

Family Information

Potluck Today

To welcome and meet the guests who came by the Open House on Saturday, there will be a Church Potluck today, immediately following services in the E41-42 Fellowship Room.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting This Week

There will be an Outreach Meeting this Wednesday, May 3, at 6:30 PM. For now, the Outreach Team will meet once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month. See Jeff or Caleb if you have any questions.

Women's Prayer Group Schedule

For the month of May (only), the women's prayer group will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (instead of on Mondays), for May 10 through May 31. The same on-line access code will be used. Note that there will not be a prayer meeting this week. See Peggy Kaiser if you have any questions.

Group Trip Postponed

The group trip to the Ark Encounter (which had been planned for this Saturday, May 6) has been postponed until later this year. See Mike or Leisha Evans for more information.

Spring Picnic Next Month

The next church picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, May 20 at Blendon Woods Metro Park, from 4:30-9:00 PM. The location will be the Sycamore Picnic Area (our usual spot).

Camp Weeks

Fort Hill is coming up from July 16-22, and Nick Strawser's week at NWOCYC is from June 11-17. If you are interested to come as staff, or if you have kids who want to come, please let Josh Evans know.

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

Room Reservations

While Ashley is on Maternity Leave, if you have any need to reserve a room in the church building while she is out, please fill out one of the reservation forms in the hallway (or e-mail Caleb for the form) and give it to an elder, and they will update the reservation list.

Current On-Line Studies

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him or Leisha for details and updates.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (new schedule for May 10 through May 31 only) - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. Note that the group is not meeting this week.

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.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4455	\$4492
Designated:	\$0	\$10



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A Scroll Unrolled Before Us

He said to me, Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you. As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. - Ezekiel 2:1-2

When our spirits weaken, God speaks to us and lifts us up; the good news of Jesus gives us lasting hope and meaning, and he has given us his Spirit who renews us and helps us. Our Heavenly Father calls us to live by the grace and compassion of Jesus in a world that prefers conflict and loudness, so God reassures us that he is always near and that he understands what we face - *Say to them, This is what the Sovereign Lord says. And whether they listen or fail to listen . . . they will know that a prophet has been among them. - Ezekiel 2:4-5*

Common basilisks are fairly large lizards (some over 2 feet long) that live near rivers in the lush rainforests of South America and Central America, yet they are also surrounded by dangers. They usually rely on disguise; they are brown or olive green, and they have irregularly shaped crests on their backs, so they blend in with piles of leaves or tree branches. Yet God also gives them an unusual way of escaping predators when they are noticed.

They are often called "Jesus lizards", because they can simply scurry across water to avoid predators both on land and under the surface. Similarly, we too are surrounded by the briars of this world's empty ways and the thorns of its futile thinking and the scorpions of the accuser's snares, yet God protects us from them all when we walk humbly in the light of his Son - *Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them. - Ezekiel 2:6*

To be able to walk on water, basilisks must walk differently. Instead of walking on all fours as usual, they must walk erect and slap the water repeatedly with their hind feet, which are ideally equipped with extra webbing and surface area for this special purpose. They must also move quickly, to avoid sinking. This enables them to walk 50 feet or more on top of open water.

Likewise, God calls us to learn how to walk by faith instead of trusting in human abilities, so he unfolds to us his words that reassure us of unseen, spiritual, eternal truths - *Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me . . . And he said to me, Son of man, eat what is before you . . . So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat . . . and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. - Ezekiel 2:9-3:3*

The message of Jesus comforts our souls, and God's promises are trustworthy.

- Mark Garner

On Him We Wait

On him we wait, our God, our help, our shield,
On him with humble confidence depend -
In him our souls for ever shall rejoice;
For we have trusted in his holy name.
O be thy mercy, Lord, our constant trust,
Our blissful portion, mercy large and full,
Unbounded and immortal as our hopes.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778

*This is an excerpt from a series of poems by British poet Anne Steele based on the Psalms.
This one is based on Psalm 33.*

Fair The Gleams Of Glory

Oh, fair the gleams of glory,
And bright the scenes of mirth,
That lighten human story
And cheer this weary earth;
But richer far our treasure
With whom the Spirit dwells,
Ours, ours in heav'nly measure
The glory that excels.

The lamplight faintly gleameth
Where shines the noonday ray;
From Jesus' face there beameth
Light of a sevenfold day;
And earth's pale lights, all faded,
The Light from Heav'n dispels;
But shines for aye unshaded
The glory that excels.

- Charles Innes Cameron, 1837-1879

*Scottish-Canadian poet Charles Cameron hoped to devote himself to missionary work,
yet he was prevented from this due to constant ill health. Besides writing poems,
he wrote the words to a number of hymns, and later he served as a minister in Canada.*

Rebuilding The Ruins

As God promised to rebuild the Israelites' ruins (for example, in Isaiah 61 and Amos 9), God can rebuild the ruins in our souls when we humbly turn to him and trust in the message of Jesus. This week, Renée Jackson looks at the story of Nehemiah and how it helps us in our walk with God.

Nehemiah & God's Rebuilding

Nehemiah is a beautiful story of God rebuilding ruins. All the people of God had gathered and they began to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem that had been lying in ruins - but they faced some strong opposition to the rebuilding. The wall began as ruins that had been laying in disrepair and desolation for 140 years. God was going to be faithful to rebuild the ruined walls of Jerusalem and God is faithful to rebuild the ruins in our lives!

We live in a broken world that is not perfect and as a result we can have ruins in our lives - places in our personal world that are in need of rebuilding and restoration. It may be a relationship that's breaking down, a promise that is yet to be fulfilled, the loss of a loved one or a persistent health issue. It can be easy to allow our brokenness to break our intimacy with Jesus, but we must keep coming to Him. He is faithful to put the broken pieces of our lives back together.

Nehemiah could have allowed the broken state of the walls and the opposition to keep him from trusting God, but it did just the opposite. It propelled him into the arms of God where he got direction and wisdom for the rebuilding process.

Consider God's Vision: *"Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem." Nehemiah 2:12.* Before we can get a clear picture from God of where He wants us to go, we must have a clear picture of where we are now.

Communicate God's Vision: *"And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work." Nehemiah 2:18.* The message of Nehemiah to the Jews is, "With the help of God, we can rebuild this wall; we can rebuild this community; we can become a great nation once again!"

Commit to the Vision of God: *"So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." Nehemiah 2:20*

Nehemiah's enemies were saying, "You can't do it, it's impossible." But God made the impossible possible. God is in the rebuilding business. Just as God rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, God can rebuild the ruins of our lives. In order to do this we must keep our weapon close: *"Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked." Nehemiah 4:17-18.* The builders kept a sword by their side ready to fight the opposition whenever they needed to. We need to keep the Word of God and His promises close because it is our weapon against an enemy that doesn't fight us from a distance, but likes to get in close. *"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17*

- Renée Jackson