

Announcements

Support For The Ministry In Ghana * Updated *

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ (along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, as well as a prison ministry). Their member who has sickle cell anemia has been improving; please continue praying for him, for the congregation as they build a larger place to meet, and for the mission trip there that is planned for this summer. You can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei for more information.

Events Coming Soon * Updated *

April 3 (Friday) - Good Friday worship at Reynoldsburg. See next announcement for details.

April 11 (Saturday) - Event postponed; see announcement below.

April 19 (Sunday) - Potluck after the worship assembly

April 25 (Saturday) - Story, crafts, and songs time

May 3 (Sunday) - Prayer time after the worship assembly

May 10 (Sunday) - Combined morning class on faith

Song Worship Time Postponed

The song worship time originally scheduled for April 11 (Saturday) has been postponed, and it will be re-scheduled soon.

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

Good Friday Worship At Reynoldsburg
 The Reynoldsburg Church of Christ is hosting a time of worship on Good Friday, April 3, beginning at 7:00 PM. Caleb will be one of the speakers; see him for more information.

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 see Vicki Cowans or Lynn Paden if you can help with these classes.** There are regular teachers for these classes, so we just need volunteers to help with the class activities and lessons.

Current Mid-Week Studies
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 topic is now "Grace & Gratitude".
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, meeting in the Fellowship Room. Currently the class is studying John.
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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3,643	\$4,357
Designated:	\$255	\$579



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

Website
 ncocfamily.com

March 22, 2026
 Volume 35, Number 11

Into His Wonderful Light

In Scripture it says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone. - 1 Peter 2:6

Jesus has come; he is our Lord and Savior, he is our cornerstone, our life and our hope. The Lamb of God told us timeless truths, words that will endure forever, and he gives eternal life and countless spiritual blessings to those who trust him and believe in him wholeheartedly:

And the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame. - 1 Peter 2:6

The xenops is a small bird common in Central America and South America. There are several species of xenopses, each about 4-5 inches long, and each with an unusual beak that gives these birds their name. Their beaks are sturdy, curved and wedge-shaped, ideally designed to pry out insects from tree trunks and branches. Yet their beaks look as if they were installed upside-down, for they curl upwards, leading to the name xenops (from Greek, meaning "strange face").

Despite this odd feature, xenopses are cute and charming birds, and their beaks also help them obtain food that other animals wouldn't have been able to get. Similarly, worldly minds consider it strange, even foolish, to believe in Jesus' message and to trust in God's words instead of in human reasoning. Yet Jesus' good news is precious to our souls:

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe . . . A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. - 1 Peter 2:7-8

The xenops is also known for its acrobatics as it moves about on trees. Xenopses can both walk and feed from any angle, even completely upside down. Their tailfeathers are stiff and sturdy, ideally designed for balance, and they can shift their tails quickly as they scurry and search for food. Likewise, God gives us what we need to avoid stumbling into the pits of this world's empty thinking and the deserts of its false hopes. God writes his words on our hearts and in our minds, and he gives us his Spirit who helps us understand them, so that we can live by them:

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood . . . - 1 Peter 2:8-9

Xenopses' unusual design enables them to find plenty of food that other animals wouldn't have noticed. Similarly, when we open our minds and hearts to God, our Heavenly Father nourishes and renews our spirits, in ways that human minds wouldn't have even considered. Jesus has brought us out of this world's gloom and futility, and he has brought us into the wonderful light of knowing God:

. . . God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9-10

Jesus gives priceless spiritual blessings to those who follow him humbly.

- Mark Garner, March 2026

As The Bird Flies Home

*He shall cover thee with His feathers,
and under His wings shalt thou trust. - Psalm 91:4*

When the winds are cold, and the days are long,
And thy soul from care would hide,
Fly back, fly back, to thy Father then,
And beneath His wings abide.

Oh, the tranquil joy of that dear retreat,
Where the Savior bids thee rest,
With steadfast hope, and a trusting faith,
In His love secure and blest.

'Tis the Lord thy God that to thee has said,
He will guide thee with His eye;
In all thy need, like the weary dove,
To Thy only refuge fly.

Under His wings thy defense shall be,
He with His feathers shall cover thee,
Cover thee, cover thee,
He with His feathers will cover thee.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Ever Near Me

Thou art near me every moment,
Wheresoever I may be;
When I'm tempted, when I'm weary,
Thou will guide and comfort me.

Ever near me, ever near me,
Let me walk with Thee today;
String to help and swift to hear me,
Thou art never far away.

- Lucia Belle Cook, 1884-1941

When future writer Lucia Cook was fifteen, a severe illness necessitated her to be hospitalized for an extended time. During this time, she often prayed, and she decided to follow Jesus. She wrote numerous poems and articles, many for Christian periodicals. She was also known for her fondness of nature.

Let There Be Light

In the beginning, God brought first of all light into this world. And now Jesus has become the light of the world. This week, Steve Carver writes about a personal experience that helps us see our continual need for God's light and guidance.

More Batteries, Please

I did a fair amount of tent camping as a youngster and young teenager, through family, scout, and church camps. In preparation for one of those trips I bought myself a nice powerful flashlight (I drained my piggy bank to buy it and the 8 D-sized batteries it required). I looked forward to exploring the trails around the camp at night because I knew I would be able to see where I was going and avoid stumbling around in the dark. My plan worked gloriously the first evening. That night I used the flashlight to help me get settled in the tent. Unfortunately, I failed to turn it off before falling asleep. By morning, there was barely enough power left in the flashlight to very dimly light the well-worn path to the outhouse the following nights.

Navigating life can, so many times, imitate that camping experience. I lay out my plans for exploring and living life, using my own feeble "light" to guide the way, only to stumble over obstacles and pitfalls littering the path. The problem, too often, comes from the kind of life and life goals I'm seeking . . . and removing my focus from the giver of true life and light to guide the way. Where can I find the light that is powerful enough to show me the narrow road and gate through which life is found?

Enter through the narrow gate. . . . But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. — Matthew 7:13a,14

In the first five verses of John chapter one, John establishes the fact that Jesus is the Word, is God, was with God in the beginning, and through him all creation was made. Then in verses four and five, he says:

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. — John 1:4-5.

Paul adds: *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," 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*

When I want to live my life as I will, guided by my own weak "light", I only end up at the outhouse. It is when I give up the life I think I want and accept the life He knows I need, that I find and pass through the narrow gate, find true life and catch a glimpse of his glory (Matt 16:25)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." — John 8:12

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. — Psalm 119:105

- Steve Carver, March 2026