

Family Information

Meeting For Teachers & Group Leaders On July 29
There will be a meeting for teachers and group leaders on Saturday July 29 from 10:30 AM until noon, followed by lunch. Anyone leading a Bible study or prayer group is asked to make plans to attend. We will be discussing Northland plans for the Fall. If you are unable to attend, please appoint someone from your group to attend. For questions, please see one of the elders.

Sunday Afternoon Class Schedule

The Sunday afternoon Bible class is on break this week. It will resume meeting next Sunday, July 16.

Women's Prayer Group Schedule

The women's prayer group will resume meeting this week (on Monday, July 10). See Peggy Kaiser if you have any questions.

Combined Worship On September 10

There will be a combined time of worship with the Ghana congregation (and possibly also with the Spanish congregation) on Sunday evening, September 10, at 6:00 PM. More details will be coming soon.

Men's Lunch Next Month

The next Northland brothers' lunch will be on Sunday, August 20, after morning worship. See Jeff for more information.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30 PM. 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 starts next Sunday, and will go from July 16 through July 22. 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

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 (resumes meeting this week) - 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:	\$5279	\$4502
Designated:	\$	\$573



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

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It Is Good To Be Near God

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. - Psalm 73:26

Sometimes this world's futility and chaos may make our hearts faint; yet God is always near, and he strengthens us when we put our faith in him instead of in human thinking and human abilities. At times this world seems to be in constant turmoil, and it seems to have nothing to give us hope or peace; yet God is always there for us, and he fulfills the deepest desires of our souls - *Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. - Psalm 73:25*

In her 1872 poem "In The Bleak Mid-Winter" (sometimes titled "A Christmas Carol"), Christina Rossetti writes of the cold winter days as well as the chill of this world's harshness and loneliness, "In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone." Yet, as Rossetti says, we are still surrounded by God's presence - "Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain." Truly God is always with us, and he guides us when we trust in him - *Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. - Psalm 73:23*

God's perspectives and his thoughts are far different than ours, and his ways are far higher than ours. In her poem, Christina writes about the birthplace of the Son of God and what it tells us about our Heavenly Father, "In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty - Jesus Christ." God's splendor transcends this world's circumstances and appearances, and his guidance leads us to his side, where we may see his glory and care and compassion - *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. - Psalm 73:24*

As Rossetti pondered all the spiritual blessings our Father in heaven gives those who walk humbly by faith in Jesus, she asks "What can I give Him, Poor as I am?", and then she replies, "If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him - Give my heart." For indeed God wants our hearts and he wants us to love him and appreciate all that he does for us, and to let him be our refuge and our hope and our strength - *As for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. - Psalm 73:28*

In the cold winters and in the hot summers and in all the other times of the year, it is good to be near God.

- Mark Garner

Blessed Gospel

Like a palace full of windows
Open wide unto the light,
Is the Gospel of salvation,
All its words are pure and right.

As a lamp, its heavenly pages
Shed their glory o'er our way
Unto mortal eyes revealing
Visions clear of endless day.

Like a crystal river flowing
From the throne of God above,
To the living, to the dying,
Bringing cooling streams of love.

Blessed Gospel, holy Gospel,
Voice of God to help and cheer,
May we find thy precious pages
Growing dearer year by year.

- Lizzie Foulks De Armond 1847–1936

Writer and poet Lizzie De Armond had her first poem published when she was 12. She wrote numerous articles for newspapers and magazines, as well as writing nature stories and writing the words to several hundred hymns.

Praise To The Holy One

Praise to the Holy One, Jesus our king;
Songs of His mighty love, now let us sing;
Lift we our joyful eyes, up to His throne;
He hath created us, we are His own.

Sing how He bore the cross, sing how He gave
Freely His precious blood, lost ones to save;
Tell how He conquered death, O wondrous love!
Jesus our advocate, liveth above.

Sing of Him joyfully; sing and proclaim
Hope to the desolate, rest thro' His name;
Sing of His righteousness, mercy and love;
Sing of the mansions bright, waiting above.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Treasures In Heaven

In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us of treasures in heaven, and he calls us to set our hearts on these things. This week, Steve Carver writes about these true treasures and how they will last forever.

True Treasure That Will Last

Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount are both challenging and encouraging. In them we find warning and admonition, but also assurance and hope. They provide a purpose and direction for our lives. The NIV subtitles, a portion of that sermon in Matthew 6, "Treasures in Heaven".

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. - Matthew 6:19-24

How do you understand this passage? Up until relatively recently, I understood it to be three separate but closely related ideas. First, what I've pin my hopes and efforts on is a reflection of where my heart is, that is what is most important to me. Second, if I allow my eyes (life) to focus on me, on what I think I need to fulfill myself in this life, it will bring emptiness and pointlessness; I will always be wanting. Third, I cannot be a sturdy house if my priorities or foundation is divided, I cannot serve both God and money (money as a euphemism for serving self).

While the passage supports setting godly priorities in general, perhaps the interpretation falls a bit short of Jesus's intent. The passage contains several Jewish idioms that all relate to money, generosity (or lack thereof), and what is truly important to us. Storing treasures in heaven is an idiom for giving to the poor (see Matthew 19:21, Luke 18:22, 1 Timothy 6:19). A healthy (good) eye and an unhealthy (bad) eye are Jewish idioms for the characteristics of generosity, stinginess, and the motivations on which they are based. Having a "good eye" or a "bad eye" points toward a fundamental issue — what is our primary motivation in life? Is our driving concern our own comfort, or do we look beyond ourselves (Lois Tverberg in *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*)?

Heavenly treasure, the true treasure that will last for eternity, is not obtained by focusing on accumulating it in this life. It comes by being openhanded, being willing to give back to the Lord and to those in need. The Lord does not measure the "goodness of our eyes" by the size (or merely the size) of our check, but more by the size of the intent of our heart (Mark 12:41-44).

- Steve Carver