

## Family Information

### From The Elders & Ministers

While we pray and hope for "normal" church service life to resume at some point in 2021, we do not know when that will be, so please continue to practice safety and caution. We will maintain all safety features until otherwise noted: mandatory face masks throughout the service, seating in every other pew, service approximately 1 hour, starting at 10:00 a.m., and dismissal by sections, starting in the back.

### Northland Child Care Teachers Needed

Northland Child Care is in need of teachers. We have an excellent program and will help you to get your necessary training courses and CDA certificate as you work. If you are interested or know of anyone interested please have them call Jamie at (614) 410-5861.

### Marie McMasters

Marie McMasters will be celebrating her 97th birthday on January 31st. Please send her a card or call her and wish her a happy birthday. Her address is 55 Lazelle Rd., Room 203, Columbus, OH 43235 and phone is 614-896-3463.

### Collection For The Russia Ministry

From the elders: Several members have expressed interest in helping financially with the work in Russia. Northland will be taking up a collection during the month of January to send to Vlad Osinovsky to help in his ministry. Please mark any contribution you would like to make as: Vlad or Russia on your contribution. Thank you.

### Contribution Statements For 2020

Contribution statements for 2020 are available in the church office. See Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement. Call the church office if you would like your statement mailed to you.

### 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*

**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

## Calendar

### On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is: "God's Good, Pleasing, & Perfect Will" (based on Romans 12). 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. Everyone is welcome to join. Next Sunday, we're starting a new series based on Proverbs 3, "Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart".

### More On-Line Studies

**Every** other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session January 29 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details about the next session.

**Wednesday** evenings after 7:00 PM - Pre-recorded Instagram Devotional by Caleb Dillinger will be available. 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.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$5388	\$5482
<b>Designated:</b>	\$165	\$92
<b>Scholarship Fund Current Balance</b>	\$ 523	



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## The Kingdom Of Heaven Is Like...

*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed . . . Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches . . . The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. - Matthew 13:31-33*

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, something that seems insignificant to earthly minds, yet it brings lasting spiritual comfort and hope to those who seek God with our hearts. The kingdom of heaven seems like a tiny amount of yeast to worldly minds, yet Jesus and the blessings he gives us satisfy the deepest needs of our souls. The kingdom of heaven is like finding treasure in unexpected places, for it brings us the priceless gift of being with God forever - *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. - Matthew 13:44*

A "Lazarus species" is a plant or animal that had been thought to be extinct, and then is rediscovered. In the 1960's, when a biology professor was exploring a rocky grassland, she was surprised to see some Tennessee coneflowers, a plant that had been considered to be extinct for many years. Her understanding of plants enabled her to make a discovery that led to efforts that helped these bright magenta flowers flourish again.

Likewise, when we understand that the kingdom of heaven is a kingdom full of eternal things and the fruit of the Spirit, we can find God's grace and his truths and his splendor in places that human thinking overlooked. Then too, when we understand that the kingdom of heaven is not like this world's kingdoms, it helps us know where to look - *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. - Matthew 13:45-46*

Another "Lazarus species" is the takahe, a colorful, flightless bird that had been believed to be extinct since about 1900. Then, in the 1940's, when a New Zealand bird-watcher studied the takahe's natural history and its characteristics and habits, he thought a particular isolated valley would be the most likely place to find some; and indeed an expedition found a small population of takahas there, leading to this unusual bird's recovery.

Similarly, the kingdom of heaven is near, and when we open our minds and hearts to our Heavenly Father, he can teach us truths that human minds couldn't have thought of - *Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables . . . So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet . . . I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world. - Matthew 13:34-35*

God's words and his ways are far higher than ours, and his care and compassion endure forever.  
- Mark Garner

## Dear Father, To Thy Mercy Seat

Dear Father, to Thy mercy seat  
My soul for shelter flees;  
'Tis here, I find a safe retreat  
When storms and tempests rise.

'Tis here my faith resolves to dwell,  
Nor shall I be afraid  
Of all the powers of earth or hell,  
If Thou vouchsafe thy aid.

My cheerful hope can never die,  
If Thou my God art near;  
Thy grace can raise my comforts high,  
And banish every fear.

Against Thy all supporting grace  
My foes can ne'er prevail;  
But oh! if frowns becloud thy face,  
Faith, hope, and life will fail.

My great protector, and my Lord,  
Thy constant aid impart,  
O let Thy kind, Thy gracious word  
Sustain my trembling heart.

Or never let my soul remove  
From this divine retreat;  
Still let me trust Thy power and love  
And dwell beneath Thy feet.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778

**“Holy,  
holy, holy  
is the Lord God  
Almighty,  
who was,  
and is, and is,,  
to come.”**

Revelation 4:8

## Immanuel, God With Us

*Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God; he is also called Immanuel, God with us. This week, Don Milnor writes about the significance of the Holy Spirit living within us.*

## The Holy Spirit Living in Us

As Christians, the Holy Spirit lives in us. We need to understand that this is a really big deal!

Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit interacted with people, through strength, prophecy, and other ways, including Samson (Judges 14:19), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10), and David (1 Samuel 16:13-14). After David sinned with Bathsheba, he prayed that God would not take his Holy Spirit from him (Psalm 51:11). There were some miracles of the Spirit in the New Testament. But there's much more in the New Testament about his dwelling in believers. When someone gives you a gift, that's nice, but when someone is a gift, that takes gift giving to a whole other level.

Having Jesus in human form in our presence would be great. But just before he was about to leave them, Jesus actually said, *But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.* (John 16:7, 16:13). Yes, it would be better for the disciples to have the Holy Spirit than to have Jesus, according to Jesus.

Just how big a deal is he? The apostle Paul asked some disciples he met, ". . . *Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?*" (Acts 19:2). They had received John's baptism. When he found out they hadn't even heard of the Holy Spirit, after they heard some more from Paul, they were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:5), the point at which one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39). Romans 8:1-17 talks a lot about the Spirit. Verses 8-11: *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.* That's a pretty big deal.

. . . *Jesus Christ is in you . . .* (2 Corinthians 13:5). . . . *greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world* (1 John 4:4). We have no chance against the spiritual forces of darkness on our own. *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, and that you are not your own?* (1 Corinthians 6:19). But even though the Spirit lives in us, we still can choose to disobey him. Maybe that's why we read, *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God* (Ephesians 4:30), and *Do not quench the Spirit* (1 Thessalonians 5:19). I pray every day that God will help me listen to his Spirit . . . because I can choose not to, and have done so too often.

Let us endeavor to understand, what little we can, how we can listen to God's Spirit, and allow him to have his way with us.

- Don Milnor