

Family Information

Combined Worship This Evening

There will be a combined time of worship with the Ghana congregation this evening from 6:00-7:30 PM. Songs, Scriptures, and prayers will be done in English and Twi. Afterwards there will be a time of fellowship and snacks, and everyone is welcome to bring a dessert or small plate food to share.

Sunday Afternoon Class Schedule

The Sunday afternoon Bible class is taking a break this Sunday, and it will resume meeting next Sunday (September 17).

Worship At Willow Brook

Next Sunday, September 17, Northland will be organizing the Sunday worship time at 2:00 PM at Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road).

More Autumn Events

Two more events are planned for this Autumn. Our Fall Picnic with the Ghana congregation will be Saturday, September 30 at Blendon Woods Park. There will be a flyer soon with more information. Also, Fall Fest will be on Sunday, October 22. More details will be coming soon.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 4, at 6:30 PM. The Outreach Team is currently meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. See Caleb if you have any questions.

Willow Brook Leaves & Lattes

On Saturday September 30, Willow Brook will hold its annual "Leaves & Lattes" 5K run/walk race event at Glacier Ridge Metro Park (in Plain City) at 9:00 AM. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Willow Brook Christian Ministers Fund, for retired churches of Christ ministers and their spouses in need. See Karen Susenna for more details, as well as sign-up information.

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, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

On Line Bible Studies

Current Mid-Week Studies

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

Mondays at 6:30 PM (On-Line, 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 (On-Line) - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on 1 Peter, using the workbook "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Contact Karen for more details.

Group Trip On October 7

The group trip to the Ark Encounter has been rescheduled for Saturday October 7. More details will be coming soon; see Mike or Leisha Evans if you have any questions.

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:	\$3468	\$4330
Designated:	\$	\$532



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

September 10 2023
Volume 32, Number 37

Like A Flourishing Juniper

Return, Israel, to the Lord your God . . . Say to him: Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously. - Hosea 14:1-2

When we walk in the light of Jesus, God purifies us from all our sins; if we stumble or wander, our Heavenly Father patiently calls us to humbly draw near with him, so that he may pour out his grace on us. For the Lord rejoices in healing us and showing us compassion and care - *I will heal their waywardness and love them freely. - Hosea 14:4*

French philosopher Simone Weil (1909-1943) often wrote about our need for God and how the message of Jesus meets the deepest needs of our souls. Weil writes "To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul." For God alone gives us a sure foundation, his boundless understanding and wisdom, and he promises us eternal blessings.

Simone also said, "It is only from the light which streams constantly from heaven that a tree can derive the energy to strike its roots deep into the soil. The tree is in fact rooted in the sky." As a tree cannot grow without sunlight from above, we too have roots in heaven; our Heavenly Father gives us life, nourishes us with living water, and gives us roots - *I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots. Hosea 14:5*

Weil also compares nature with our spiritual well-being, as she writes, "Just as the power of the sun is the only force in the natural universe that causes a plant to grow against gravity, so the grace of God is the only force in the spiritual universe that causes a person to grow against gravity."

Without the sun above, there wouldn't be life in this world; likewise, without God's overflowing grace, we couldn't have spiritual life. God's grace can overcome the heavy gravity of this world's harshness and emptiness and our own flaws; God is like a flourishing juniper full of spiritual nourishment, and he produces a crop of the fruit of the Spirit in our fragile jars of clay - *I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me. - Hosea 14:8*

Simone Weil also discusses how heavenly roots can get us through difficult times, as she wrote, "I had never foreseen the possibility of a real contact, person to person, here below, between a human being and God . . . I felt in my suffering the presence of love." Simone also reminds us that truth is rooted in God, "Truth only comes from outside, and it always comes from God." This world is full of empty teachings, yet God's truths are trustworthy, and they guide us on good paths - *Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right. - Hosea 14:9*

God's words are full of grace and truth, and it is good to ponder them.

- Mark Garner

In The Garden Of The Lord

The word of God came unto me,
Sitting alone among the multitudes;
And my blind eyes were touched with light . . .

I laugh and shout for life is good,
Though my feet are set in silent ways.
In merry mood I leave the crowd
To walk in my garden. Ever as I walk
I gather fruits and flowers in my hands.
And with joyful heart I bless the sun
That kindles all the place with radiant life.

I run with playful winds that blow the scent
Of rose and jasmine in eddying whirls . . .
While the lilies pray, I kneel upon the ground;
I have come into the holy temple of the Lord.

- Helen Keller, 1880-1968

When All Thy Mercies, O My God

When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From whom those comforts flowed . . .

When worn with sickness oft hast thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.

Through all eternity to thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
For O, eternity's too short
To utter all thy praise.

- Joseph Addison, 1672-1719

*English writer Joseph Addison was best known for founding several periodicals.
He also wrote a number of plays, and for a time he was a government official.*

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, Donna Smith writes about the promised inheritance we share in as followers of Jesus.

A Promised Inheritance

I just recently returned from a family reunion of relatives from my mother's family. As I greeted attendees of the event, it occurred to me that each one of my siblings, who attended or did not attend, were entitled to any available inheritance, recognition, honors or awards simply because they were born into Mother's family.

As I sat to write this article, I thought of a promise Jesus made to His disciples. In John 14:2 Jesus told the disciples that in His Father's house were many rooms and He was going to prepare a place for them there. He later explained to them in John 14:21 that: *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and show myself to him."* Just like the connection to Mother allowed us certain privileges, so does our connection with Jesus.

Ephesians 1:13-14 assures us that when we heard the word of truth and believed the gospel of our salvation we were included in Christ. *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of His glory (NIV)* This inheritance is mentioned in more detail in various other places in scripture.

When we think of this promised inheritance, it can make our troubles on earth seem light and momentary and achieve for us a glory which far outweighs them all. It is encouraging to listen to and sing hymns like "Heaven Is a Wonderful Place" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop". It is even more encouraging to read in *Revelations 21:4: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. (NIV)* In 2 Timothy 4:8 Timothy mentions a crown of righteousness which the Lord will award to all who have finished the race and longed for the appearance of the Lord. Throughout scripture heaven is described as a place where we will have spiritual, material, and mental blessings.

In conclusion, I have been asked isn't my view materialistic. My reply is in every description in scripture, I have always seen heaven described with terms like many, new, light, beautifully, and being far more than I can imagine. As stated in scripture, I believe these words to be trustworthy and true. I press on to make it my home.

- Donna Smith