

Family Information

Sunday Afternoon Bible Class Resumes Today

The 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon Bible class will resume meeting today, with a study of the early church. See Mike Paden for details.

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 PM. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

What's The Point Of 1 Chronicles?

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 1 Chronicles?"

Preview Of New Web Site

In the near future, Northland's new web site will be at ncocfamily.com, which will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, soon. You can get a preview of the new site at ncocfamily.com, as Jack Evans and Becca Strawser continue transferring material from the old site. If you see any errors, broken links, or misinformation, please notify Jack Evans (jevans@ncocfamily.org).

Potluck For Pam & Darrell Estep

Please mark your calendars for Sunday November 6th, for a Potluck immediately following services in the fellowship hall (rooms E41 & E42). We will be gathering to honor Pam and Darrell Estep for the many years they have served our congregation.

Fall Fest

Fall Fest is being planned for Sunday evening, October 23, from 5:30-7:00 PM. If you're willing to help, please see Emily Graham, Josh Evans, or Vicki Cowans.

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

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.

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. 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:	\$2751	\$4344
Designated:		\$44



4581 Cleveland Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43231
(614) 410-5860

Website
ncocfamily.org

October 2 2022
Volume 31, Number 40

Do Not Fear, For God Will Be With Us

Now, this is what the Lord says - he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel. - Isaiah 43:1

The Lord created each of us; our Heavenly Father formed us with unfathomable understanding and unfailing care. He knows all of us by name, and as we face this world's difficulties and fears, God reassures us that he has made us his own children, and he pours out his grace and care on those who approach him with a humble heart - *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.* - Isaiah 43:1

In 1962, President John Kennedy went to Houston to support the Space Program's objective of sending a person to the moon, a project that at the time was met with considerable skepticism. In his speech, Kennedy asked some rhetorical questions about other significantly difficult tasks that humans had undertaken, since there were some things worth doing whether or not they are successful, for we could learn about life, ourselves, and our surroundings. Kennedy spoke at Rice University, one of the smallest schools in the top division of college football, and he was aware that they had an annual game with the University of Texas, a much larger college as well as a constant championship contender. So he got a smile from his audience when he asked "Why does Rice play Texas?", knowing the difficulty involved. John said that they play this game not because it's easy, rather because it's hard, like some other aspects of life itself.

Similarly, sometimes God asks us to do things that may seem nearly impossible; he asks us to walk by faith rather than by sight, he asks us to care about and pray for those who dislike us or harm us, he asks us to trust in him alone instead of in this world's ways and thinking. Our Heavenly Father understands that sometimes we feel overwhelmed by this world's storms of chaos and its floods of harshness, so he promises us that he will always be with us, and he will carry us each step - *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.* - Isaiah 43:2

In one of the oddities of sports, Texas and Rice currently share a surprising distinction. Texas has played 10 games with the University of Alabama, another of college football's perennial top teams, and Texas has won 7 games and tied once, while Rice has won all three games it has played against Alabama - so these two schools hold the two best all-time records against Alabama. Even in this world, sometimes an "underdog" can defeat a champion, so how much more can God protect us from spiritual foes that are too strong for us, when we put our faith in him instead of in human abilities and human strength. For the Lord is our Savior and our Redeemer and much more - *For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior* - Isaiah 43:3

And God rejoices in pouring out spiritual blessings on those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus.

- Mark Garner

Approach Not With Gloom

Approach not the altar with gloom in thy soul,
Nor let thy feet falter from terror's control!
God loves not the sadness of fear and mistrust;
Oh! serve Him with gladness, the gentle, the Just!

Nor come to the temple with pride in thy mien;
But lowly and simple in courage serene,
Bring meekly before Him the faith of a child,
Bow down and adore Him with heart undefiled!

His bounty is tender,
His being is love,
His smile fills with splendor the blue arch above.
Confiding, believing, oh! enter always
His courts with thanksgiving, His portals with praise.

- Frances Locke Osgood, 1811-1850

When she was 14, Frances Locke began writing poems for children, and she went on to publish several volumes of her poetry both for children and for adults. (Later she wrote using her married name Osgood). Edgar Allan Poe and his wife were particularly appreciative of her poetry, and she regularly visited their home.

Thou Art My Shepherd

Thou art my shepherd,
Caring in every need,
Thy loving lamb to feed,
Trusting Thee still.
In the green pastures low,
Where living waters flow,
Safe by Thy side I go,
Fearing no ill.

Or if my way lie
Where storms are raging nigh,
Nothing can terrify,
I trust Thee still.
How can I be afraid,
While softly on my head
Thy tender hand is laid?
I fear no ill.

- Mary Elsie Thalheimer, 1866

An Anchor For The Soul

Jesus and his message of salvation and redemption give us an anchor for our souls as we endure this world's uncertainties and fears. This week, Steve Carver writes about how God's promises give us guidance and hope as we pass through this world's "fog" and confusion.

Hope As An Anchor For The Soul

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. ... Hebrews 6:19

We all face trials of various types and sources in our lives and because we are broken creatures, we too often fall prey to them. Sometimes the trials come in the form of abundance which tempts us to focus and trust in the gifts rather than the gift giver. At other times they come in the form of hardships and loss. From pride and laziness to fear and abandonment, trials create a "fog" that would turn us from our hope in God and have us focus on ourselves. They would divert us from the certainty of God's promises of love, salvation, grace, peace, strength, purpose, and so much more.

The more we depend on the Lord and hope in his promises, the easier it is for us to see and follow his light through the fog of trials. In C.S. Lewis's book, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, king Caspian and crew are sailing to the utter east - to Aslan's country (Aslan is a Christ-like figure in this Narnian series of children's books). At one point during the voyage, the ship comes up to a mysterious dark "fog". After being goaded for his lack of courage and sense of adventure, the king orders the ship be slowly row into the fog. They immediately find that all light from the sun is blocked and that the only dim light they have comes from their lookout torches. They are told, after entering the darkness, that it is a place where everyone's worst nightmares take physical form. The crew hurriedly turns the ship around and begins rowing hard to get out of the fog. They soon discover however that they can't seem to get out which creates panic. They start hearing sounds making them fear that their worst nightmares are materializing. At this point, Lucy bows and prays, "Aslan, Aslan, if ever you loved us at all, send us help now." Then a small light appears in the distance and grows to shine on the whole ship, leading them out of the darkness. But only Lucy heard the voice in the light say to her, "Courage, dear heart". Once the ship was out of the dark fog and back in sunlight, the crew turned to look back at the fog, only to discover that it had vanished.

King David was a man after God's own heart. Even so, he faced trials beyond what most of us can imagine, including a sense of abandonment. He found redemption and hope in the Lord and his promises.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; ... I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. — Psalm 37:7, Psalm 40:1-3

Courage, dear heart. Anchor your hope in the certainty of God and his promises, and *you will find rest for your souls.* (Matthew 11:29).

- Steve Carver