

Announcements

Potluck Today

Today there will be a potluck right after the worship assembly finishes. It will be in the Fellowship Room (E41-42). Everyone is welcome to come!

Worship At Willow Brook Today

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

Crafts & Story Time This Saturday

There will be a children's Crafts and Story Time this Saturday, April 25, beginning at 11:00 AM, at the Karl Road Library (5590 Karl Road). It will be for children ages 3-10. This year's story book will be "This I Know: Seeing God In The World He Made" by Clay Anderson. We already have enough volunteers, and the event is free. Since space is limited, please sign up for it at <https://ncocfamily.com/craftandstoryregistration2026/>

More Events Coming Up (New Events Added)

May 2 (Saturday) - Workday at the church building from 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon

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

May 10 (Sunday) - Combined morning class, the topic is "Why do I attend church?"

May 16 (Saturday) - Area-wide worship at Northland (see announcement below)

May 17 (Sunday) - Lord's Supper training, after the worship assembly

Area-Wide Worship Evening Next Month

On **Saturday** May 16, Northland will be hosting an area-wide worship evening. It will be from 6:30-8:30 PM, and afterwards there will be light refreshments and cookies.

Mission Trip To Ghana

The Ghanaian congregation is organizing a mission trip to Ghana, scheduled to take place in June. If you are interested in joining the group, please tell Franklin or one of the other elders. The congregation will be able to help with the expenses. See Franklin for further information.

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

Summer Church Camps

Registration has now opened for both summer church camps. Nick Strawser's week at NWOCYC will be from June 7-13, and the cost is \$250. Camp week at Fort Hill will be from July 12-18, and the cost is \$260. Potential scholarships are available. See Josh Evans or Meagan Stover if you have any questions.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana

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). Please continue praying for the member who has sickle cell anemia, the construction on a larger place to meet, and the planned mission trip there this June. You can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei 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. The current topic is "Grace & Gratitude". See Karen Susenna for more information.

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:	\$3,876	\$4,387
Designated:	\$75	\$474



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

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The Lord Is A Shield Around Us

Lord, how many are my foes! - Psalm 3:1

In this world we face many spiritual foes; each day we encounter its confusion, its distractions, and its loud, persistent voices. Our Heavenly Father gently reminds us to listen to him instead. God understands the sorrows, anxieties, and disappointments that arise in our daily lives, and he is always with us as we endure them:

How many rise up against me! - Psalm 3:1

Moose are large, strong animals, yet God has also taken care of them in several other ways that aren't as obvious. They live in very cold regions, and they have several helpful features that help them thrive in this environment. Moose hairs are hollow, giving them an extra layer of insulation for their whole bodies. Similarly, the Lord is a shield around us, giving us insulation from the chill of this world's futile thinking and from the blizzards of its false hopes. God is always near, and he lifts us up when we put our faith in him instead of in human thinking and human abilities:

*You, Lord, are a shield around me,
 my glory, the One who lifts my head high. - Psalm 3:3*

Moose need to eat about 70 pounds of plants each day to remain healthy, so their digestive systems are able to process a wide range of plants. Their hollow hairs also give them extra buoyancy in water, making them excellent swimmers. In winters the vegetation they eat can become sparse, so their swimming ability enables them to eat submerged aquatic plants. They can also dive 20 feet deep, giving them access to a wide variety of water vegetation.

Likewise, the Lord hears us when we call out to him, and he feeds us with numerous forms of spiritual nourishment amidst this world's spiritual drought. God sustains and guides us each step:

*I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain.
 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. - Psalm 3:4-5*

Moose are generally calm animals, and they spend most of their time spread out feeding by themselves. Yet they are well-equipped to defend themselves from attacks. Their strong legs enable them to run swiftly, and the muscles in their front legs enable them to give a powerful kick in any direction. They are particularly protective of their young (calves), who face dangers from larger predators. Likewise, God protects us from spiritual dangers that we couldn't face with our own abilities, and he delivers us from spiritual snares that are too strong for us:

*From the Lord comes deliverance.
 May your blessing be on your people. - Psalm 3:8*

Who are we, that God delights in blessing us and in being with us.

- Mark Garner, April 2026

Let The Light Stream In

O, let the light stream in,
The glorious light of day,
That o'er the face of nature sheds
A bright and genial ray;
We need its beams our steps to guide,
Ere daily toils begin,
Then open wide the door of prayer,
And let the light stream in.

O, let the light stream in
Where homes are dark and drear,
The light of God's eternal love,
That conquers every fear;
Its gentle smile new joys may wake,
Where sorrow long hath been,
Then open wide the door of hope,
And let the light shine in.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Christ, Our Rock

When weary and fainting and ready to die,
To the Rock in the desert for safety I fly;
There, 'neath its cool shelter from storms I would hide;
My soul is refreshed as in Him I abide.

When thirst and parched with the heat of the day,
To the Rock that was smitten I'll haste me and say,
Give me a cool drink from Thy bountiful store,
And quickly and freely the life waters pour.

O come all ye weary, and blissfully prove
That Christ is the Rock, and his shadow is love.

- Peter P. Bilhorn, 1865-1936

When young, writer and singer Peter Bilhorn ran a carriage- and wagon-building company he had started with his brother. When he decided to follow Jesus, he began writing hymns; he wrote over 1,000 hymns, and he often published under pseudonyms.

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, Tara Neiswonger writes about some ways we can let God's light shine in our daily lives.

The Light That Shines In Our Hearts

The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. - 2 Corinthians 4:4

During a training at work, we went through an exercise that had us drawing a circle and then pie charting that circle, with how we spent our time each day. How many hours at work, with family, eating, sleeping, doing chores, pursuing hobbies, you get the idea. We were then to create a second circle, and draw on that one the desired allotment of our time, and to compare the two, discussing what the differences were from current state to desired state. It had us questioning how we use a day's time versus what we felt we should be doing with it. And while this is a bit of a stretch, this passage, while it references unbelievers, does have me, a believer, asking myself what use of my time dims the light of God or causes it to fade by my perception. More precisely, what distractions have I brought into my life that diminishes the light from God - am I spending my time in a way that draws me closer to God or simply draws the veil heavier between God and me.

There are so many little things that can blind our minds to the light of Jesus. Social media, work demands, family needs, modern life distractions all work to create a veil between us and God. Paul, the writer of this passage, himself was blind to Christ until a bright light literally blinded him into truly seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Verse 6 emphasizes that God has given us light through the example of Jesus. In Genesis God created light, separating the light from the darkness. Paul pulls this into the New Testament, with Jesus as the light that shines in our hearts, driving the darkness out and letting in the glory of God found through Jesus. It is through faith in Jesus we see / feel the light, the glory of God.

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 the glory of God in the face of Christ. - 2 Corinthians 4:6

When I look at the circle of time I am allotted each day, how much is devoted to allowing the light of Jesus to shine in, to show the glory of God not only to myself but to those around me?

Prioritizing Christ and allowing through faith the light of God to shine through Jesus to us is a gift. And the first step in doing that? Verse 18 shares:

So we fix our eyes on not what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:18

- Tara Neiswonger, April 2026