

Announcements

Guest Speaker Today
This morning, Ben Driver, minister at the Mount Vernon Church Of Christ, will be speaking at the worship assembly. See the insert for more information about Ben.

Potluck Today
Today there will be a potluck right after the worship assembly finishes. It will be in the Fellowship Room (E41-42). Everyone is welcome to come!

Combined Morning Class Today
Today, the regular morning Bible classes will not be meeting. Instead, there is a combined adult session at 9:00 AM in room E44. The class will be on the Psalms. (The regular classes resume next week.)

Area Wide Worship At Marysville On October 17
On **Saturday** October 17, the Marysville congregation will be hosting an area-wide worship evening. It will be from 6:30-8:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to come.

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 is a table in the foyer where you can ask questions, sign up to volunteer, or contribute candy or money. If you have any questions, please see Meagan Stover.

Events Coming Soon
October 11 (Sunday) - * postponement * - the men's lunch has been postponed
October 17 (Saturday) - Area-Wide worship at Marysville (see announcement above)
October 18 (Sunday) - Fall Fest (see announcement above)

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

What's The Point Of 2 Peter?
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 2 Peter?" The entire series is viewable on the Northland website, under "Resources".

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. Thank you for your continued support.

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.** *. 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:	\$5,709	\$5,015
Designated:	\$60	\$399

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



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

October 4, 2026
Volume 35, Number 39

Nothing In All Creation Is Hidden From God

So I tell you this . . . that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. - Ephesians 4:17

Jesus has called us to let him transform our minds, to leave behind all of this world's futile thinking, and to humbly open our hearts to God and his words:

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. - Ephesians 4:18

Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes's classic novel "Don Quixote" (published in two parts, in 1605 and 1615) is well-known for its numerous comical scenes and its satirical commentary on human society. At the same time, it shows us the spiritual transformation of Alonso Quixano (known as "Don Quixote"), as he changes from a hapless, confused, misguided person into someone who humbly sees our constant need for God's forgiveness and guidance.

Alonso has been heavily influenced by tales of grandiose deeds, so he desperately wants to find meaning for his life by doing heroic things. He becomes delirious, and proclaims himself the knight Don Quixote de La Mancha. He then has a series of absurd mishaps when he thinks he's on a grand adventure (most memorably, attacking windmills that he claims are ferocious "giants").

In spite of Alonso's delusions, he often sees the good in places others don't notice. He has some good intentions, but he has been completely deceived by this world's hollow promises and its shallow teachings. Similarly, God has taught us to put off the old self and its worldly reasoning, and to follow Jesus with all our minds and all our hearts:

You heard about Christ . . . You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires . . . - Ephesians 4:21-22

As "Don Quixote", Alonso endures many embarrassing and painful experiences. He eventually comes to his senses, and he finally appreciates the message of Jesus. As he is dying from a fatal disease, he says, "Infinite are his mercies . . . Mercies that God has . . . granted to me in spite of all my sins. My judgment is now clear and unfettered, and that dark cloud of ignorance has disappeared." The inscription on his tombstone concludes that Alonso "Had the fortune in his age to live a fool and die a sage."

Likewise, God asks us to let him clear away the oppressive clouds of this world's ways, and trust instead in him and his words, so that he may sanctify us and clothe us with the new self:

. . . to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. - Ephesians 4:23-24

- Mark Garner, October 2026

The Grace of God

"My grace," 'tis the God of all grace who hath spoken,
Whose word in the heavens forever is set;
Whose covenant promise hath never been broken;
Who never can fail or forget;
Who knows my needs and who sees my sorrows,
However so many and great they may be;
Who heareth my prayers for the days and the morrows;
His grace is sufficient for me.

"My grace is sufficient." Oh, help without measure!
An ocean of riches no plummet can sound,
A storehouse unfailing of infinite treasure,
A gift without limit or bound;
Exceeding abundant for all His creation,
Enough for the thorn that is buffeting me,
The fulness of God for earth's brief troubles,
His grace is sufficient for me.

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932

In The Secret Of His Presence

In the secret of His presence
How my soul delights to hide.
Oh, how precious are the lessons
Which I learn at Jesus' side.
Earthly cares can never vex me,
Neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me,
To the secret place I go.

When my soul is faint and thirsty,
'Neath the shadow of His wing
There is cool and pleasant shelter,
And a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Savior rests beside me,
As we hold communion sweet;
If I tried, I could not utter
What He says when thus we meet.

- Ellen Lakshmi Goreh, 1853-1937

Indian poet, nurse, and mission worker Ellen Goreh grew up as an orphan, attended college in England, and then returned to India to work as a nurse. Besides her poems and hymns, she also published a collection of hymns written in India.

The Eternal God Is Our Refuge

In this world, we may often find temporary refuge from its storms and other physical perils. But God alone can give us lasting refuge and shelter for our souls. This week, Caleb Dillinger writes about the times when we need spiritual refuge quickly, and the ideal refuge God provides.

Fleeing For Refuge

I find it fascinating to do word studies, looking at how often words are used, which authors use particular words, where it is absent. It is noticeable, then, that the word "refuge" is used only one time in the New Testament, despite being used nearly 100 times in the Old Testament. This is the only New Testament use of the word:

*So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for **refuge** might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. (Hebrews 6:17-18)*

God is indeed a refuge, just as the Old Testament declares. Sometimes it feels like we have to flee for refuge, which is hard spiritually and emotionally, but it's important to know that's perfectly valid. Satan and the spiritual forces of darkness are oppressive and hunger for the downfall of the faithful. The good news is God is our refuge where we *"might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us."*

Jesus is our hope. Eternal life is our hope. Salvation by grace through faith is our hope. And we should have strong encouragement to hold fast to that hope. It is set before us through the Scriptures, and should likewise be set before us by the church. When sin or temptation or hardship presses in, we as Christians can run to Jesus, forever, finding eternal refuge and hope.

What makes God such a perfect refuge is the Lord granting all you need. If you are faced with temptation, he provides a way out. If you are facing persecution, you are encouraged to know that there awaits for you a better place for all eternity. If you are in conflict, the Holy Spirit has been sent to bring wisdom and peace. If you are doubting, God established the church as a place of encouragement. God is a perfect refuge to flee to in any scenario, and as the Hebrew writer says, I hope to encourage you to flee for refuge to the one source that never fails: God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

- Caleb Dillinger, October 2026