

Announcements

Potluck Next Sunday

Next Sunday, January 25 there will be a potluck right after the worship assembly ends. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards where you can let everyone know what you plan to bring. Napkins, plates, and utensils will be provided. Everyone is welcome to come!

Upcoming Women's Events

The next two "Walking In Awe Of God" women's events will be on Saturday, February 21st and Saturday, March 14th. This is an opportunity for women to meet in the Fellowship Room (E41-42) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, for a Bible Study, brunch, and walking together.

Prayers & Sympathy

William Nixon passed away this past Thursday, January 15. We will miss William and the calm encouragement he gave everyone. Please pray for his wife Leah and for the rest of her family. The funeral arrangements will be e-mailed to everyone soon.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ (along with the student group that is meeting at a local school building, as well as a prison ministry). 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.

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

Afternoon Sunday Class

The Sunday afternoon Bible class will resume later this winter. See Mike Paden if you have any questions.

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.** * 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: | \$2,947 | \$3,576 |
| Designated: | \$755 | \$930 |



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

Website
 ncocfamily.com

January 18, 2026
 Volume 35, Number 3

God Is Here To Stay

I'm here to tell you today that we need God. Modern man may know a great deal, but his knowledge does not eliminate God. And I tell you this morning that God is here to stay . . .

You see, when I think about God, I know his name. He said somewhere, back in the Old Testament, "I want you to go out, Moses, and tell them 'I Am' sent you." He said just to make it clear, let them know that "my last name is the same as my first, 'I Am that I Am.' Make that clear. I Am."

And God is the only being in the universe that can say "I Am" and put a period behind it. Each of us sitting here has to say, "I am because of my parents; I am because of certain environmental conditions; I am because of certain hereditary circumstances; I am because of God." But God is the only being that can just say, "I Am" and stop right there. "I Am that I Am." And He's here to stay. Let nobody make us feel that we don't need God.

As I come to my conclusion this morning, I want to say that we should search for him. We were made for God, and we will be restless until we find rest in him . . .

You may not be able to define God in philosophical terms. Men through the ages have tried to talk about him. Plato said that he was the Architectonic Good. Aristotle called him the Unmoved Mover. Hegel called him the Absolute Whole. Then there was a man named Paul Tillich who called him Being-Itself. We don't need to know all of these high-sounding terms.

Maybe we have to know him and discover him another way. One day you may rise up and say, "I know him because he's a lily of the valley." He's a bright and morning star. He's a rose of Sharon . . . And then somewhere you may just reach out and say, "He's my everything. He's my mother and my father. He's my sister and my brother. He's a friend to the friendless." This is the God of the universe. And if you believe in him and worship him, something will happen in your life. You will smile when others around you are crying . . .

And I'm going to take my seat now by letting you know that there's a first and even greater commandment: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength."

- Martin Luther King, Jr., excerpts from a sermon in April 1967

The Surpassing Worth Of Knowing Jesus

. . . we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. - Philippians 3:3

Jesus calls us to follow him, and to trust in his grace and his promises, instead of in human abilities and human teachings. The apostle reminds us that human accomplishments and fame may look impressive to earthly minds, yet they cannot redeem us and cannot save our souls:

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. - Philippians 3:7

In Russian writer Anton Chekhov's 1903 tragicomic stage play "The Cherry Orchard", an aristocratic family faces bankruptcy. In earlier years, their orchard had been both beautiful and prosperous; but over time they've neglected it, and it is now useless. They and their houseguests won't accept that they cannot save the situation. Some desperately hope for better times, some make vague speeches, some just deny reality, and one copes by constantly playing billiards.

God patiently reminds us that we too cannot save our souls by our efforts and will power, and that these cannot give us lasting hope or meaning. Yet Jesus does all this and much more when we put our faith in him. Our Heavenly Father calls us to set aside our useless attempts to earn our salvation by our deeds, and instead to let him give us the priceless blessing of knowing Jesus:

I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . . - Philippians 3:8

A peasant, Yermolay Lopakhin, had once worked in the orchard, and has now become prosperous. He offers to buy their estate at a good price, so he could replace the orchard with summer homes. Lopakhin hopes to make a profit, yet he also hopes this will help one family member who had been kind to him. The family turns him down, since some still see him as a peasant, and others hope to keep the orchard and the house. Due to their inaction, the whole estate is put up for public auction.

Yermolay wins the auction; he tells the family that he will proceed with his plan to cut down the decaying orchard, but he will help them find new homes, and jobs for those who are willing. Each of them will have a new start, yet they will also face uncertainty; and this is how the play ends. We too must face uncertainties in this fallen, harsh world, yet Jesus has given us spiritual promises that transcend this world's appearances and circumstances. Moreover, God declares us to be righteous when we put our faith and hope in the Lamb of God:

that I may gain Christ . . . not having a righteousness of my own . . . but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. - Philippians 3:8-9
And our Heavenly Father clothes us with his own robes of righteousness and salvation.

- Mark Garner, January 2026

A Spring Of Living Water

In John 4, Jesus talks about the living water that can satisfy our souls' thirst for God. This and other Scriptures tell us about the spring of living water that Jesus promises us. This week, Renée Jackson writes about the spiritual needs this living water fulfills, as well as the blessings it brings us.

A Need, An Invitation, A Promise

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." - John 7:37-38, NIV

Need - if anyone thirsts, **Invitation** - let him come to me and drink, **Promise** - whoever believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

Jesus offers living water that becomes a well within us, springing up into eternal life. This is the gift of God given through Jesus. This living water changes our minds, our hearts, and our will. *"But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of living water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life."* (John 4:13-14, AMPC). In this passage Jesus identifies that there is a physical thirst with which all can identify. He uses that to show the woman at the well that her own needs were not just physical - she had a spiritual thirst that could only be satisfied by spiritual water. Jesus was and is the source of such water. This is a thirst that water cannot quench, that nothing in this world can satisfy.

This living water will flow out from us! We are the aroma of Christ, the salt of the earth, the light of the world. The power of living water has the capacity of washing away every word, thought and action of Satan in our lives and in the world around us. Nothing can stop "living water" - mountains, rocks and man's efforts to contain flowing water will all give in to the power of rivers over time. Water in the Bible is life and power. It brings healing and wholeness.

When we partake of this living water and experience the divine well springing up in us to everlasting life, we should not be afraid. We need to believe with all our heart and develop an unshakable faith in the Son of God. We need to let our hearts reach out in earnest prayer and fill our minds with knowledge of Him, forsaking sin. We must walk in holiness and drink deeply of the living waters of the gospel of Christ.

(Isaiah 58:11, Jeremiah 2:13, Ezekiel 47:7-12, and Revelation 21:6 are more Scriptures to read about a spring of living water.)

- Renée Jackson, January 2026