

Announcements

Women's Devotional & Brunch This Saturday
* Special Update *

There will be a women's devotional and brunch, with songs, prayer, and fellowship, this Saturday, August 8. It will be in the Sunshine Room (E31) from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Dot Duncan will be able to join us! Please RSVP to Robbie McVicker (614-595-6363) by August 6, and see Robbie if you have any questions.

Events Coming Soon
* Updated *

- August 8 (Saturday) - Women's Devotional & Brunch (see also announcement above)
- August 9 (Sunday) - Worship at Willow Brook
- August 29 (Saturday) - Area-wide worship at Reynoldsburg, 6:30
- September 12 (Saturday) - Outdoor worship at the Dillingers' home
- September 13 (Sunday) - Prayer time after morning worship

What's The Point Of James?

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

Benevolence Fund

The benevolence fund has been used recently to bless several people. For those who designate funds in the contribution, we encourage focusing on this specific area for the month of August. See one of the elders for more information.

Sunday Service Times

Table with 2 columns: Service, Time. Rows: 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 Village Of Hope)

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 Franklin also if you'd like to contribute to the Village Of Hope orphanage, or if you would like more information about it.

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 room E41-42. Over the summer, the class will be studying a variety of topics.
- 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

Contribution

Table with 3 columns: Category, Last Week, Average YTD. Rows: General (\$3,152, \$4,779), Designated (\$85, \$435).



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This Is What God Was Pleased To Do

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him . . . The seventy-two returned with joy and said, Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name. - Luke 10:1, 10:17

As the Lord helped these followers to overcome demons in their time, today Jesus overcomes for us demons such as pride, selfish ambition, and sinful desires. Yet, as he reminds his followers, beyond all the other blessings he gives us, we should rejoice most of all that he has prepared an imperishable, eternal home for us in heaven:

Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. - Luke 10:20

Pupfish are tiny, silvery-blue fish (two inches long, or less) that get their name for their puppy-like behavior. Though pupfish live in some of the world's bleakest environments, they continually act like children playing games, racing and chasing one another. They live in small, isolated bodies of water in the deserts of the Southwestern U.S. and Mexico, and they eat algae and aquatic insects. They must face extreme heat, a limited food supply, low oxygen content in the water, and more.

God has equipped these miniature creatures to face this precarious existence and still live contentedly. Likewise, even amidst this world's spiritual famines, false hopes, and harshness, Jesus gives us reasons to rejoice. Moreover, as God displays his splendor and care in these little-noticed animals, our Heavenly Father does not reveal his greatest truths to this world's experts and authorities, rather he teaches them to those who approach him like a weak, humble, teachable child:

Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. - Luke 10:21

Although pupfish are freshwater fish, they can survive even when saline content rises to several times the salt content in the oceans. They also have to face low oxygen levels in their environment, and they can even go without oxygen (called "paradoxical anaerobism") for at least two hours - they can produce chemicals that protect their cells, and their metabolism speeds up temporarily to provide energy. This takes quite a toll on these small fish, yet they are designed to survive it.

Similarly, in this world we face a wide variety of spiritual dangers, such as its misguided teachings and its futile ways. So God nourishes our souls in unseen ways, including his Spirit who helps us understand his teachings, and his words that teach us truths that this world's fads and theories cannot change. It has pleased our Heavenly Father to show kindness to the little pupfish, and it has pleased him to pour out his spiritual blessings on those who follow him reverently and humbly:

Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. - Luke 10:21

- Mark Garner, August 2026

His Words Are True

What wonderful words in the Gospel of grace
Our loving Redeemer has given.
How happy are they who in spirit are pure,
For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Though all that is earthly will fade,
And vanish away from our view,
We know that as sure as the Savior lives,
The words He has spoken are true.

He maketh the lilies to bloom in the field,
And shelters the bird in its nest;
He calleth the weary to come unto Him,
And find the sweet blessing of rest.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

They Laid Him In The Tomb

They laid Him in the tomb,
They closed it with a stone,
And in the deep and heavy gloom
They left their Lord alone.
Then broke the Easter day;
"Fear not," an angel said,
Behold the place where Jesus lay;
He liveth who was dead.

He tarried forty days
With those He did most love;
He taught them of His Father's ways
And then He went above.
Christ rose, and we shall rise
When death's short sleep is past;
Lord, lift our hearts to yonder skies,
And take us there at last.

- Sarah Josselyn Wilson, 1893-1934

As a young woman, poet Sarah Wilson had hoped to join her older sister, who was doing mission work in Japan. But this was prevented when a series of serious ailments made it impossible for her to travel. For many years, she supported herself managing a boarding house as well as a tea room, while she wrote poetry about God and the message of Jesus. After she passed away, her collected her poems and had a book of them published.

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, Mike Paden writes about how we can let God "open our ears".

Whoever Has Ears And A Body

Hearing loss is no laughing matter, although it is often used in comedy sketches where someone pretends not to hear or turns off their hearing aids. Then there is the deliberate ignoring someone speaking to you. God has always wanted people to listen or hear and to obey his word. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Moses records what is called the Shema, the first word is, "Hear." But how can people hear if they have their fingers in their ears, in essence, choosing not to listen?

Every person, except Jesus, has in some manner not listened and obeyed God. In Psalm 40:6 David gives a prophetic expression in Hebrew concerning the Christ, *"You have given me an open ear"* (RSV), in Hebrew it reads, "ears you have unstopped (dug out) for me". Now that the ears have been unstopped, he can hear and be responsive to God's word.

Between 300-200 BC Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. New Testament writers used the Greek version when referring to the Old Testament. Modern English translations are based on the Hebrew text. But if we compare of Psalm 40:6 "you have given me an open ear" to the way the writer of Hebrews quotes the same passage based on the Greek version, the quotation reads, "A body hast thou prepared for me" (Heb 10:5). What is the relationship between "open ear and body"? The Psalm 40 passage highlights the insufficiency of animal sacrifices, so the writer of Hebrews applies this passage to the Christ, the one who willingly offered His body, once and for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Isiah 50:4-9 amplifies the idiom of "open ears" and "a body". *"The Lord has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he awakens . . . my ear to hear as those who are taught. . . and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters . . . I hid not my face from shame and spitting . . . I have set my face like a flint . . . who will declare me guilty?"*

Jesus' whole body was used to God's glory. He used his tongue to speak what the Father wanted him to say (John 17:7-8). The Messiah was open morning by morning to hear what the Father wanted him to hear (4); with open ears; he was not rebellious but rather *"set his face toward Jerusalem"*. He gave his back to the scourgers, his face was spat upon. In Isaiah 53, he lists a few other atrocities against the Messiah's body, *"he was wounded, stricken, bruised, whipped, he did not open his mouth in complaints."* But the result of the Christ's willingness to open his ears, *"He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isaiah 53:12b). The writer of Hebrews (12:2) clarifies it by saying he endured the cross for the joy set before him, that is of providing a path to redemption.

So, when we open our ears to God's word, he expects the rest of us, *"present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* (Romans 12:1) Thanks be to God that we are counted as righteous on the basis of faith and obedience to God.

- Mike Paden, August 2026 (adapted from *Table Talks*, by Gerald Paden)