

Announcements

Outdoor Worship On September 12

There will be an outdoor time of worship at the Caleb and Ashley Dillinger's home (weather permitting) on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon. This will be a time of fellowship and singing, and everyone is welcome. Hymnals and water will be provided, though please bring your own chair.

Autumn Picnic On September 19

Our congregational Autumn Picnic with the Ghanaian congregation will be Saturday September 19, starting at 4:30 PM. This year it will be at the Dogwood Picnic Area (note the new location) in Blendon Woods Metro Park. More details will be coming soon.

Events Coming Soon * New Events Added *

- September 12 (Saturday) - Outdoor worship at the Dillingers' home (see announcement above)
- September 13 (Sunday) - Prayer time after morning worship
- September 19 (Saturday) - Picnic with the Ghanaian congregation (see announcement above)
- September 26 (Saturday) - Work Day at the church building (details coming soon)
- October 4 (Sunday) - Potluck after morning worship

Auditorium Renovations

The elders are currently considering making some renovations to the auditorium in the church building. These include a new projector, better lighting, better sound, and other features that would benefit both the English-language worship and the Ghanaian congregation. See Jeff or one of the other elders if you have any questions.

Ministry In Ghana * Update *

The Seikwa, Ghana Church Of Christ, along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, appreciate your continuing prayers and support. This year, so far Northland has contributed \$7,900 to support churches, care for orphans, and prison ministry in Ghana. 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.

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.

Previous Volumes By Northland Members

On the table in the foyer, there are copies of some previous collections of bulletin articles written by Northland's members. See Mark if you would like a copy of any of the other previous booklets.

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. They will be studying 2 John, 3 John, and Jude throughout September and October.
- 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3,970	\$5,036
Designated:	\$112	\$430

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

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



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

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Seek The Lord, Seek Humility

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord. - Zephaniah 1:7

Amidst this world's loudness and uproars, the Lord simply asks us to tune out its forceful voices, and instead to listen calmly to him and his words. Amidst this world's false hopes and its empty promises, the sacrifice of Jesus has already met the deepest needs of our souls, and the Lord consecrates those who faithfully follow his Son:

The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated those he has invited. - Zephaniah 1:7

French writer Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (1919-1995) wrote two collections of prayers by animals ("Prayers From The Ark" and "The Creatures' Choir"). In them, she shows the animals' awareness of their dependence on their Creator, as well as reflecting on human nature and our need for God. In one, a humble toad realizes its ungainly appearance and voice, yet puts its trust in God and prays, "Lonely and ugly . . . Yet my song trills of an unmalicious heart . . . I dedicate the melancholy chant of my unwholesomeness to You, Lord. Of Your mercy graciously accept it."

Likewise, God doesn't look at outward appearances, and he calls us to seek him in humility and reverence, so that he may shelter us from this world's temptations and the accuser's snares:

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.
Seek righteousness, seek humility . . . you will be sheltered. - Zephaniah 2:3

In another of de Gasztold's prayers, a harried and burdened ox simply asks for God's mindfulness, "Dear God, give me time . . . Give me time to eat. Give me time to plod. Give me time to sleep. Give me time to think." Truly, our Heavenly Father is mindful of us all. In this life, he gives us food and clothing and everything we need, and he has opened the gate to his heavenly pasture, where he nourishes our souls with living water and the living bread of Jesus:

The land by the sea will become pastures having wells for shepherds and pens for flocks.
. . . there they will find pasture. - Zephaniah 2:6-7

Another of Carmen's prayers has a beaver realizing the temporary nature of everything it diligently builds in its daily life, and thus longing to be part of something more lasting, "Oh yes, Lord, if You would give me some of your living water, I would build Your paradise for You." Truly, when we give our hearts and minds to God, he himself makes us part of the body of Jesus. And he gives us a resting place for our weary spirits and our anxious souls:

In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon.
The Lord their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes. - Zephaniah 2:7

- Mark Garner, August 2026

The Thoughts of God

*How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God.
How great is the sum of them! - Psalm 139:17*

How wonderful Thy thoughts, O God.
Though poor and needy I may be,
How high, how deep, how manifold,
Thy never-ceasing thought of me.

Thou thinkest peace; the winds are lulled
And lash no more the billow's crest,
And all the tumult of my soul
Is hushed into Thy perfect rest.

Thou thinkest joy, and I rejoice;
Even in grief I must be glad,
For when my lips can sing Thy praise,
My spirit may no more be sad.

Thou thinkest love; ah! God of love,
That thought in Christ embodied lies;
I see a vision of the cross,
And every selfish impulse dies.

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932

Here Is No Rest

Here over the earth as a stranger I roam;
Here is no rest, is no rest;
Here as a pilgrim I wander alone;
Yet I am blest, I am blest.
For I look forward to that glorious day
When sin and sorrow will vanish away.
My heart doth leap while I hear Jesus say,
There, there is rest, there is rest.
Here fierce temptations beset me around;
Here is no rest, is no rest;
Here I am grieved while my foes me surround;
Yet I am blest, I am blest.
Let them revile me, and scoff at my name,
Laugh at my weeping endeavor to shame;
I will go forward, for this is my theme,
There, there is rest, there is rest.

- Charles Washington Ainsworth, 1818-1851

Writer and printer Charles Ainsworth was frequently afflicted by illnesses, yet he was active in many ways with his local congregation. Besides writing hymns, for a time he served as a minister.

Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear

Jesus often says, "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, Renée Jackson writes about the significance of not merely hearing, but also fully paying attention to the Word Of God.

Ears To Hear

I remember a few times when my mother would be talking to me. She would pause and ask "Did you hear me?" and I would respond with, "I heard you." She would respond with "I know you heard me BUT are you listening?" She wanted to be sure I understood exactly what she was saying. Even today I am not always a good listener, and sometimes miss things I need to hear. The most critical thing we can ever hear, the one thing we cannot live without, is the Word of God. The Word of God changes us from the inside out. The Word of God saves us from ourselves and from hell. *Revelation 2:17 "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches,"* also requires focus and understanding.

Our ears, unlike our eyes, do not have lids. They are to remain open for us to listen. *"Happy are those who listen to me." Proverbs 8:34* The great command that God gave Moses began with the words, *"Hear O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." Deuteronomy 6:4* Jesus also urges us to listen like sheep. *John 10:3-5 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

Often when teaching large crowds, Jesus spoke to them in parables. I believe one reason he did this was to test them and see if they were listening. Following the parable in *Matthew 13:9 Jesus says, "Whoever has ears, let them hear."* Most of the people in that crowd heard Jesus, but did not listen. They may have gone back home following their daily routine forgetting what was said.

When we hear Jesus' invitation to obey, it means more than audible sounds. It means to accept and obey what we have heard. *"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only." James 1:22.* There are two kinds of hearing: one with physical ears of the head and one with the spiritual ears of the heart or mind. Not only must we listen to the Word but we must be careful how we hear. I am admonished to not hear passively, to watch what I hear and be careful that what I hear does not go in one ear and out the other.

"Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have even what they think they have will be taken from them." Luke 8:18 We must not be indifferent to the hearing of God's word week after week. If it is not softening, saving, healing and bearing fruit, it is probably hardening, blinding and dulling. He who has ears to hear let him hear: We should listen to the Word of God like our life depends on it because it does, both our eternal life and our life here and now.

- Renée Jackson, August 2026