Family Information

Outreach Meeting Today

There is an Outreach Meeting today after the morning worship assembly. Outreach Meetings are currently taking place on the first Sunday of each month; see Caleb if you have any questions.

What's The Point Of Obadiah?

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 Obadiah?"

Church Work Day - April 20

There will be a church work/clean-up day on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 AM to Noon. More details will be coming soon. See Mike Evans for further information.

Prayer Seminar - April 27

There will be a Prayer Training Seminar led by Caleb on Saturday, April 27th from 3:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Room. Everyone is welcome, and no sign-up is necessary.

Crafts & Story Time - May 4

There will be a children's Crafts and Story Time on Saturday, May 4, from 2:00-3:30 PM, in the Fellowship Room. It will be for all children 12 and under; it is free for everyone, and no sign up is necessary.

New Prayer Cards Available For April

There are new prayer cards for this month, along with suggestions for how to use them, on the table in the foyer.

Spring Needs For The Clothing Closet

As you begin your spring cleaning, please remember the Clothing Closet and those in need. We can use these clean, gently used items: children's, men's, and women's clothes; small household items; toys and books. There is a Donation Box located in the church foyer. Thank you for anything you can donate.

Clothing Closet Schedule

The Clothing Closet will next be open, by appointment only, on Wednesday April 17 from 6:30-8:00 PM. For appointments, please call 614-918-7925. Please let Robbie, Pam, or Vicki know if you are available to help.

Midweek Bible Studies

Monday Women's Prayer Group Schedule

Tomorrow, Monday April 8, the Monday women's prayer group is not meeting. It will resume meeting next Monday, April 15.

Current Mid-Week Studies

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans, currently meeting in room E41. Contact Mike or Leisha for details and updates.

Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. The group is taking a break on Monday April 8, and it will resume meeting on April 15.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study organized by Jeff McVicker is currently meeting in the meeting room just off the foyer.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (Online) - 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.

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (beginning 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:	\$4,848	\$3,965
Designated:	\$0	\$106

Sunday Service Times

English Bible Study 9:00 AM English Worship 10:00 AM Spanish Worship (Annex) 10:00 AM Ghana Worship 12:00 PM

There is currently no Sunday evening class.

Minister: Caleb Dillinger

Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, John

Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

The Outer Fringe Of God's Works

Hottlehol Church of Christ



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

Website ncocfamily.com

April 7, 2024 Volume 33, Number 14 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. - Job 26:7

In the midst of his sufferings, Job contemplates the vastness and splendor of what God has created; as he searches for consolation and understanding, he reflects on the unfathomable depths of our Heavenly Father's understanding and strength and wisdom. The same things that awed Job centuries ago are still there to tell us of God's grandeur and transcendence; the clouds and the stars and all the other things he created teach us of his glory -

He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight . . . He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness. - Job 26:8, 26:10

At the other end of the scale, we can also see many smaller things that tell us of our Heavenly Father's care and mindfulness. Amongst the many kinds of beautiful butterflies God created, the blue morpho butterfly (larger than most butterflies, around six inches long; found in the forests of South and Central America) has particularly captivated people with its vivid blue and shimmering wings, and in recent years scientists have also been intrigued with how it is designed.

The blue morpho's wings are constructed in an unusual manner, and their vibrant blue does not come from mere pigmentation. There are arrangements of diamond-shaped "scales" on the wing membranes that reflect varying hues of blue depending on the light angle, which gives them the iridescence they are known for.

To give them protection from possible predators, the underside of blue morphos' wings is tan, gold, and yellow, with several eyespots (called "ocelli"); so as their wings move up and down, the butterfly seems to disappear and re-appear constantly, making its movements very difficult to follow. Our Creator has designed their wings to produce beauty as well as to provide protection for these rare creatures; he is also the God who calls us, and who created the skies and the seas -

By his power he churned up the sea . . . By his breath the skies became fair. - Job 26:12-13

Research on the blue morpho butterfly's wings has led to some technological applications, such as the iridescent strips on currency that deter counterfeiting. The blue morpho also has some other unusual features, including the scent receptors on their antennae and the taste sensors on their feet. Our Heavenly Father puts all this care in these small animals, as well as in the vast heavens with all of the stars; and this is just the outer fringe of his majesty and understanding -

And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him. - Job 26:14

Moreover, in this life God sustains us each step and he pours out grace on us; and this is the outer fringe of his full compassion and care for us, and of the eternal blessings he has prepared for us.

- Mark Garner, April 2024

Loving Shepherd Of Thy Sheep

Loving Shepherd of Thy sheep, Keep Thy lamb, in safety keep. Nothing can Thy power withstand; None can pluck me from Thy hand. Bought with blood, and bought for Thee, Thine, and only Thine I'd be, Holy, harmless, humble, mild, Jesus Christ's obedient child.

Loving Savior, Thou didst give
Thine own life that we might live;
And the hands outstretched to bless
Bear the cruel nails' impress.
I would bless Thee every day,
Gladly all Thy will obey,
Like Thy blessed ones above,
Happy in Thy precious love.

- Jane Eliza Leeson, 1808-1881

British writer Jane Leeson wrote several books about the Scriptures and the message of Jesus, as well as writing the words to several dozen hymns. She also translated numerous works from medieval Latin into English.

It Is Jesus

There is a Hand outstretched in tenderest pity, Where all the weary and wandering roam, Waiting to lead them to the heavenly city, To bring the homeless Home.

It is the Hand of Jesus, still upholding, Strong to deliver, mighty still to keep; And none shall pluck from out that safe enfolding, The weakest one of all His blood-bought sheep.

There is a Love that longs with deep affection To gather in all the sin-sick children of men, Beneath its wings of shelter and protection, And give them health again.

It is the love of Jesus, sweet with longing,
His full salvation to the world give;
Crying to all the dead, earth's highways thronging,
"Come unto Me, come unto Me and live."

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932

In The Beginning

Genesis teaches us that in the beginning God created the world, the skies, and the seas, and everything in them; and John tells us that in the beginning Jesus was the Word and that he was with God. This week, Steve Carver writes about the wonders of this universe and how they can help us understand God.

Curiosity That Doesn't "Kill The Cat"

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. — Genesis 1:1-2

One of the characteristics that God imbued in mankind is curiosity. When we look up at the nighttime starry sky, it is natural to wonder about the genesis of it all. God did not leave behind a "how to" book or an owners manual after he finished his work following the sixth day. How did the starry universe come about? How did the formation of the sun, planets, and moon happen? How was life created, and where do we fit into this overall picture? Theories and models evolve over time as we gather more information about the universe and the world in which we live. For example, images from the James Webb space telescope are calling into question our current understanding of cosmology. They seem to be showing us galaxies that should not have existed at that then level of development given the currently theorized age of the universe of roughly 13.8 billion years. One fact, however, that does not change is God, his existence, nature, and his love.

Satisfying our curiosity by seeking answers is meaningful but only if done so in recognition that God is the foundation of it all. Postulating an origin of the universe and life without the involvement of God, has led to theories that are seemingly as fanciful as any story you can read in a child's fairytale book. To our minds, the theories may seem satisfying, but in reality they fall short and are meaningless, leaving our spirits hollow and discouraged. The same holds true in any other human study or inquiry.

Only when we realize that satisfying our curiosity is not the end, but a means to the end of understanding God, his nature, majesty, power and love, then will our curiosity be satisfied in both mind and spirit and we can say with the psalmist:

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ... Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. — Psalms 8:1, 3-4; 90:14

- Steve Carver, April 2024