

## Family Information

### Outreach Meeting Today - February 4

There is an Outreach Meeting today, after the morning worship assembly. Outreach Meetings will now take place on the first Sunday of each month. See Caleb if you have any questions.

### 2023 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2023 can be picked up in the church office for those who used envelopes or gave online. If you would like your statement mailed to you, see Ashley Dillinger or email office@ncocfamily.org.

### What's The Point Of Joel?

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 Joel?"

### Women's Winter Fellowship Time Schedule

There will be two more winter women's fellowship times, "Just A Little Walk With Jesus", on Saturday February 24 and Saturday March 23. Each will be from 10:00 AM to Noon. See Robbie for more information.

### Needed For The Clothing Closet

The closet clothing continues to need 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.

### Clothing Closet Schedule

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

### Prayer Cards Available

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

### 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, 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. 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 (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. 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
<b>General:</b>	\$6,957	\$4,146
<b>Designated:</b>	\$0	\$50



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## The Light of God's Glory Displayed in Christ

*Since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. - 2 Corinthians 4:1*

As we face this world's uncertainty and sadness, God pours out grace on us when we walk humbly in the light of Jesus, so that we may not lose heart. Our Heavenly Father gently reminds us to let him open the eyes of our hearts, so that we may find hope and peace in the good news of Jesus -

*Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing . . . they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

Many of the paintings of French artist Luc-Olivier Merson (1846-1920) center on Jesus and other biblical figures. Merson was intrigued by the escape to Egypt that the infant Jesus and his parents needed to make to evade King Herod's deadly threats; the Scriptures provide no details of their travels, so Luc-Olivier painted a scene full of symbolism about the coming and message of Jesus.

In Merson's painting "Rest On The Flight Into Egypt", the family is in the middle of the desert; Mary and Jesus are sleeping in the ruins of a large statue of an Egyptian sphinx (a mythical creature with a human head and a lion's body), with Joseph sleeping nearby on the sand. Thus Jesus, who brings hope and light into this fallen world, is surrounded by reminders of this world's emptiness and instability. For indeed Jesus is our light of life amidst this world's gloom and confusion -

*For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness . . . - 2 Corinthians 4:6*

In Luc-Olivier's painting, as the exhausted family rests, the night sky is dimly lit by a few distant stars. Yet Merson has painted a glowing light emanating from the young Jesus, a symbol of the lasting hope and peace that only the Lamb of God can bring. Truly in the life and message of the Son of God we see our Heavenly Father's glory and understanding and compassion displayed -

*. . . made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. - 2 Corinthians 4:6*

In Luc-Olivier Merson's picture, Joseph has found some wood to build a small fire, and nearby the family's donkey has found some vegetation amidst the vast sands, for God has provided for their needs as they cross the barren desert. Likewise, God not only meets our physical needs, for he also guides us to spiritual nourishment even in this world's spiritual famines. As we face this world's daily troubles and sorrows, God pours out his care on us and he renews us inwardly -

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. - 2 Corinthians 4:16*

And the message of Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- Mark Garner, February 2024

## The Building

Build me a house, said the Master,  
But not on the shifting sand,  
Mid the wreck and roar of tempests,  
A house that will firmly stand.

I will bring thee windows of agates,  
And gates of carbuncles bright,  
And thy fairest courts and portals  
Shall be filled with love and light.

Thou shalt build with fadeless rubies,  
All fashioned around the throne,  
A house that shall last forever,  
With Christ as the cornerstone.

It shall be a royal mansion,  
A fair and beautiful thing,  
It will be the presence-chamber  
Of thy Savior, Lord and King.

Thy house shall be bound with pinions  
To mansions of rest above,  
But grace shall forge all the fetters  
With the links and cords of love.

Thou shalt be free in this mansion  
From sorrow and pain of heart,  
For the peace of God shall enter,  
And never again depart.

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, 1825-1911

*Frances E.W. Harper is best remembered today for her poetry, though in her lifetime she was also known as a teacher and public speaker. Her first collection of poems was published when she was 20, and her second collection (published nine years later) became so popular that it was reprinted several times. She married when she was 35, so sometimes she is referred to as Frances Watkins.*

## 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, Leon Norwood writes about how Jesus nourishes our spirits.*

### The Bread That Came From Heaven

In the Old Testament, God is preparing His people for the gift of Himself, the bread, at the Last Supper. We see this in Exodus 16, which tells how God fed His people manna on their journey to freedom in the Promised Land. There are several things about the manna that can better help us to understand this great gift of God.

First, manna is miraculous bread from heaven, given by the Lord Himself. God tells Moses, *"I will rain down bread from heaven for you."* Manna was not ordinary bread. It was heavenly bread given by the Lord Himself and provided anew every day. Second, not only did God give them bread from heaven, but He also gave them flesh from heaven. The Lord tells Moses (Exodus 16:12), *"In the morning you shall be filled with bread [and] at twilight you shall eat flesh."*

In John 6:24-58, Jesus begins to explain how God's prophetic actions through Moses and the manna are now beginning to be fulfilled. The crowd says to Jesus, *"What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? . . . Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."* (John 6:30-31. Prompted by this question from the crowd, Jesus begins His discourse on the Bread of Life, hoping to draw their attention beyond the prophetic acts and words of the past to what is happening at that moment. Jesus says, *"Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world . . . 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 6:32-35)

Jesus explains that the flesh from heaven He will give is the gift of Himself given for the life of the world. Listen again to Jesus' words in today's Gospel passage, *"...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise Him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."* (John 6:53-55)

Jesus presents Himself as the bread of life, that is as the Father's Beloved Son who gives sustenance and life to all who believe in Him. This gift of Himself is so extraordinary, so divine yet human, that Jesus makes the claim, *"Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."*

One lesson we can learn from the Israelites' experience with food and water in the wilderness is that the Lord is the source of all spiritual nourishment and life. Ponder how partaking of the spiritual nourishment that Jesus Christ offers has blessed your life. Consider what you are doing to remember the Lord daily and what you are doing to go to the Lord so you can be spiritually nourished.

- Leon Norwood, February 2024