

Family Information

Men's Lunch Today

The Northland brothers' lunch today will be at Smokey Bones, 3939 Morse Crossing, a half hour after morning worship. See Jeff if you have any questions.

Worship At Willow Brook This Afternoon

Northland will be organizing the Sunday worship time this afternoon at 2:00 PM at Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road). Northland will also be organizing worship times on Sunday March 10 and on Sunday May 12.

Women's Winter Fellowship Time This Saturday January 27

Northland sisters will meet at the church building this Saturday January 27 from 10 AM to Noon for a short devotional, prayer, breakfast snacks, fellowship, and the chance to walk laps together around the building. There will also be sessions on February 24 and March 23. See Robbie for more information.

Prayer Cards

There are prayer cards, along with suggestions for how to use them, on the table in the foyer. See the insert in this week's bulletin for more details.

Clothing Closet - Current Needs

The closet clothing now needs winter coats (of all sizes), gloves, winter hats, and scarves. There is a Donation Box located in the church foyer. Thank you for anything you can donate.

Updated Clothing Closet Schedule

The Clothing Closet be open, by appointment only, on Wednesday February 28, and Wednesday March 20, from 6:30-8:00 PM. For appointments, please call 614-918-7925. Please let Robbie, Pam, or Vicki if you are available to help.

Next Outreach Meeting On Sunday, February 4

The next Outreach Meeting will be Sunday February 4, after the morning worship assembly. See Caleb if you have any questions.

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

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

Midweek Bible Studies

Sunday Afternoon Class Schedule

The Sunday afternoon class is currently taking a break, and it will resume meeting later this winter. See Mike Paden if you have any questions.

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 (Virtual) - 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.

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 (Virtual) - 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:	\$2,631	\$3,021
Designated:	\$0	\$0



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

Website
 ncocfamily.com

January 21, 2024
 Volume 33, Number 3

How Gracious He Will Be

People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help. - Isaiah 30:19

How compassionate God is when we are sorrowful or discouraged, and how gracious he will be when we open our hearts and minds to him. How mindful our Heavenly Father is of us, how attentively he hears our prayers, and how gracious he will be when we approach him humbly -

As soon as he hears, he will answer you. - Isaiah 30:19

God provides many animals with eyes especially designed for their habitat and life-style. Sheep have unusual eyes, for their pupils are large, horizontal rectangles. Their size (and position) gives sheep a field of vision of almost 360 degrees, and their shape gives sheep a clear view of both food sources and predators, so their eyes are ideal for these defenseless animals who also need constant nutrition. Similarly, the Lord knows our weaknesses and our deepest needs, so he also gives us spiritual eyesight when we trust in him instead of relying on human ability and human strength -

Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. - Isaiah 30:20

Since sheep must often lower their heads to feed, God designs their eyes with another unusual feature; their eyeballs can rotate so that their pupils remain horizontal, so they can eat while still remaining fully alert to the rest of their surroundings. Similarly, whatever we may do as we live our daily lives, God will guide us each step when we rely on him -

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." - Isaiah 30:21

Chameleons are known for their remarkable ability to focus their eyes in different directions, so they can either look at two different things or can focus on the same thing. Our Creator also does even more for these creatures. Their eyes protrude from their faces, giving them a panoramic view of their surroundings. Moreover, chameleons' eyes have the unusual combination of a concave lens and a convex cornea, letting them focus closely and precisely on specific objects.

As our Heavenly Father gives chameleons these special abilities with their eyesight, how much more gracious he will be to us, for he sent Jesus to be our light of life, a light that this world's darkness and gloom cannot overcome -

The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people. - Isaiah 30:26

There is no one like God, who rejoices in showing us compassion and understanding and care.

- Mark Garner, January 2024

Evermore Live In Us

O God the Holy Ghost
Who art light unto thine elect
Evermore enlighten us.
Thou who art fire of love
Evermore enkindle us.
Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life,
Evermore live in us.
Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,
Evermore replenish us.
As the wind is thy symbol,
So forward our goings.
As the dove, so launch us heavenwards,
As water, so purify our spirits.

- Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Grace Is Free

There's nothing like the old, old story,
Grace is free, grace is free.
Which saints and martyrs tell in glory,
Grace is free, grace is free.
It brought them thro' the flood and flame,
By it they fought and overcame,
And now they cry thro' His dear name,
Grace is free, grace is free!

There's only hope in trusting Jesus,
Grace is free, grace is free.
From sin that doomed, He died to free us,
Grace is free, grace is free.
Who would not tell the story sweet
Of love so wondrous, so complete,
And fall in rapture at His feet,
Grace is free, grace is free!

- Emma Mansfield Johnston, 1835-1904

Schoolteacher and writer Emma Johnston wrote articles for numerous periodicals. She was active in service projects in her home town, and she was also known for her care for animals.

Bread That Comes From Heaven

The Old Testament tells us how God fed the Israelites in the desert with manna from heaven, and the New Testament teaches us that Jesus came down from heaven to bring us the bread of life. This week, Steve Carver writes about the spiritual nourishment Jesus wants to give us.

Food That Endures To Eternal Life

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." — John 6:35. For believers, these words of Jesus can offer tremendous comfort and peace. But what do they really mean and what was the context of this teaching? For most of us, most of the time the answers are rhetorical. But there are too many times, at least in my life, when I get distracted by the world and lose sight of the Jesus's meaning.

At the beginning of John chapter 6, John records: And a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. — John 6:2. After teaching the crowds and healing additional people (read the accounts in the synoptic gospels), Jesus proceeded to feed 5,000 men plus additional women and children. What was the response of the crowd? After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. — John 6:14-15. The crowd appreciated the physical nature of Jesus' signs, and were willing to follow him but only for what he could do for them. They were even willing to make Jesus their king if it meant keeping the "physical blessings tap" open.

What was Jesus's response? Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." . . . Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:26-27, 29. It is only when our faith is such that we follow him, not for our own benefit (even as desperate as our need might be) but for his purpose, that we open ourselves to him meeting not just our physical needs but also our even greater spiritual needs. He will heal the hurts of our hearts and satiate the desperate hunger of our souls and spirits . . . and enable us to share life eternal with him.

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. — John 20:30-31

- Steve Carver, January 2024