

Family Information

Willow Brook Worship Today

Northland is organizing the Sunday worship time today at Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road), beginning at 2:00 PM.

Baptism Last Sunday

Last Sunday, May 5, Maca'la (Barnett) Walker was baptized into Jesus. Please have her in your prayers as she continues on her journey of faith.

New Prayer Cards Available For May

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

Directory Photos Start Next Sunday

Beginning next Sunday, May 19, Meagan will be taking photos for the new church directory. She will be available for about 30-45 minutes after the morning assembly ends, in the back corridor near where the old library used to be. This will continue until we have photos of everyone who would like to have one in the directory. If you need to have your photo taken before the assembly, see Meagan to make arrangements.

Spring Picnic This Saturday

The Spring congregational picnic with the Ghana congregation will be this Saturday, May 18 at Blendon Woods Metro Park, from 5:00-8:00 PM. The location will be the Sycamore Picnic Area (our usual spot). Bring your own meat and a side dish to share. Drinks and utensils will be provided.

Combined Worship On June 2

There will be a combined, bilingual time of worship with the Ghana congregation on Sunday morning, June 2. Songs, Scriptures, and prayers will be done in English and Twi.

Summer Church Camp Registration

Registration has now opened for summer church camps. Nick Strawser's week at NWOCYC will be from June 9-15, and the cost is \$200. Camp week at Fort Hill will be from July 14-20. The cost is \$220 if paid a month ahead of time, and it is \$230 if paid after that. (Potential scholarships are available.). See Josh Evans if you have any questions.

Needs For The Clothing Closet

As you continue 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.

Sunday Service Times

English Bible Study	9:00 AM
English Worship	10:00 AM
Spanish Worship (Annex)	10:00 AM
Ghana Bible Study	12:00 PM
Ghana Worship	1:00 PM

There is currently no Sunday evening class.

Midweek Bible Studies

Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Sunday, July 7, after the morning worship assembly. (The group won't be meeting in June.) Outreach Meetings are currently taking place on the first Sunday of each month; see Caleb if you have any questions.

Clothing Closet Schedule

The Clothing Closet will next be open, by appointment only, on Wednesday May 15, 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.

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 and Caleb Dillinger is currently meeting in the Fellowship Room.

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
General:	\$7,831	\$4,249
Designated:	\$82	\$81

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



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A Mother's Love is Special

There's a song called, "I'll Always Love My Mama" by The Intruders. One of the lyrics goes like this, "A mother's love is special, it's something that you can't describe. It's the kind of love that stays with you, until the day you die."

Why is a mother's love so special? Because most mothers will go the extra mile with you and for you. It does not matter whether the situation appears to be hopeless or not. I heard a story about a mother who approached President Lincoln, because her son was going to be put to death because he had fallen asleep while on guard duty. She told President Lincoln how great her son was and that he had made a mistake. Needless to say, President Lincoln rescinded that order.

Another example of a mother going the extra mile; a few years ago, a friend's daughter had surgery in Florida. She was suffering from complications from the surgery. Her mother drove her back to Florida where she had the surgery, they wouldn't do anything for her. As a matter of fact, they sent her home to die. That mother traveled all night until she found someone who would care for her child. The young lady is alive today because of her mother's persistence.

What about Bathsheba? (1 Kings 1:11-35). She approached King David concerning the promise that Solomon would become king upon David's death.

There are stories upon stories of women caring about their children. Some mothers may be a little misguided in what they want for their children, nevertheless they care. (Matthew 20:20-21, James's and John's mother.)

Another reason a mother's love is so special is because of her unwavering love and devotion to her children. For example, Mary, the mother of Jesus was at the cross as He was completing His God-given mission on earth (John 19:25-27). *Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother . . . When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."*

Still another reason a mother's love is so special is because she has the responsibility to nurture, train, and guide her children to live a wholesome life. However, for Christian mothers, it is our responsibility to nurture, train, and guide our children toward righteousness so that their faith may grow in God. *I Timothy 1:5 - I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

A fourth reason a mother's love is so special is it reflects God's love and care for humanity. God nurtures, teaches, and trains us in His righteous ways.

