

Family Information

Worship At Willow Brook This Afternoon

This afternoon, Northland will be organizing the Sunday worship time at 2:00 PM at Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road). See Caleb for more information.

Sunday Afternoon Class Resumes Today

The Sunday afternoon Bible class will resume meeting today (at 4:00 PM).

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 On October 4

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.

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.

Willow Brook Leaves & Lattes On September 30

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.

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:	\$4646	\$4339
Designated:	\$	\$532



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The Rough Ground...

The Rough Ground Shall Become Level

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for.
- Isaiah 40:1-2

As we bear with this world's sorrows and fears, God comforts our spirits with his presence; as we bear the burden of our own mistakes and flaws, our Heavenly Father sustains us with his grace and care. Human effort and human ability couldn't have atoned for our straying and misdeeds, so the Son of God came to pay for our sins, and he simply calls us to open our minds to his message and open our hearts so his Spirit may live within us - *A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.* - Isaiah 40:3

Nuthatches are small birds (usually 4-5 inches long), yet they have several unusual characteristics that show us God's care. Nuthatches (about 25 species worldwide; 4 in North America, 2 in Ohio) are often called "upside-down" birds, since they often move along tree branches upside-down, and they walk headfirst down tree trunks, enabling them to find food overlooked by other animals.

Nuthatches can do this because their feet are designed differently from most birds' feet; they have one large toe facing backwards that gives them a firm hold while the other foot moves. Likewise, when the path ahead seems too difficult or when we can't even see the way to go, our Heavenly Father steadies our spirits and reassures us with his words, for he is always near and he can raise up the deep valleys and level the rough ground in front of us - *Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.*
- Isaiah 40:4

These endearing birds also have another way to find food that other animals miss, for nuthatches are one of the few small animals that can use tools, as they can use a piece of bark to dig out food from crevices. Similarly, when we put our hope and trust in God instead of in human abilities, our Heavenly Father nourishes our souls with his boundless truths.

Nuthatches are also known for forming (especially in winter) what biologists sometimes call "feeding guilds" or "foraging guilds", usually with chickadees and small woodpeckers. These birds eat similar foods yet they have different feeding habits, and they can recognize one another's warning calls; so these birds can eat together in harmony, giving all of them additional safety.

Similarly, as different we may be from one another, we all share the same deepest spiritual needs, and God has met all of them through Jesus. He has revealed his glory and understanding and mercy, and everyone who seeks him with our hearts can see it together - *And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.* - Isaiah 40:5

God guides and sustains each step those who walk humbly by faith in Jesus.

- Mark Garner

Salvation Lord Is Thine Alone

Thou, my glory, and my shield,
Will all my fears control;
A strong defense thy strong arm shall yield,
And raise my drooping soul.

To God I breathed my ardent cry,
He, gracious heard my prayer;
It reached his sacred throne on high,
And he removed my care.

I laid me down and slept secure
I waked, for God was nigh;
Sustained by his almighty power,
My guard his watchful eye . . .

Salvation, Lord, is thine alone,
And all thy saints shall find
The bliss my thankful heart has known,
A God forever kind.

- 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 3.

Living Bread From Heaven

O living bread from Heaven,
How hast Thou fed Thy guest!
The gifts Thou now hast given
Have filled my heart with rest.

O wondrous food of blessing,
O cup that heals our woes,
My heart, this gift possessing,
In thankful song o'erflows!

My Lord, Thou here hast led me
Within Thy holiest place,
And there Thyself hast fed me
With treasures of Thy grace.

- Johann Rist, 1607-1667

German writer Johann Rist wrote plays, poetry, and hymns. This is one of several hundred poems, hymns, and other Christian writings from the past that were translated into English (most of them from German) by British teacher and writer Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878).

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, Karen Susenna writes about the treasure of knowing God and being with God.

God's Special Treasure

I just returned from a spiritual retreat. It's like taking a vacation with God. It's time away from my everyday routine, where I have the time and space to speak with God, to be aware of His presence, and listen for His voice. I came away from the retreat realizing that the Lord wants to draw me closer to Himself and closer to His heart in my everyday life.

Throughout Scripture the Lord is drawing us to Himself and making a way for us to know Him more deeply – to know His heart more deeply.

Three months after God led the Israelites out of Egypt, God instructs Moses to tell them: *"You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt. You saw how I carried you on the wings of eagles and brought you to myself . . . If you keep my covenant then out of all the nations you will be my special treasure."* (Ex 19:4-5). He did all the work to bring them to Himself. He does the same for us; we are His special treasure.

In return, God has given us a way to know Him. Jesus tells us in the gospels: *"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."* (Matt 11:27)

Did you catch that last phrase? Through your willing commitment to Christ, the Son has chosen to reveal the Father to you! We can know the Father and the Son. Imagine the envy the Israelites would have had! They had specific rules, requirements and restrictions for entering God's presence. But for us the doors are open, through Christ. For *"do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1Cor 3:16)

God has brought Himself to us, the Son has revealed the Father to us, and we are given His Spirit to be God's temple in this world. These are the gifts that the Father has given you, his "special treasure".

It's a daily decision for me to come to Jesus – to treasure Him the way He treasures me. To bring all that I am to Him and to accept the channel of communication He has created for me. I'm tentative at times...scared at times...but he's waiting with open arms for me to share my heart. He wants me, his "special treasure". Will you join me?

- Karen Susenna