

Announcements

Willow Brook Worship Today

Northland will be organizing the worship time today at 2:00 PM at the Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road). Everyone is welcome to come. See Caleb or one of the elders for more information.

New Elder Appointed Today

After today's worship assembly, there will be a brief presentation to appoint Franklin Agyei as our fourth elder. We would appreciate your prayers and encouragement for Franklin, Gloria, and their family as Franklin takes on this new role.

Winter Women's Events

There will be three Winter opportunities (January 17th, February 21st, and March 14th) for women to gather in the Fellowship Room (E41-42) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon for Saturday Bible Study, brunch, and walking together. The theme will be "Walking In Awe Of God".

What's The Point Of 1 Thessalonians?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available on the table in the foyer, as well as on the racks. This month, Caleb and Mark have each written one page on "What's The Point Of 1 Thessalonians?" The entire series is viewable on the Northland website, under "Resources".

Afternoon Sunday Class Schedule

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

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are still available to be picked up in the church office for those who have requested them. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, please see Ashley Dillinger.

Sunday Service Times

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

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Franklin Agyei, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

More January Events

- * January 17 (Saturday) - Women's "Walking In Awe Of God" session, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- * January 25 (Sunday) - Potluck after the worship assembly

Support For The Ministry In Ghana

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ (as well as the student group that is meeting at a local school building). They're currently raising funds for a mission group to go there next summer. Please continue praying for the congregation, and you can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei for more information.

Current Mid-Week Studies

* **Note: All of these have now resumed meeting ***

- * **Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom)** - Women's prayer group, organized by Peggy Kaiser.
- * **Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (Via Zoom)** - Women's Bible study, coordinated by Tara Lynn Bell. * The class will choose a new topic soon. *
- * **Wednesdays at 6:30 PM** - A Bible study organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, currently meeting in the Fellowship Room.
- * **First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM** - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans, currently meeting in room E41-42. See Mike or Leisha for more details.

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

We currently have three children's classes (ages 2-3, ages 4-8, and ages 9-10) that begin right after the Lord's Supper. During the 9:00 morning Bible classes, there is a combined class for ages 2-10. ***Please note that we still need helpers for these classes.***

Contribution

	Last Week	Average 2025
General:	\$18,242	\$5,063
Designated:	\$1,545	\$253



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Walking By The Spirit

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. - Galatians 5:13

When we trust in Jesus instead of in human efforts and human ability, the Son of God sets us free from the unbearable burden of our sin, and he also gives us many priceless spiritual blessings. So our Savior calls us to walk by the Spirit instead of pursuing fleshly desires:

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. - Galatians 5:16

The anhinga is a large water bird (average length 3 feet; wingspan approximately 3 1/2 feet) that lives near ponds, marshes, and other wetlands in the southeastern U.S., Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. Yet God designs them differently from most aquatic birds, so they have some unusual abilities. Yet they must also use these abilities in the way they were designed to be used, just as God calls us to use our abilities wisely and carefully.

Anhingas are known for soaring majestically; they can reach great heights, and they can soar long distances with little effort. They have dense bones that make them largely reliant on soaring instead of continually flapping their wings. They can expertly use air thermals and slight breezes; and once airborne, they keep their wings steady. Similarly, God teaches us to walk differently from this world; he teaches us to value the fruits of the Spirit, and he enables us to overcome this world's futile ways and its empty teachings:

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. - Galatians 5:17

The anhinga is also known for its diving skills and its ability to swim with most of its body underwater. Besides their denser bones, anhingas are also unusual among water birds in not having waterproof feathers. These two differences enable them to dive more deeply and easily, helping them find food. Similarly, through Jesus God teaches us to nourish our souls with spiritual food, and he shows us new ways to do this.

Yet without waterproof feathers, after being in water for a while anhingas become waterlogged. So before they can fly or return to water safely, they must perch on a branch with their wings spread, as they wait patiently for their feathers to dry. Likewise, to remain spiritually healthy we must regularly take some time to pray and ponder God's truths, before we resume our activities. God calls us to walk no longer in step with this world, and instead to walk in step with his Spirit:

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. - Galatians 5:24-25

It is good to be near with our Heavenly Father, and he rejoices in being with us.

- Mark Garner, January 2026

Listen To The Wondrous Story

Listen to the wondrous story, How upon the Christmas morn
Jesus left the realms of glory, As a little babe was born;
Left those bright and happy regions Of His Father's home above,
And the glorious angel legions, In His great and boundless love.

Oh, what love in God the Father To bestow His only Son;
Oh, what love in Christ, who rather Than the world should be undone,
Came Himself to seek and save us, Came to claim us for His own;
Freely all our sins forgave us, Raised us to His glorious throne.

- *Ellin Isabelle Tupper, 1836-1924*

British poet Ellin Tupper also translated a volume of poems from Swedish into English, as well as writing several children's stories. She also published a collection of poems with her two sisters, who also were poets.

The Praises Of My God

The praises of my God, my King,
While I have life or breath to sing,
Shall fill m heart, and tune my tongue,
'Till heaven improve the blissful song.

Happy the man, whose hopes divine
On Israel's guardian God recline
Who can with sacred transport say,
This God is mine, my help, my stay.

Heaven, earth and sea declare his name;
He built and filled their spacious frame,
But over creation's fairest lines
His steadfast truth unchanging shines.

- *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 146.

Answer To Last Week's Puzzle

The answer to last week's mystery verse puzzle is *The joy of the Lord is your strength.*
- *NEHEMIAH 8:10*

A Stream Of Living Water

In John 4, Jesus talks about the living water that can satisfy our souls' thirst for God. This week, Don Milnor writes about our need for God and how we benefit when we acknowledge this need.

Our Need for God

All humans have many needs. Some are very obvious, some less so. From what I have read, we can usually last only about 3 days without water. This varies depending on age, health, environment and physical activity, going from feeling thirsty and slightly sluggish on the first day without water, to having organ failure by the third. Other physical needs we can only go so long without are food (from 3 weeks to 2 months; we know about Jesus going 40 days) and sleep (around 3 days). A less obvious need we have as humans is companionship...whether with people, or God. One may not physically die, but one suffers from not having enough in one's life...even if one is an introvert like myself. We can choose to ignore meeting our needs for a while, but there are consequences. In Psalm 42, the author compares the need for God to thirst:

*As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God? -Psalm 42:1-2*

God has created us in such a way that we have some idea of our need for him. Like many other things we need, we can deny it, but the need is still there, dealt with or not. Sometimes we live in denial of our needs, whether it's our need for sleep, food, getting help for our medical issue...or our need for God:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. -Romans 1:18-20

Our physical health is much better when we eat, drink, sleep and otherwise do as needed. How much better off will we be spiritually if we acknowledge God's rightful place in our lives, listen when he prompts us, and seek to live as he designed us to? Psalm 25 speaks about this:

*To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I trust,
Do not let me be ashamed;
Do not let my enemies exult over me...
Make me know Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.
-Psalm 25:1-2, 4-5*

-*Don Milnor, January 2026*