

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Next Phase of Covid Adjustments: Beginning Sunday June 6th, we will be removing all tape in the auditorium. This will allow people to sit wherever they like, but we'll continue with masks.

Beginning Sunday June 20th, we will transition the wearing of masks to "optional". CDC and Governor Dewine seem to believe this would be acceptable, even as early as Sunday June 6th - but for an extra layer of safety and buffer in case of unknown events, we're going to wait two weeks until the 20th. We understand not everyone will immediately be comfortable with this change. This gives a couple weeks of society's adjustment before the church service starts any adjustment.

This still leaves us with a lot of adjustments to plan this summer - Bible class, Wednesday activities, church events, communion supplies, etc. At least for the month of June, all those will continue "as-is". We'll re-assess come end of June what to start doing for July.

We will continue to only make changes after giving advance notice - if you have concerns, questions or issues with any changes, please reach out and share. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Graduation Open House

There will be a Graduation Open House honoring Paul Silva on Saturday May 29, 2021, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Silva Home: 3866 State Route 257, Ostrander, Ohio 43061.

Graduation Party

There is a graduation party for Summer Kaiser on Sunday, June 6 from 12:00-5:00 at 4802 Manitoba Road, Columbus, OH 43229, and everyone is invited. Summer graduates from Centennial High School on June 2.

Lost & Found Box

If you think you might have lost something, please check the "Lost and Found" box/shelf in the Foyer on the left as you come in. Items still left in there by the end of May will be removed.

Adjusted Service Times

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12:00 PM Sunday Ghana Worship
3:00 PM Sunday Spanish worship

*Classes and devotionals are
Currently meeting on-line*

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "Remember How The Lord Has Led Us All The Way" (based on Deuteronomy 8). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Steve will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join. (Next Sunday, May 30, the class will not be meeting, and we'll resume on June 6).

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session May 21 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

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. Contact her for more details.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Summer Camp Week

Our camp week is July 19th through July 25th at Fort Hill. Camp registration: Cost is currently \$190.00.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5258	\$4747
Designated:	\$150	\$99
Scholarship Fund Current Balance	\$ 1441	

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: Elmer Renderos, Luis Valdez

Surrounded With Songs Of Deliverance

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. - Psalm 32:2

God knows our hearts and our minds and our weaknesses and our flaws, so in his unfailing compassion he cleanses those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus. Our Heavenly Father knows how easily we can stumble or become confused or distracted or led astray, so in his everlasting faithfulness he protects those who walk by faith in the Lamb of God from the mighty floods of this world's empty ways and its futile thinking - *Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. - Psalm 32:6*

Hymnist Annie Sherwood Hawks (1835-1918) wrote that one of her hymns came about in the middle of a busy day, when she stopped to sit for a few minutes looking out the window. Thinking about all of God's care for her, Annie began praying "I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; No tender voice like Thine can peace afford . . .". She decided to write the words down, and they became a hymn that was translated into many languages and sung around the world.

Truly as Annie Hawks wrote, no voice like the voice of Jesus can comfort us and reassure us; truly we need God every moment to sustain us and guide us. And as Hawks realized, God is our hiding place from this world's harshness and confusion, and our Heavenly Father continually shows us his care and his protection - *You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. - Psalm 32:7*

Frances J. ("Fanny") Crosby (1820-1915) wrote well over 1,000 hymns; she had lost her eyesight as a child, yet she also knew that God surrounds us with songs of his care and deliverance and redemption, and she knew that around us are constant reminders of God's nearness and guidance.

On one occasion Frances visited her friend, musician Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908), who was writing a melody. When Crosby heard a few notes, she began singing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine . . .". So the two of them began writing the hymn "Blessed Assurance." Similarly, when we let God open the eyes of our hearts, we will realize the many ways he shows us his compassion for us and his desire for us to know him and be with him - *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you . . . the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. - Psalm 32:8, 32:10*

God is near with us all; when we reach out for him, we will find him, and the Lord rejoices in being with those who seek him with our hearts.

- Mark Garner



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God's Wondrous Power

In every waving blade of grass,
In every little flower.
That daily in my walks I pass,
I see God's wondrous power.

And every tiny drop of rain
Which falls in gentle shower,
And then in mist ascends again.
Tells of His wondrous power.

The little birds that gaily trill
Their songs in morning hour,
And all the air with music fill.
Sing of His wondrous power.

- Maria J. Dodge, 1889, from "Echoes From Cape Ann", a collection of her poetry



A Changeless, Everlasting Now

"O Lord my God, so small, so poor am I,
And great, almighty, O my God, are You."

"Yet you are joined to Christ eternally;
My love a changeless, everlasting Now."

And thus the joyful soul is still
At rest in God's eternal will,
And she is His, and thus delights He Her own to be.

- Matilda of Magdeburg, 1207-1282

Besides her writings, Matilda of Magdeburg (central Germany) is also remembered for her efforts to encourage using German and other familiar languages (instead of Latin) for religious writings.

All Kinds Of Prayers On All Occasions

God always welcomes our prayers, whatever our circumstances may be and however we may be feeling. This week, Caleb Dillinger writes about the importance of humility when we pray.

Have Mercy on Me

I learned all sorts of things when I was a Masters of Divinity Student at Harding School of Theology. I learned Greek, Hebrew, theological terms, ancient church literature, modern church problems, spiritual counseling, preaching practices, and in depth study of multiple books of the Bible. But of all the knowledge obtained in my education, few lines have stuck with me as firmly as my Professor of Ministry impressing the importance of humility for ministers. He directed us to Luke 18:13 where Jesus compares the prayer of a tax collector to the prayer of a Pharisee.

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

With all of our Biblical and Theological knowledge, my professor stressed the importance of humility as we are all sinners before God. No amount of Greek or Hebrew changes our prayer. No amount of tenure or experience in the church changes our prayer. No amount of financial and material blessings will change our prayer. "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

I have prayed this prayer often, and it continues weekly to just crop into my mind. I walk to the car, or I walk to the restroom, or I take a break from my sermon prep and those 7 words fill my mind. "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

The goal is not self-abasement, but recognition of God's role as mercy giver and our role as mercy receivers. We ought not think too highly of ourselves. Lately I've been reading *Going to the Mountain* by Ndaba Mandela, the grandson of South African president Nelson Mandela. As he speaks of the tragedy and problems of apartheid, he also speaks to the terrorist practices of some of the people who resisted apartheid, and how neither apartheid nor terrorism were worthwhile solutions. Forgiveness and reconciliation were needed on *both* sides. Forgiveness and reconciliation remain in need even today. It leads to the conclusion that our Lord Jesus says is admirable: confessing the same prayer of the tax collector. "God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

- Caleb Dillinger