

Family Information

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

This week there will be a service meeting on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 PM. The third Wednesday of every month will be focused on outreach opportunities, meaning anything to do with non-Northland members. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Fall Fest Next Sunday

Fall Fest will be next Sunday evening, October 23, from 5:30-7:00 PM. It will take place rain or shine, and it will include games, food, and Trunk or Treat. If you're willing to help, please see Emily Graham, Josh Evans, or Vicki Cowans. There are also sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards.

New Church Staff

This Friday, October 21, Pam and Darrell Estep will both be retiring after many years of working for the congregation. Ashley Dillinger will become the new church secretary, and Art Silva will take over as the custodian for the building and grounds. Each of these positions will be part-time. See one of the elders for further information.

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.

In addition to the Potluck, two more events are planned for next month. On Sunday, November 13, there will be a meeting after the morning assembly to discuss putting up a new sign in front of the church building. Then, on Sunday, November 20, there will be an evening combined time of worship with the Ghana congregation. Details will be coming soon.

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 Groups

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

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 Acts. Contact Karen for more details.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2840	\$4325
Designated:		\$44



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

Website
ncocfamily.org

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Believe In The Light

Then Jesus told them, You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. - John 12:35

Jesus brought the light of life into this world's haze and confusion, and he calls us to walk in his light so that he may renew our minds and hearts. Jesus is the light of the world, and God calls us to believe in him so that we become his children of light - *Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light. - John 12:36*

Sunflowers are known for their tall stalks and for their vivid colors (usually yellow, though sometimes red or purple). They are also particularly well-named, for they have a close relationship with sunlight. Young sunflowers face east in the morning, and throughout the day they slowly turn as they follow the sun, finally facing west at sunset (biologists call this "heliotropism"). Then they again turn their faces towards the east, ready for more sunlight on the next morning.

Likewise, our Heavenly Father calls us to keep our eyes on Jesus, to follow him closely, and to let the message of his Son into our hearts so that God may nurture the seed of faith he has planted in us. For Jesus was in very nature God, and he brings us out of this world's gloom and despair, and he brings us hope and peace that transcends this world's uncertainty - *Then Jesus cried out, Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. - John 12:44-46*

Later in the summer, when sunflowers begin producing seeds, they become fixed in one direction, usually facing to the east, towards the sunrise (which also draws bees to the warm flower faces). Similarly, each day we will face many things in this world, yet every day God is with us from the moment we awaken, and when we put our trust in him he will guide us through whatever is ahead.

Sunflowers thus store up an assortment of minerals and vitamins in their seeds, providing abundant nourishment for the growth of future sunflowers (as well as food for animals). In a similar way, as we absorb God's words and stay close to him in prayer, he renews us and strengthens us, and he also helps us encourage and comfort one another as we face this world's fears and sorrows together. For Jesus brings eternal life to those who believe in his message and follow him humbly - *The Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. - John 12:49-50*

Jesus came to bring us the priceless gift of knowing our Heavenly Father, in this life and forever.

- Mark Garner

O Shepherd, All Divine

O Shepherd, all divine,
Thou that dost guide thy wayward, wandering sheep
Through quiet pastures, and their pathway keep
Where the fresh grass springs, and the waters pine
Through pleasant meadows; where the blossoms sleep
Till dawn awakes them, and the dew-beads shine;
Is there within they fold yet room? May I be thine?

Thou through the sultry day
Keepst the tender guidance of thy flock;
And in the shadow of some towering rock,
When the cool morning freshness dies away,
Hid'st them, till twilight's shadowy gates unlock,
And stars shine out upon their onward way,
And the tired, bleating lambs upon thy heart dost lay.

- Rose Terry Cooke, 1827-1892

Author and poet Rose Terry Cooke was especially known for her short stories, which were often published in leading periodicals of the era. She began learning to read when she was three, and she began writing poetry when she was around ten. She was married when she was 46, so her writings are often published under her birth name, Rose Terry.

O Gentle Savior

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry.
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy,
Find a sweet relief.
Kneeling there in contrition,
Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek thy face.
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

One of Frances Crosby's many hymns, this has been recorded by numerous singers over the years.

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, Leon Norwood writes about the eternal nature of this anchor and what it means for us.

Jesus Christ, Our Eternal Anchor

The Bible tells us that we find hope when we flee to God "for refuge" (Hebrews 6:18). It describes this hope as a sure and steadfast "anchor of the soul" that fixes itself on the reality of God's presence and the reliability of His promises. A boat anchor helps keep a boat attached to one place on the ocean floor so that it does not go adrift in the sea. Likewise, a "spiritual anchor" is something that helps keep us grounded in life, connected to what matters most, and therefore able to cope with the challenges that life brings. It is what keeps our soul in the right place.

The hope, however, referred to in verse 18 is more than wishful thinking. It is not only a conceptual hope about clinging to the good we can't see, even in the midst of the bad we can't escape; it has little to do with human intervention. Nor is it a matter of solving or fixing the problem. Instead, it is the certainty of the promise of God. His promise is that we will receive our inheritance. We have this hope because he declares that we have it, and he has secured it by way of the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son. That's why the writer of Hebrews compares it to an anchor. It's the thing that holds you firm in the fiercest storm.

It is an anchor for the soul. Being anchored in one's soul is a powerful image of the "perfect peace" Isaiah refers to in chapter 26:3. *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal."* Jesus secures this hope and peace for us because we are grounded in truth and the righteousness of Christ as we are sanctified and this becomes more and more obvious to the one who is truly saved by faith and follows after God, waiting for the return of Christ.

The key to having real hope is believing the promises of God. But hope is not for the faithless or faint of heart. *And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6.*

Psalm 46 says God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. There will be difficult times, but God promises to be our refuge. When buildings crumble and our world is shaken. God has promised that the anchor of hope will hold and secure us. As we only can experience life in the present moment and never in the past or future, it is useful to have an anchor that can point us back to the present moment especially when our minds have been wandering, drifting, or getting lost in the past or future. Jesus Christ is our eternal anchor. We are secure forever in him.

John 10:28-30 - "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

- Leon Norwood