- Dot Duncan, May 2024

Jesus Knows His Sheep

I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. - John 10:14-15

Jesus knows his sheep, he tells us about our Heavenly Father; and as he gathers each of his sheep, he teaches them to recognize his voice and follow him -

They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. - John 10:16-17

Amongst dolphins' other remarkable qualities, dolphin mothers are particularly caring and mindful of their young (called calves). They have a long gestation period of one year, and after birth their mothers at once begin teaching them. Dolphin mothers use a different, higher-pitched tone in communicating with their own young (similar to the ways humans speak to young children), and they teach young dolphins to recognize their mother's distinctive voice.

Similarly, the Lamb of God teaches us to recognize his voice, for his voice is always full of grace and compassion, while also speaking to us with complete truth. He reminds us of our need for God's care and mercy and understanding each step of each day -

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - John 10:27

Mother dolphins spend as long as 2 years (sometimes longer) raising and teaching their young, and each mother adapts her approach depending on what her calf's needs might be. For the first few weeks, the mother remains alert non-stop, since dolphins are one of the few animals who have the capability to let one half of their brains sleep while the other half remains active (scientists call this "unihemispheric slow-wave sleep").

Likewise, our Heavenly Father always watches over us. When we put our trust in him instead of in this world's ways, he promises us eternal life, and he protects us from spiritual foes that are stronger than us -

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. - John 10:28

When a group of dolphins move, the mothers help their calves keep up by teaching them to follow their mothers in their "slipstream", the hydrodynamic wake created by swimming. Then, as a calf grows, the mother often picks a particular dolphin to watch her calf when help is needed. These helpers are sometimes called "auntie dolphins", though they can be either male or female.

As all of this care makes it very difficult for any predator to snatch away a calf, in an even more thorough way God keeps us close with him when we walk humbly in the light of his Son -

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. - John 10:29-30

God's vastness and his understanding and his care for us are beyond human words to describe fully.

- Mark Garner, May 2024

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, Peggy Kaiser writes about what we can learn about God from the recent eclipse.

Let There Be Light

I was able to witness the April 8 total solar eclipse at my sister's house in the country. Penny lives far away from tall buildings and trees. It was an amazing event. She and her husband, Duane, had invited several out-of-town guests to view the eclipse. It was a clear and sunny day. Around 2:45 pm, sunbeams slowly disappeared as a sliver of the moon began to cover the sun. As it became dark, the air became cooler and the birds stopped their jibbering.

We do not typically see the moon during the day. It looked as though the moon was touching the sun. When the moon blocked the sun, it was not completely dark. It was a lot like dusk (after sunset and just before nightfall). There was a thin ring of light peeking out from underneath the moon covering. This is the corona, which is only visible when the sun is completely covered by the moon. There were also these little bright dots of red. These are called prominences defined as gigantic loops of plasma that rise from the sun's surface. The reddish color comes from glowing hydrogen gas. These are things only observed during an eclipse (unless you have access to high powered telescope).

The eclipse lasted a full 4 minutes. (We were close to the epicenter of the eclipse in Ohio.). The actual eclipse was very cool to watch. What followed was just as impressive. Light came back to the planet Earth. It was not a sunrise, that started to the East, but a full 360 degrees revelation of light. The whole earth was filled with light on all sides of me. Everything around me was illuminated. It made me wonder if this was similar to the miraculous appearance of light in the beginning. This made me think of Genesis 1:3,

"And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

It's good to spend some time meditating on God's word and imagining his word being played out. Thinking on these things helps me to connect with the amazing and loving Creator. He not only created so many wonderful things, he created all of these things for our pleasure and purpose.

"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." - Psalm 33:5

- Peggy Kaiser, May 2024