

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Wednesday Outreach Meeting will be on March 1 at 6:30 PM. For now, the Outreach Team will be meeting once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month. See Jeff or Caleb if you have any questions.

Faith-Based Book Club Rescheduled

The faith-based book club has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 4, in the fellowship room (E41-42) from 1:30-3:00 PM. The first book up for discussion is "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense" by N.T. Wright. See Caleb if you have any questions.

What's The Point Of Esther?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb and Mark have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Esther?" The entire series is being posted to Northland's web site (ncocfamily.com) - under "Resources" there is a link that will take you to the series.

Training Session On February 15

Caleb is planning a one-hour training session called "How to study the Bible with anyone, anywhere." This is for anyone who wants to be better equipped to study the Bible with anyone. The session will meet on Wednesday, February 15, in the fellowship room (E41-E42) at 6:30 PM. There will also be an on-line (Zoom) training on Saturday, March 11.

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.

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

Contribution Statements For 2022 Available

Contribution statements for 2022 are available in the church office for anyone who used offering envelopes or gave online. See Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement. Call or email the church office if you would like your statement mailed to you.

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: | \$4483 | \$4684 |
| Designated: | \$0 | \$10 |



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A Canopy Of Glory

In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. - Isaiah 4:2

Jesus is our Branch of compassion and truth and splendor, and he produces a harvest of the fruit of the Spirit when we open our hearts to him. Jesus is our good Shepherd, who gathers his scattered flock from the ends of the earth; and God calls us holy, his own children of light - *Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. - Isaiah 4:3*

Hymnwriter Doris Mae Akers (1923-1995) was often called "Miss Gospel Music" for the memorable hymns she wrote over the years. In one of them she expresses both our ongoing need for God as well as God's complete assurance of his care, "I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power to help me over my weakest hour . . . Help me tread in the paths of righteousness; be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting my trust in Thee, lead me, O Lord, lead me."

There is no one like our Heavenly Father, who guides us and renews us and who cleanses us through and through when we put our trust in the good news of Jesus - *The Lord will wash away the filth . . . he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. - Isaiah 4:4*

Akers ponders both God's vastness and his nearness in another hymn, as she writes "How big is God, How big and wide his vast domain to begin to tell these lips can only try He's big enough to rule this mighty universe yet small enough to live within my heart." Indeed, God's presence is everywhere, and he also lives within those who seek him humbly. When we walk by faith, God surrounds us with a canopy of his glory and his presence - *Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. Isaiah 4:5*

In one of her best-known hymns, Doris reflects on the peace and comfort that come when we realize the significance of God's nearness, "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord . . . Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove stay right here with us filling us with your love." Our Heavenly Father gives us shelter and shade from this world's withering futility; he gives us refuge from the storms of chaos and noise - *It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain. - Isaiah 4:6*

God gives us rest for our souls, and it is good to be near him.

- Mark Garner

He Had Not A Place To Lay His Head

The conies had their hiding-place,
The wily fox with stealthy tread
A covert found, but Christ, the Lord,
Had not a place to lay his head.

The eagle had an eyrie home,
The blithesome bird its quiet rest,
But not the humblest spot on earth
Was by the Son of God possessed.

Princes and kings had palaces,
With grandeur could adorn each tomb,
For Him who came with love and life,
They had no home, they gave no room.

The hands whose touch sent thrills of joy
Through nerves unstrung and palsied frame,
The feet that travelled for our need,
Were nailed unto the cross of shame.

How dare I murmur at my lot,
Or talk of sorrow, pain and loss,
When Christ was in a manger laid,
And died in anguish on the cross.

That homeless one beheld beyond
His lonely agonizing pain,
A love outflowing from His heart,
That all the wandering world would gain.

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, 1825-1911

Poet, teacher, and public speaker Frances E.W. Harper wrote poetry, novels, and essays on a variety of subjects.



A New Heart & A New Spirit

In Ezekiel 36, God tells us that he will give us a new heart and a new spirit when we realize our need for him and turn to him humbly. This week, Leon Norwood writes about what it means for us that God gives us a new heart.

God Gives Us A New Heart

The Bible speaks often of the heart. I think one of the most intriguing verses in the Bible regarding the heart is Proverbs 4:23. *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."* Most often in the bible, the heart refers to a person's soul that influences and controls their will and emotions. 2 Corinthians 4:16 refers to the heart as the "inner person", *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."*

In Ezekiel 36:26-27 are some well-known verses regarding the heart where God says, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."*

Someone whom God has given a new heart behaves differently. Saul is an example of this in 1 Samuel 10:1-9. God had chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was a nobody, but God chose him anyway and sent the prophet Samuel to anoint him as king. *"Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, 'Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?'"* Samuel made several predictions to prove to Saul that God had sent him, and verse 9 says, *"As Saul turned and started to leave, God gave him a new heart, and all Samuel's signs were fulfilled that day."* The new heart God gave Saul transformed him from an average nobody to the king of Israel. Not only was his status changed, but his entire outlook was transformed by the power of God.

Here's what we all need to understand. The human heart was created to mirror God's, own heart. We were designed to love Him, love righteousness, and walk in harmony with God and others. *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."* Micah 6:8. A change of heart toward God requires a supernatural transformation. This transformation begins with the gospel message of Christ, for in it is the power of God.

When you put your faith in Christ, God gave you a new heart. He didn't repair your old heart. He gave you a new one. God took your old heart that was cold and hard and replaced it with a new soft heart. He filled this new heart with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowered you to hear His voice and obey His word.

God is always working to soften and encourage your heart and to keep you in fellowship with Him. God never gives up on you. He is always working to strengthen and settle the new spiritual heart He gave you. Isn't it a relief that we don't have to do the work of changing our own stubborn, stony hearts — because we are incapable of doing so — and that it's God's promise to us that He will? *"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" Matthew 19:26.*

Leon Norwood