

## Family Information

### Next Missions Group Meeting

The next Missions Group meeting will be held on Wednesday February 23 at 6:30 PM. Contact Jeff McVicker if you have questions.

### Contribution Statements For 2021

Contribution statements for 2021 are available in the church office. Please see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement.

### Ladies Day At Fishinger & Kenny

The Fishinger & Kenny congregation is hosting a Ladies Day on Saturday March 5, from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (lunch will be provided). If you would like more information, or would like to register, contact their office at office@fandk.org or 614-824-2298.

### Words Of wisdom

While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation.

- Maya Angelou, 1928-2014

God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.

- Charles Spurgeon, 1834-1892

## 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 on Colossians. 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
<b>General:</b>	\$4105	\$4280
<b>Designated:</b>	\$	\$22

**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

**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.



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

Website  
ncocfamily.org

February 20, 2022  
Volume 31, Number 8

## The Spirit Gives Life

*What the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son . . . in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*  
- Romans 8:3-4

We are weak, yet God makes his strength perfect in our weaknesses when we walk reverently in the light of Jesus. We couldn't make ourselves righteous, so the Lamb of God came to bring a garment of God's own righteousness to those who believe in him and acknowledge our need for him and his grace every moment. And he gives us the priceless gift of his Spirit who lives in us - *Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however . . . are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.* - Romans 8:8-9

In Akira Kurosawa's 1980 movie "Kagemusha" ("shadow warrior"), a convict strongly resembles a daimyo (feudal lord), so he is offered a pardon if he will be a stand-in at certain times. The daimyo is based on Takeda Shingen, a historical 1500s Japanese leader who protected his territory from merciless warlords and instituted some helpful reforms, so as the convict learns about the man he impersonates, the more he begins to appreciate him.

Similarly, the more we learn about Jesus, the more we let his Spirit fill our hearts, the more God will draw us closer to him. Then, when their leader dies, his close associates keep it secret and have the 'shadow' continue in his role. The former convict, who has lived a life full of petty crimes, finds out more about what the daimyo had said and done, and instead of being motivated by self-interest, he learns to be gracious and trustworthy.

Likewise, as we let Jesus transform us, we can appreciate the many ways he cares from us, from the crucifixion to the small ways he shows us kindness daily. Our physical bodies are mere dust and clay, yet our Heavenly Father gives us new life through his Spirit - *If Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.* - Romans 8:10

Later the impersonation is exposed, and the shadow is set free. The daimyo's heirs mismanage things, leading to the collapse of their region, while the shadow returns anonymously and serves courageously. As the memory of this leader changed this convict, the realization of what Jesus did for us gives us many more reasons to follow him and let him transform us. Moreover, since God raised his Son from the dead, and his Spirit now lives in us, he gives us an enduring hope - *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.* - Romans 8:11

There is no one like God, who renews us, cleanses us, and sanctifies us through and through.

- Mark Garner

## Touch Me, Lord Jesus

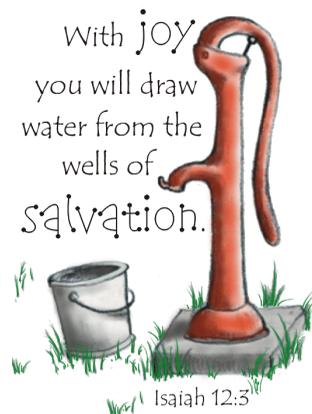
Touch, touch me, Lord Jesus,  
With Thy hand of mercy,  
Make each throbbing heartbeat  
Feel Thy pow'r divine.  
O take my will forever,  
I will doubt Thee never,  
O Lord, please cleanse me, my dear Savior,  
Make me wholly Thine.

Feed, feed me, dear Jesus,  
From Thy holy table,  
Rain, rain bread from heaven,  
Let my cup o'erflow.  
O naked, sick and hungry;  
Poor and weak and lonely,  
O Lord, please feed, feed me, Lord Jesus,  
Till I want no more.

Guide, guide me, Jehovah,  
Through this vale of sorrow,  
I am safe forever,  
Trusting in Thy love.  
O bear me through the current;  
O'er the chilly Jordan,  
O Lord, please lead me, my dear Savior,  
To my home above.

- Lucie Campbell, 1885-1963

*While she was a high school history teacher, Lucie Campbell began writing hymns, and she went on to write over 100 hymns. She was also known for the support and encouragement she gave to young singers, including Marian Anderson. Single for most of her life, in her seventies she married a lifelong friend, so she is sometimes referred to as Lucie Campbell-Williams.*



## Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

*This world's futile thinking may perplex us, and its empty ways may hard press us, so in our Heavenly Father's unfailing care he renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Micah Evans writes about how God and his words renew us, reassure us of the truth, and help us remain gracious.*

### By His Word, Not This World

I recently watched a video online that was extremely convicting and inspiring. It talked about the concept of "the truth" and what that means in today's world.

The central point was that Christians can sometimes get caught up in what the world teaches about "tolerance." The world defines that word as accepting everyone's views as their own personal truth and accepting that they are valid. That doesn't even align with the dictionary definition of tolerance. The dictionary defines "tolerant" as "showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with." Isn't that interesting that the world's definition of tolerance not only misaligns with Biblical tolerance, but also the world's own dictionary definition of tolerance?

So, while everyone is entitled to have feelings and views, it's not our job as Christians to accept them all as truth. We know where The truth comes from, and it doesn't change. We can live in harmony with others without agreeing with them. We can and are called to love others who disagree with, or even hate, us. We can and must live In the world without being Of the world. But we also, as Christians, need to hold fast to the truth that the Bible provides for us. It's our job to spread that truth to the world, not the other way around. The more we spread God's truth - The Truth - into the world, the more unified we can work to be with those around us. In Christ.

God called us to be renewed, Transformed by His Word, not by this world (Romans 12:2). We have to allow God's Word to fill our innermost thoughts, and accept it as the only truth that can exist in this world. Then, and only then, can we begin to truly minister the message of Jesus to those around us.

Take note that this doesn't mean we go around screaming scripture at everyone. Sometimes showing the world that we are renewed by God's truth is simply living out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Sound familiar? :)

- Micah Evans