

Announcements

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.

Church Camp At Fort Hill Next Week

Church camp week at Fort Hill will be next week, from July 12-18, and the cost is \$260. Potential scholarships are available. See Josh Evans or Meagan Stover if you have any questions.

What's The Point Of Hebrews?

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 Hebrews?" The entire series is viewable on the Northland website, under "Resources".

Events Next Month

August 1 (Saturday) - Book presentation
August 9 (Sunday) - Worship at Willow Brook
August 29 (Saturday) - Outdoor worship at Caleb and Ashley Dillinger's home

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.

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.

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

Ministry In Ghana

The Seikwa, Ghana Church Of Christ, along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, appreciate your continuing prayers and support. You can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei for more information. See also the next announcement.

Village Of Hope Orphanage (In Ghana)

Recently there was a presentation about the Village Of Hope orphanage in Ghana. The Village Of Hope started with 8 children in 1996, and it has continued to add additional services, including a school and a hospital. It recently recognized its 30th year anniversary; see pictures below from the activities that day. If you'd like to make a contribution to this ministry, you can do so by including it with your regular contribution, and writing "Village Of Hope" on your envelope with the amount. For further information, see Franklin Agyei.



Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5,236	\$4,722
Designated:	\$105	\$466



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Treasure In Jars Of Clay

We have this treasure in jars of clay . . . - 2 Corinthians 4:7

Our physical bodies are indeed fragile jars of clay, yet our Heavenly Father gives us the priceless gift of his Spirit, who lives within those who humbly and reverently follow Jesus:

. . . to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. - 2 Corinthians 4:7

Most ocean animals live within 650 feet of the surface (the "epipelagic zone"), where sunlight reaches. Some sea creatures live at depths of 650-3,300 feet (the "mesopelagic zone"), where both food and light are scarce, so many animals who live there still go to the surface to find food. Beneath 3,300 feet, there is no sunlight at all, and the water pressure is intense. Even there, God has made many animals that can live there, just as he enables us to handle this world's pressures.

The genus "Photostomia" (Greek for "light mouth") has several species of fish called barbeled dragonfish. With sharp teeth, long jaws, and snake-like bodies they indeed look like monsters, yet they are only 4-7 inches long, and they just feed on small invertebrates. They also live at depths between 3,300-13,000 feet (the "bathypelagic zone"), where they face water pressure several hundred times than the atmospheric pressure we face. Yet they are well-equipped to live there.

Their sensitive barbels help them be alert. They are bioluminescent, so they can see and can communicate, and their bodies are flexible and lightweight. These fish are very hard-pressed, but not crushed. Likewise, God and his Spirit help us endure this world's loudness and harshness, and the message of Jesus gives us enduring hope and peace even amidst this world's sorrows and fears:

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. - 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

There are several species of snailfish that live at the more extreme depths of 20,000 feet or more, where the pressure is over 1,000 times that on the surface. They have gelatinous bodies 5-10 inches long. They lack the swim bladder that most fish rely upon for buoyancy; instead they have very soft, light, flexible bones. They have antifreeze proteins in their blood, and they also produce a particular chemical that protects cellular proteins from being crushed.

Snailfish look quite weak, yet they live where very few animals could. Some marine biologists have said of them, "survival doesn't always belong to the biggest or fiercest - sometimes it belongs to the most delicate". Similarly, God calls us to trust in him, his care, and his truths, instead of relying on human strength and abilities. For our old selves and our fleshly desires died with Jesus:

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. - 2 Corinthians 4:10

And now we live in Jesus, and Jesus lives in us.

- Mark Garner, July 2026

To Him Be Glory Given

To Him, to Him whose love hath wrought
More than I ever asked or thought
To Him my powers aspire to raise
A grateful song of humble praise.

'Twas He that sought me from above,
When quite a stranger to His love;
When rushing blindfold down to Hell,
He saw and caught me as I fell.

To Him, to Him, be glory given,
Who taught my soul the way to Heaven;
To Him be praise, through endless days
Who guides and keeps me in the way.

- Susanna Harrison, 1752-1784 (from her poetry collection "Songs In The Night")

Bright Galilee

Bright Galilee, O beautiful sea,
How Jesus our Lord did love thee
When thy soft flow was murmuring low,
And listened the skies above thee.
On thy silvery waves afloat in the lightly tilting boat,
Galilee, bright Galilee, our Savior loved to be.

Bright Galilee, O beautiful sea,
Our Savior did preach beside thee
Precepts so pure, and promises sure,
Whatever of fate betide thee.
There He spoke the precious word, there his teachings blest we heard,
Galilee, bright Galilee, where Jesus loved to be.

Bright Galilee, O beautiful sea,
The storm in its wrath swept over thee.
Death was so near, and men were in fear,
While tearful the clouds wept over thee.
Peace, be still, he gently said, raging winds, how quick they fled,
Galilee, bright Galilee, how kind he spoke to thee.

- Palmer Hartsough, 1844-1932

Writer, editor, school teacher, and songwriter Palmer Hartsough spent several years traveling as a singing teacher, using his writings to sing to audiences about God and the message of Jesus. He wrote the words to several hundred hymns, as well as helping publish several volumes of hymns.

Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear

Jesus often asks, "Whoever has ears, let them hear", in the hope that we will listen carefully to what God says, instead of this world's loudness and chatter. This week, Tara Neiswonger writes about some ways we can improve how we hear God's words.

Listening, Understanding, & Applying

Ever catch yourself half listening to a conversation, more focused on what you will say and when you can interject your comment? You are paying just enough attention to find a gap in the other person's talking that you can jump into with your own thoughts. We have become so good at this, simply listening for our turn to talk that we go through training to actually teach us to pay attention to what the other person is saying. Active listening is the lingo, and it encompasses listening fully and intently to the person speaking. And then adding in your two cents.

He who has ears, let him hear . . . the phrase spoken by Jesus in several parables and also in Revelations in the letters to the seven churches. The parable of the sower (Matthew 13:9), and the parable of the weeds and wheat (Matthew 13:43), end with those words, as do the Revelation letters (chapters 2 and 3). It entails more than active listening, though. It is an invite to understand and to take to heart what is being shared. It involves a call to action.

The parable of the sower speaks of seed falling on rocky or thorny places and on good soil. It is the seed on the good soil, soil prepared and ready for it, that thrived. True hearing involves action or reaction to words spoken. It takes understanding, acceptance, and taking hold of that understanding and applying it to your living of life.

There is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him. - Luke 8:17-18

It is cultivating a receptive heart. Much like the good soil in the parables, the teachings need to fall on an open heart ready to accept the lesson of the words and to move into action because of them.

He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. - John 8:47

The word obedience comes from the Latin *oboedire* with *ob* meaning in the direction of and *audire* meaning to hear or to listen. To put simply, to obey is to listen deeply. To listen deeply is to an act of obedience.

James 1:22-25 states *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word it does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does.*

- Tara Neiswonger, July 2026