

Family Information

Holiday Schedules

Sunday Morning Bible Class in E44 - The class is taking a break for the holiday today, and it will resume meeting next Sunday, January 1.

Sunday Morning Bible Class in the Auditorium - The class is taking a break for the holiday today, and it will resume meeting next Sunday, January 1.

Sunday Afternoon Worship (4 PM) - The class is taking December off, and will resume in January. See Mike Paden or Jim Robbins for updates.

Monday Women's Prayer Group - The prayer group resumes meeting tomorrow, December 26.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - The Bible study is taking a break on December 27 and January 3, and will resume meeting on January 10.

Wednesday Outreach Meetings - The group will resume meeting in January. See Caleb or the elders for updates.

Friday TGIF Bible Study - The group will resume meeting in January. See Leisha or Mike Evans for updates.

Offering Envelopes For 2023 Now Available

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2023, for those who have requested them. The names are written on each box. Please note that your envelope number may have changed. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler.

Update On New Web Site

After January 1 the new web site, ncocfamily.com, will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, and after that when you enter the old site address you will be automatically redirected to the new one.

On Line Bible Studies

New Small Groups - Sign-Up Sheets Available

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the foyer for anyone interested in joining a new small group sometime this winter. These will help in setting up the new group(s). There is one sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet every 2 weeks, and there is another sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet once per month. If you have any questions, 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$6261	\$4306
Designated:	\$450	\$80



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The True Hope of Christmas

What is the Hope of Christmas? In a Word - Jesus! The moment Jesus was born, the hope that had been lost in the Garden of Eden entered the world once again. This powerful hope caused the wise men to travel hundreds of miles to bring the newborn King gifts on the very first Christmas.

We read in 1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." God sees all the problems in the world, including yours. And He has promised ultimately to fix them. To do this, He sent Jesus to carry out a plan to end all suffering. At Christmas, we celebrate Christ's entrance into the world to ultimately bring us back to God for forgiveness, healing, and hope.

Unfortunately, in today's world, the word hope is thrown around a lot, "I hope the pandemic ends soon." "I hope my family stays safe and healthy." "I hope life makes sense someday." No matter where you're at, you probably want and need a little of it. The problem is that it does not feel like it's enough, especially when it comes up against those harsh realities of life, we face every day.

But the hope we have in Jesus is distinctively different from what the world offers. It is a living hope not based on the circumstances we find ourselves in, but on a living God who is alive and active and on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This hope is the assurance of God's goodness and blessings based exclusively on God's immutable nature, love, and power. It is the fuel for the soul that moves us forward.

Read what the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:15-20:

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things have been created through him and for him . . . in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church . . . For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

This is the Christmas Hope, the hope you can count on with certainty because God has promised you. My prayer for everyone during this Christmas season is that we acknowledge the birth of Jesus as God Incarnate: the Son of God, who came to earth to show us what real love looks like. Let's read John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". This is the true hope and the greatest gift of Christmas.

- Leon Norwood

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.

Immanuel, God With Us!

Immanuel, God with us!
Bow down, ye heavens, today.
Behold a wondrous glory,
The star of Bethlehem's ray.
For angels have descended
With message from on high;
Let all the earth keep silence,
Redemption draweth nigh.

All hail, angelic heralds
Proclaiming peace on earth.
Hail, gracious star of promise,
Sign of a Savior's birth.
Lift up thy gates, O Zion.
Sing, everlasting hills.
Joy for the God incarnate
The whole creation fills!

- Anna Hubbard Jewett Mercur, 1832-1901

Poet Anna Mercur published two collections of her poems, and she also edited a collection of letters to and from her family and friends. Her daughter Elise was a well-known architect who designed several public buildings, one of which has been declared a historical landmark.

Art Thou Come With Us To Dwell?

And art Thou come with us to dwell,
Our Prince, our guide, our love, our Lord?
And is Thy name Emmanuel,
God present with His world restored?

Thou bringest all again; with Thee
Is light, is space, is breadth and room
For each thing fair, beloved, and free
To have its hour of life and bloom.

The world is glad for Thee! the heart
Is glad for Thee, and all is well,
And fixed and sure, because Thou art,
Whose name is called Emmanuel.

- Dora Greenwell, 1821-1882

English writer Dora Greenwell was known both for her poetry and for her essays, and she published several volumes of both.

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #4

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 29 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

ADDED	CAESAR	MOTHER	SPECIAL
ARAMAIC	CAIAPHAS	NATHANAEL	SPIRIT
ARREST	DESCENDANTS	NAZARETH	STANDS
BAPTIZING	LAZARUS	NICODEMUS	STARTED
BELIEVES	MARTHA	SABBATH	STONE PAVEMENT
BROTHER	MESSIAH	SAMARITAN WOMAN	TESTIMONY
BROUGHT	MIDDLE	SEA OF TIBERIUS	

T G R D E S C E N D A N T S
I N A B R O U G H T C E A E
R T E S A N C N D L C M T A
I E S M D H R I A C A O U O
P S T E E N A Z A R E T H F
S T A H R V A I I M S H C T
U I D E T R A T S A A E H I
M M D M U P A P S S R R T B
E O E S H N E A E E E T A E
D N D A W C H B R N O M B R
O Y S O I U R E H T O R B I
C G M A R T H A H J E T A U
I A L S U B E L I E V E S S
N A T H A N A E L D D I M S

The answer will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's mystery verse answer: *The Lord make his face shine on you.* - NUMBERS 6:25