

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting This Week

There will be an Outreach Meeting this Wednesday, June 7, at 6:30 PM. (Currently, the Outreach Team is meeting once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month.) See Caleb if you have any questions.

Lifewise Academy Meeting Today

Today, Nick Strawser will be having a meeting where he will talk about how Lifewise is going at the Spring Road congregation. The meeting will be at 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Room (E41-42). If you are interested, see Bobby or Emily Graham for more information.

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.

Women's Prayer Group Schedule

The women's prayer group will not meet this week, and it will resume meeting at 6:30 on Mondays next week (beginning June 12). See Peggy Kaiser if you have any questions.

What's The Point Of Ecclesiastes?

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 Ecclesiastes?" 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.

Planning Meeting For Joint Worship

There will be a planning meeting with the Ghana church on Sunday, June 25th at 2:15 pm to discuss our next joint worship. We're tentatively planning September 10th as the joint worship at 6:00 pm.

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

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.

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.

Mondays at 6:30 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. The group is not meeting this week, and next week (on June 12) the group will resume meeting on Mondays. See Peggy if you have any questions.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is in Acts; in the near future the class will begin a study of 1 Peter, with the theme "Living Stones". Contact Karen for more details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3010	\$4483
Designated:	\$	\$117



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

June 4 2023
Volume 32, Number 23

On Things Above

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. - Colossians 3:1

In this life, God gives us many blessings and kindnesses to show us his care and compassion for us, and these are a mere foretaste of the eternal blessings he has prepared for those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus. In this world, we may face sadness and fear, yet God walks with us and he reassures us of things above that will never fade or spoil. Jesus has given us new life, and he calls us to open our minds to our Heavenly Father - *Set your minds on things above . . . For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. - Colossians 3:2-3*

In her short life, Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897, known as "The Little Flower" for her devotion to following Jesus and her many kindnesses to others) wrote many poems and letters reflecting the joy and hope that simply knowing Jesus gave her amidst her many illnesses. In one poem, she writes, "Dear Jesus! 'tis Thy Holy Face is here the start that guides my way; Thy countenance, so full of grace, is heaven on earth, for me, today."

When we put our faith in God, he guides our way step by step; moreover, he helps us find contentment and gladness even in the smallest things, and he comforts us as we endure this world's loudness. As Thérèse's poem continues, "Thy face, in its unearthly grace, is like the divinest myrrh to me, that on my heart I gladly place; it is my lyre of melody; my rest - my comfort." Jesus is now our life - *When Christ, who is your life, appears . . . - Colossians 3:4*

Moreover, as Thérèse of Lisieux's poem also says, "Thy Face is now . . . The radiant sunshine of my days, my realm of love, my sunlit land, where, all life long, I sing Thy praise." For as we walk by faith, Jesus transforms us inwardly, and his message of grace and truth gives us lasting hope - . . . *then you also will appear with him in glory. - Colossians 3:4*

Thérèse also wrote about the comfort and reassurance that knowing Jesus brought her, "Thy Face . . . brings comfort, when I faint and fail, and makes me taste the peace of heaven." Truly as we remain in Jesus, his words and his promises give us peace even amidst this world's confusion and uncertainty, for God is always near and his Spirit lives within us - *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. - Colossians 3:15*

We were sheep without a shepherd, so Jesus came to be our good Shepherd, and he has made us God's own children.

- Mark Garner

Trust

He tells me to trust and not fear,
He bids me each promise believe;
His presence and glory seem near,
I open my heart to receive;
I am ransomed, I know,
For His Word tells me so,
So I trust, trust, trust!
I am ransomed, I know,
For His Word tells me so,
So I trust, trust, trust!

My need He is pledged to supply,
I trust for each breath that I breathe;
And since I take life at His hands,
Why not all He wishes to give?
Lord, I yield evermore,
For Thy promise is sure,
While I trust, trust, trust!
Lord, I yield evermore,
For Thy promise is sure,
While I trust, trust, trust!

He offers me pardon and peace,
He offers me cleansing from sin;
The fountain once opened I see,
Dear Jesus, I dare to plunge in.
Now I know I am free,
For Thy blood cleanseth me,
While I trust, trust, trust!
Now I know I am free,
For Thy blood cleanseth me,
While I trust, trust, trust!
Praise God, it is done—I am His!

The blood covers body and soul;
I am pardoned and cleansed, I am healed;
All glory I'm every whit whole!
Praise His name, I believe,
And this moment receive,
While I trust, trust, trust!
Praise His name, I believe,
And this moment receive,
While I trust, trust, trust!

- Susanna Rebecca Graham Clark, 1848-1932

Canadian-born writer and poet Susan Clark came with her family to the U.S. when she was about 9. She is best-known for her series of novels written for youths.

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, Micah Evans writes about the ways God brings life and renewal, in nature and in our lives.

Something From Nothing

This year, I've taken to gardening. I have planted several vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. To prepare for the planting season, I spent time researching the different plants. I had to know how much space they needed, where to plant them to get the correct amount of sun, how often they need watered, and even which plants should and should not be planted near each other (who knew certain plants fight with each other?). I'm really enjoying the process, and there is something absolutely exhilarating about growing something from basically "nothing" (except for a seed!).

As He always does, God is showing up in this new hobby of mine. He has revealed a tremendous amount of truth to me in my gardening journey. I planted these various seeds or bulbs in the best soil I could, watered them, exposed them to sunlight, and that's where my work ended. Not because I didn't care to do anything else, but because quite frankly, I couldn't. My human limitations don't allow me to take this process any further. That's God's job. And I had to trust that He would show up to do it, according to His plan. I couldn't go digging up the plant while it was growing so that I could make sure the roots were strong and sturdy. That would counteract all the good work I had done. Only God can bring forth a tangy cherry tomato from a funky looking vine. Only God can grow a pungent red onion from a seemingly insignificant little bulb. So I have to let Him do it.

Such it is with our lives, and the lives of those to whom we minister. We sow the seeds of God's Word, we live our lives in a manner pleasing to Him, to show the world who Jesus was and is. And then past that, there's nothing more we can do. But the good news- the life-changing news- is that God doesn't require any more than that. God uses us and asks our best of us, and He takes care of the rest. He is an all-capable God who can bring dry bones to life just as He reveals to Ezekiel a vision (Ezekiel 37). And just like that, He can rebuild ruins in our lives, in our country, in our world. He can use your seemingly insignificant little bulb of effort to change lives and point souls towards Him. If you are willing to answer His call for your life, using the gifts He has granted you for the furthering of His kingdom.

- Micah Evans