

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30 PM (the group is taking July off). The Outreach Team is currently meeting once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month. See Caleb if you have any questions.

Camp Week At Fort Hill

Camp week at Fort Hill is coming up from July 16-22. If you are interested to come as staff, or if you have kids who want to come, please let Josh Evans know.

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.

Sunday Afternoon Class Schedule

The Sunday afternoon Bible class is taking a break for the next couple of weeks. It will resume meeting on Sunday July 16.

Women's Prayer Group Schedule

The women's prayer group will not meet this Monday (July 3), and it will resume meeting next week (July 10). See Peggy Kaiser if you have any questions.

What's The Point Of Song Of Songs?

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 Song Of Songs?" 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.

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

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. 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. In September, the class will begin a study of 1 Peter, using the workbook "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Contact Karen for more details, as well as to request a workbook.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3114	\$4472
Designated:	\$100	\$573



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July 2 2023
Volume 32, Number 27

A Rushing Stream, A Fortified Tower

A discerning person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. - Proverbs 17:24

How patient God is with us; he knows how easily our minds wander, and he calls us to fix our eyes on Jesus and reminds us to walk humbly by faith in the message of Jesus. How gracious our Heavenly Father is as he calls us to turn away from this world's empty promises, and instead to let him give us understanding - *The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. - Proverbs 17:27*

In Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel "Gulliver's Travels", Gulliver visits a series of strange places, each of them commentaries on human nature and human thinking. First Gulliver visits Lilliput, where the residents are under 6 inches tall. Initially, he is treated well; yet soon he is caught in their many controversies, especially their ongoing dispute about the best way to crack open an egg.

He regains their approval when he uses his size to protect them from an invasion by a rival nation, yet then loses favor when he won't proceed to counter-attack their rivals. Similarly, this world is pre-occupied with controversies, disputes, and getting their way; instead, God calls us to turn away from human opinions and to seek out learning from his words and from the good news of Jesus - *Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions. - Proverbs 18:2*
The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out. - Proverbs 18:15

Next Gulliver visits Brobdingnag, a land populated by giants over 70 feet tall. There he is treated as a curiosity, subjected to constant scrutiny, a reflection of how human nature minutely examines outward appearances instead of deeper things. Later, Gulliver visits the Houyhnhnms, and at first he thinks they have an ideal society, since they make all decisions by logic; but he soon sees that they lack any compassion or empathy, and they are completely callous when one of them dies.

Our Heavenly Father gently calls us to turn from this world's loud voices and its fine-sounding philosophies, and come to the fountain of his words, a rushing stream of truth and grace - *The fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream. - Proverbs 18:4*

Like Gulliver, Jonathan Swift was once idealistic, only to end up being disheartened by the world's authorities and experts. He later realized, as he wrote, "The system of morality to be gathered from the sages falls very short of that delivered in the gospel." For God is our fortified tower - *The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. - Proverbs 18:10*

The Lord is a refuge where our souls can find peace and hope, and he is always there for us.

- Mark Garner

The Only Son From Heaven

The only Son from Heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God, the Father, given,
In human shape appears;
No sphere His light confining,
No star so brightly shining
As He, our morning star.

O time of God appointed,
O bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
The Christ, of virgin born;
His home on earth He maketh,
And man of Heaven partaketh,
Of life again an heir.

- Elisabeth von Meseritz Cruciger, 1500-1535

German writer Elisabeth (or Elizabeth) Cruciger (sometimes spelled Kreuziger or Creutziger) was well-known in the 1500s. She wrote the words to numerous hymns; this is the best-known of her hymns.

Jesus Is Precious

Peace like a river is flooding my soul,
Since Christ, my Savior, maketh me whole;
Sweet peace abiding my portion shall be—
Jesus, my Savior, is precious to me.

Joy is abounding—my heart gaily sings,
Cleave I the heavens—mount up on wings;
Christ hath exalted—my soul He set free—
Jesus, my Savior, is precious to me.

Oh precious Jesus, how lovely Thou art!
Come and abiding, rule in my heart;
Break every fetter—Thy face let me see,
Then Thou shalt ever be precious to me.

- Grant Colfax Tullar, 1869-1950

Writer and publisher Grant Tullar had to work to support his family when he was young, and he had little formal education. At 19, he went to an academy where he studied ministry; afterwards he began writing the words to hymns and poetry about God and the message of Jesus, and later he co-founded a music publishing company.

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, Karen Susenna writes about the ways that God reassures that he wants us to know him, to talk with him, and to listen to him.

The God Who Wants To Be Known

Have you ever found a verse in the Bible that was so intriguing – so eye-opening - that it made you stop in your tracks? What is surprising to you about the following verse?

He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth — the Lord God Almighty is his name.
- Amos 4:13

In this small sentence, the Lord is describing His character. He is the big and powerful God who created the world and all that is in it – the sun, the wind, the mountains; and, He is in charge of it all. But hidden in the middle of this sentence is a gem; did you catch it? Part of His character is that He reveals His thoughts to mankind. Wow! Our powerful, creative God clearly states that He not only wants a relationship with His people, but that He does his part in the relationship by revealing his thoughts to us.

I think of Luke 15 as an example of a relationship with a father. Both sons knew something of the father. The younger son left the father's house to squander the father's gifts, never knowing that those gifts were always his. The older son had access to the gifts, but never felt they were his to enjoy. Both sons get a chance near the end of the parable to interact face-to-face with the father and to understand the true character of the father; the prodigal learns about the father's mercy and grace, while the eldest learns about the father's humility and forgiveness. The boys come to know their father when they interact with him and bring their thoughts and motives to him. The father corrects their misinterpretations and shows the sons who he really is.

How can I come to know my heavenly Father in a way that is authentic and meaningful? First, I can trust in His promise that he reveals his thoughts to me. Second, I can come to him with my thoughts and motives, admitting that I don't have the answers and asking him to show me the truth. Lastly, I only need to keep turning to Him, hour by hour, moment by moment (as Psalm 119 says) and He will show me the way.

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. - Psalm 119:33-37

- Karen Susenna