

Family Information

Church Picnic Next Month

The next church picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at the Blendon Woods Sycamore Pavilion, beginning at 4:30 PM.

Work Day On September 24

The work/clean-up day has been scheduled for Saturday, September 24. More details will be coming soon; see Mike Evans for further information.

New Small Group

If you would be interested in joining a new small group (either being part of one or hosting one) this fall or winter, please see the elders or Caleb.

From The Elders

After much thought and prayer, the Northland Church of Christ board of directors has made the decision to close the Northland Church of Christ Childcare. This decision was not based on any one specific factor but on the combination of many. Anyone who has questions or would like more information please contact one of the elders.

We want to acknowledge all the wonderful work of our directors, teachers, staff, and other supporters over the many years. We also want to thank all our members serving on the current childcare committee. Continue to pray for our director and staff as they try to adjust to this change over the next several weeks. Pray that God will provide them needed employment. Pray that our parents and children will find suitable care going forward.

Wednesday Service Meeting Schedule

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 PM. For September, the Children's Ministry and Outreach meetings will be combined (on Wednesday September 7 and Wednesday September 21). See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

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

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

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

On Line Bible Studies

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.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3056	\$4371
Designated:	\$	\$42



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We Have Heard That It Was Said

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. - Matthew 5:21-22

As Jesus helps the crowd to develop a new perspective, he also helps us look at God's words in a deeper way. Our Heavenly Father's words are not meant to be analyzed forensically, rather they are to be pondered prayerfully so that they may transform our minds and renew our hearts. We have heard that it was said, Thou shall not kill; yet this is also meant to address our hearts, as well as our outward actions.

You have heard that it was said, Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. - Matthew 5:38-39

We have also heard the saying 'an eye for an eye'; yet Jesus helps us see that the Mosaic laws were intended to teach the Israelites that they belonged to God, so that they would both honor God and would treat one another accordingly, without harming or envying or stealing from one another.

Science fiction writer Damon Knight's (1922-2002) story "An Eye For A What?" examines human preconceptions. In it, earth's leaders are required to punish an extra-terrestrial who had humiliated a human official; if they don't come up with an appropriate punishment, the judicial code of this other planet necessitates its leaders to punish earth's leaders for not taking action. They try confinement, physical deprivations, and other punishments, yet none of these work.

Earth's leaders are perplexed and anxious, until a scientist looks at things from the viewpoint of the extra-terrestrials, rather than from earth's. Just as this other planet had very different standards from earth's, Jesus reminds us that God looks at things much differently than this world does, for we are all guilty of sin, we all have the same need for God's grace, and we can only obtain this grace through turning humbly to Jesus, instead of following this world's ways - *You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:43-45*

In the story, the scientist realizes that the extra-terrestrials have great difficulty controlling their desires, so they value self-discipline above all else. He puts the offender in a room full of lavish food and amusements, and orders him to do as he pleases. The extra-terrestrial gorges himself and runs amok, completely embarrassing himself, and the leaders of his planet consider this as a fully appropriate discipline. Similarly, in a far deeper way the Scriptures remind us - *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. - 1 Peter 2:10*

And God has an eternal home for those who walk humbly by faith in his Son.

- Mark Garner

More Than These

I need not trouble for the morrow,
For I am in my Father's care;
He will go with me as I journey,
For all my need He will prepare.

I need not either thirst or hunger;
His grace will never be denied;
He leads me to the living waters;
His daily manna is supplied.

I know that He provides the lilies,
His eye each falling sparrow sees;
And so my soul will fear no evil,
For I am more to Him than these.

- Ina Mae Duley Ogdon, 1872–1964

In her twenties, writer and schoolteacher Ina Mae Ogdon moved to Toledo, Ohio, where she and her family spent the rest of their lives. Besides writing the words to well over 100 hymns, she wrote numerous articles and short stories, and she taught children's Bible classes for many years.

Love, The Noblest, Purest, Best

If love, the noblest, purest, best,
If truth, all other truth above,
May claim return from every breast,
O, surely Jesus claims our love!

There's not a hope with comfort fraught,
Triumphant over death and time,
But Jesus mingles in that thought,
Forerunner of our course sublime.

His image meets us in the hour
Of joy, and brightens every smile;
We see him, when the tempests lower,
Each terror soothe, each grief beguile.

We see him in the daily round
Of social duty, mild and meek;
With him we tread the hallowed ground,
Communion with our God to seek.

- Emily Taylor, 1795-1872 English poet, writer, and schoolteacher Emily Taylor wrote numerous stories based on historical events. She also wrote the words to many hymns.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

Jesus is often described as our good Shepherd, for all of the ways he cares for us, guides us, and protects us. This week, Mike Paden writes about Jesus' understanding of his flock.

The Lord is My Shepherd

When David wrote those words, he probably reflected on his own early life as a shepherd and drew comfort and parallels between his experience with sheep and God's experience with him and his people. David considered his responsibilities to his father's flocks: to lead them to green pastures; find them calm water; protect them with the rod and staff against thieves and predators, all the things that God does for his own people. So, God the father truly is our shepherd, "For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand." (Ps 95.7RSV)

I encourage you to read Ezekiel 34 in order to understand the context as God pronounces indictment and judgment against the shepherds of Israel and declares that, "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them." (Verse 11).

Jesus takes this passage and applies it to himself in John chapter 10, when he says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (v. 15). The reason Jesus is such a good shepherd is because before the foundation of the world he was designated as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29). Isaiah contrasts all sheep (read people) to His own Son, "We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:6-7RSV).

He had years of experience being a sheep. He knows what it's like putting all of his faith into his Father's hand and he has shown us that it can be done. When Jesus asks us to lay down our lives and service to him it's nothing less than he has done. He asked us to lay down our lives and service to our spiritual family (1 John 3:16).

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, he entrusted Peter with a mission "feed my lambs . . . take care of my sheep . . . feed my sheep". (John 21:15...17). I don't believe that command was exclusively directed to Peter, but it is passed on to every believer. In John 10:16 Jesus declares that there are other sheep yet to be included into his fold and the responsibility to bring them into that fold is ours.

- Mike Paden