 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4190	\$4515
Designated:	\$59	\$49



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June 12 2022
Volume 31, Number 24

Night and Day The Seed....

Night & Day The Seed Sprouts & Grows

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. - Mark 4:26-27

This is what the kingdom of God is like; God has planted his seed in each of our hearts, night and day it sprouts and grows while we walk by faith in the message of Jesus, and the seed of God's Word takes root in our hearts and produces a garden of fruit of the Spirit that only our Heavenly Father could have planted. God and his thoughts and his ways are far higher than ours - *All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. - Mark 4:28*

Both scientists and poets have long been intrigued by the chambered nautilus, a mollusk with a distinctive spiraled shell that continues to grow as long as the animal lives. The nautilus itself lives in the outermost chamber, and it continually adds new chambers as it outgrows the previous ones, leaving them empty. Similarly, as we continue our walk of faith and face new circumstances, our Heavenly Father continually provides us with what we need.

As doctor and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. (1809-1894, he was the father of the judge O.W. Holmes Jr.) wrote of this ongoing change of the nautilus, "Year after year beheld the silent toil That spread his lustrous coil; Still, as the spiral grew, He left the past year's dwelling for the new." For God renews us and pours out the harvest of his heavenly pasture on us - *As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come. - Mark 4:29*

The chambered nautilus is born with 4 chambers, and the oldest ones can have 35 or more. God enables it to use these hollow chambers, for the nautilus can dive quickly by filling the unused chambers with water, and it can also rise quickly by pumping out the water. So as the nautilus grows, the better it can adjust to its surroundings. Likewise, the closer we draw to God and the more we open our hearts to his words, the easier it is for God to guide us and show us his care.

Oliver W. Holmes Sr. saw in the nautilus a metaphor for our walk with God, as his poem continues, "Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul, As the swift seasons roll. Leave thy low-vaulted past . . . Till thou at length art free, Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea." For when we open our minds and hearts to our Father in heaven, he can free us from this world's thinking, and his truths give peace to our spirits amidst this world's restlessness and confusion - *For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear. - Mark 4:22-23*

The message of Jesus gives us lasting hope, and God's promises give us an anchor for our souls.

- Mark Garner

God's Everlasting Love

Wondrous words, how rich in blessing!
Deeper than th'unfathomed sea;
Broader than its world of waters,
Boundless, infinite and free.
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Is that everlasting love.

Weary spirits—sad with toiling,
'Mid the sorrows of life's way—
Feel their heavy burdens lightened,
As they journey day by day.
How with quickened steps they move,
Cheered by everlasting love.

In My house of many mansions,
I've prepared a place for thee,
Where are no dark clouds or tempests,
Where I am, there thou shalt be—
All the untold bliss to prove,
Of My everlasting love.

- Mary Dagworthy Yard James, 1810–1883

Writer Mary D. James wrote numerous articles that appeared in several Christian publications. She began teaching children's Bible classes when she was a teenager, and later she also helped found a home for orphans.



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, Karen Susenna writes about God's desire for us to be with him forever, and his promise that he will be found by us whenever we seek him.

I Will be Found by You

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 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. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." (Jeremiah 29:10–14)

Jeremiah 29:11 is a well-known verse quoted by Christians. It's an example in history of when God declared to his people that he had plans for them - good plans - plans to give them hope and a future. What a beautiful promise. As you read the entirety of the passage, God is reassuring His people that He is in control of all things - of the political situation of the time (captivity), of their physical lives in a foreign land, and of their spiritual lives with Him. I love the simple declaration by God at the beginning of verse 14, "I will be found by you". God promises a close, intimate, interactive and fulfilling relationship with Him. Then, based on that relationship, He makes a promise to gather them back - to return them to their land and to Him.

Jesus used the term "gather" in the gospels when he was heartbroken over His relationship with His people: Luke 13:34: *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."*

John speaks of Jesus in John 1:10-11: *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*

In 2 Timothy 2:13, Paul says: *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown himself.* This is how much a part of Him we are!

When my circumstances look difficult or bleak, I step back from the situation in front of me and remember the big picture: God loves me. From that love, He created me. He gave me a purpose. And, through out my life, as I walk through the circumstances of this life, He is calling me back to Himself. He not only wants me . . . He wants me with Him forever.

This is my hope. This is my future.

- Karen Susenna