

Announcements

Prayer Time Today

Today there will a prayer time shortly after the worship assembly concludes. Everyone is welcome to come. It will start with some songs, prayers led by the elders and Caleb, followed by breaking up into smaller groups for individual prayer requests. See Franklin Agyei for more details.

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.

Autumn Picnic This Saturday

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.

Fall Festival On October 18

This year's Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th from 5:30 PM -7:00 PM. We will have trunk-or-treat, a hot dog dinner, crafts, games, and a bounce house. There will be a table in the foyer starting Sunday, September 20th for you to ask questions, sign up to volunteer, or contribute candy or money. If you have any questions, please see Meagan Stover.

Events Coming Soon * New Events Added *

September 19 (Saturday) - Picnic with the Ghanaian congregation (see announcement above)
September 26 (Saturday) - Work Day at the church building (details coming soon)
September 27 (Sunday) - Guest speaker, Huston Hayes, in morning worship assembly
October 4 (Sunday) - Combined Bible class at 9:00 AM
October 4 (Sunday) - Guest speaker, Ben Driver, in morning worship assembly
October 4 (Sunday) - Potluck after morning worship
October 11 (Sunday) - Men's lunch

Needs For The Clothing Closet

With cooler weather coming soon, the Clothing Closet would appreciate donations of clean, gently used Autumn and Winter clothing. We have a particular need for children's and men's items. We currently do not need Spring or Summer items. See Robbie if you have any questions.

Greeters Needed

We currently need for members who are willing to greet everyone as they arrive. This would be for one month, and we particularly need greeters for September and for November. See Robbie if you can help, or if you have any questions.

Auditorium Renovations

The elders are currently considering making some renovations to the auditorium in the church building. See Jeff or one of the other elders if you have any questions.

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. Please see Franklin Agyei for ways you can help this ministry.

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. In September and October, they will study 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.
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, or if you have any questions.

Contribution		
	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5,126	\$4,998
Designated:	\$161	\$416



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September 13, 2026
Volume 35, Number 36

The Lord Is A Fountain Of Life

The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps. - Proverbs 14:15

This world is full of voices promoting folly and sin, yet God calls us to listen to him instead, and to worship him in awe:

The wise fear the Lord and shun evil. - Proverbs 14:16

Leo Tolstoy's 1878 novel "Anna Karenina" begins, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Similarly, in God alone we can find lasting peace and meaning, while this world has many false hopes that derail human lives. The novel's main focus is on two couples. The marriage between Kitty and Kostya is based on mutual care, honesty, and patience; while Anna's romance with Count Vronsky is based on appearances, pleasure, and excitement.

At first, both Kitty and Anna are drawn to the flashy Vronsky. When Kostya asks Kitty to marry him, she declines, hoping that Vronsky will ask her. Yet soon she sees Vronsky's shallowness, while Anna desires the relationship Vronsky wants. Kostya again asks Kitty for marriage, shows her his diary that reveals his flaws and his mistakes, and Kitty gladly marries him. Likewise, this world offers us fleeting enjoyment if we follow its ways, yet these lead to confusion, insecurity, or worse. God speaks clearly and truthfully, and he is a fountain of life to those who revere him:

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. - Proverbs 14:27

Soon Anna's jealousy, boredom, and resentments along with Count Vronsky's pride, vanity, and superficiality lead to frequent conflict, and things end disastrously for them. Kitty and Kostya face some difficult times, yet their quiet love and care for one another continue. As the story develops, we also see Kostya's spiritual journey.

Kostya believes in Jesus, yet he is discouraged by life's sorrows. When their son is born, Kostya first feels let down that he doesn't have a feeling of elation or a sudden revelation. Yet watching the baby's simple joy in just being alive and being with his caring parents, at last his perspective changes. When we follow God patiently and humbly, he pours out his love and faithfulness on us:

Those who plot evil go astray. But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness. - Proverbs 14:22

Kostya says, "My own conclusions would be idle and uncertain too if they were not founded on that understanding of goodness . . . that has been revealed to me by Christianity . . . from now on my life . . . every second of it, is not only not meaningless as it was before, but it has uncontestable meaning." For those who humbly follow God, he is a refuge from this world's noise and snares:

Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and . . . it will be a refuge. - Proverbs 14:26

- Mark Garner, September 2026

Sunday Service Times		
English Bible Study	9:00 AM	<i>Minister:</i> Caleb Dillinger
English Worship	10:00 AM	<i>Elders:</i> Franklin Agyei, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Spanish Worship (Annex)	10:00 AM	<i>Deacons:</i> Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep,
Twi Bible Study	12:00 PM	John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Twi Worship	1:00 PM	<i>Spanish Ministry:</i> Luis Valdez

Thou Great I AM

Remember me, Thou Great I AM,
Thou Holy, Just, and Wise;
Remember me, Thou bleeding Lamb,
And hearken to my cries.

Thou dost to Thine own people show
The wonders of Thy love;
Such favors, Lord, on me bestow,
And fix my thoughts above.

Thou art my Refuge and my Tower,
O let me see Thy face.
Show me Thy glory and Thy power,
And feed me with Thy grace.

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

A Friend So Precious

I have a Friend so precious,
So very dear to me,
He loves me with such tender love,
He loves so faithfully;
I could not live apart from Him,
I love to feel Him nigh,
And so we dwell together,
My Lord and I.

I tell Him all my sorrows,
I tell Him all my joys,
I tell Him all that pleases me,
I tell Him what annoys;
He tells me what I ought to do,
He tells me how to try,
And so we talk together,
My Lord and I.

- Mary Ann Shorey Lancaster, born 1851, death date uncertain

British writer Mary Ann Lancaster published many poems as well as the words to numerous hymns. (She published some of her writings under the pseudonym L. Shorey.) She wrote this poem one day as she was taking care of several mundane errands, and thought of the encouragement it gave her to know that God was always near with her.

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, Frank Cowans writes about the significance of responding to God's words, using an example in Scripture that illustrates this twice.

Now That We've Heard . . .

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch . . . He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot. So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading? And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him . . . Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture, he told him (and the Ethiopian heard) the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" - Acts 8:26–37 (edited for space and clarification)

Hearing Requires A Response - Jesus' words, "Whoever has ears, let them hear," remind us that hearing is more than receiving sound or information. True hearing calls for a response. It moves us from awareness to action.

The storms of last August offered a practical reminder. If we had heard the warnings but failed to act, we could have placed ourselves, our families, and our possessions in danger. The same principle applies in everyday life: a person may hear a spouse say, "Take out the trash," but if there is no response, the instruction has not truly been received. Hearing becomes complete when it leads to obedience.

Acts 8 shows two people who heard and responded. Philip heard God's direction and went to the road where the Ethiopian traveler was passing by. He then listened to the Ethiopian's question and explained the Gospel beginning with Isaiah.

Philip heard and obeyed. He responded to God's direction, approached the chariot, and shared the good news about Jesus. The Ethiopian heard and obeyed. He received the message, believed what he heard, and responded by asking to be baptized.

Listening For God Today - God still gives us opportunities to hear and respond throughout our days. His prompting may come through someone we encounter at work or at home, through Scripture, or through the Spirit's quiet correction: "Don't do that; do this instead." Too often, we hear that correction, ignore it, and ask for forgiveness later. Repentance gives us another opportunity to listen when the Spirit speaks again. But if we respond the first time we hear, we can avoid much of the guilt, shame, and disobedience that follow delayed obedience. Hearing is not complete until it moves us to action. Like Philip and the Ethiopian, we are called not only to receive what God says, but to respond with trust and obedience.

- Frank Cowans, September 2026