

Announcements

Area Wide Worship At Marysville This Saturday
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 Next Sunday
This year's Fall Festival will be next Sunday, October 18th from 5:30 PM -7:00 PM. We will have a "trunk-less-treat", a hot dog dinner, crafts, games, and a bounce house. *** Please Note * This year's Trunk-less Treat will be held inside the church building**, along the sides and back hallways. If possible, please bring candy for your own bowl. 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 or Vicki Cowans.

Bible Reading On October 24
On Saturday, October 24 there will be a Bible reading of the entire book of Zechariah. It will be in the Sunshine Room (E31), and everyone is welcome to come. See Caleb for more details.

Women's Devotional & Brunch On November 7
On Saturday November 7, there will be a women's devotional and brunch in the Sunshine Room (E31) from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please RSVP to either Karen Susenna or Vickie Cage.

Events Coming Soon * New Events Added *
October 17 (Saturday) - Area-Wide worship at Marysville (see announcement above)
October 18 (Sunday) - Fall Fest (see announcement above)
October 24 (Saturday) - Bible reading (see announcement above)
November 1 (Sunday) - Prayer session (details coming soon)
November 7 (Saturday) – Women’s Devotional & Brunch (see announcement above)

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.

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

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
The Seikwa, Ghana Church Of Christ, along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, appreciate your continuing prayers and support. 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. 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:	\$6,680	\$5,057
Designated:	\$1,705	\$431

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



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October 11, 2026
Volume 35, Number 40

The Concerns Of God

Simon Peter answered, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. - Matthew 16:16

Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and our Savior. Our Father in heaven asks us to ponder these words, so he may help us understand what they truly mean:

Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. - Matthew 16:17

In John Hersey's 1944 novel "A Bell For Adano", when the U.S. frees an Italian town from Axis troops, Major Victor Joppolo is appointed temporary administrator. He wants to help the town, but he also faces pressure from an authoritarian, glory-seeking General, who is annoyed by Joppolo's efforts to learn about the town and its needs. In a far greater way, Jesus came to meet the deepest needs of our souls. By suffering and dying, then raising from the dead, he redeemed us from our sins, and promises eternal salvation to those who humbly follow him:

Jesus began to explain that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things . . . and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. - Matthew 16:21

The townspeople tell Major Joppolo that what they miss most is their centuries-old town bell, which the Axis armies had seized to melt down to make weapons. One of them explains its deeper meaning, "The tone of the bell was so satisfactory, it soothed all the people of the town. It calmed those who were angry, it cheered the unhappy ones . . . It had a tone for everybody, Mr. Major." Another person says, "The spirit is more important than the stomach."

Truly, we have a deep need for God's forgiveness and his presence, and we need a hope and peace that transcend this world's appearances and circumstances. So Jesus came to do far more than dealing with our human concerns, for he had in mind the concerns of God:

Peter took him aside . . . This shall never happen to you. Jesus turned and said to Peter . . . You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns. - Matthew 16:22-23

Victor tells the General that he will keep looking for a bell, observing "The truth is much better and much safer." Joppolo finds a bell on a U.S. Navy ship, and the townspeople consider it a worthy replacement. Yet as they celebrate, the General petulantly removes the Major from his post. As Joppolo leaves, he hears the bell ring, giving him contentment as he thinks of the comfort and peace the bell will bring to the town.

Similarly, Jesus calls us to turn from this world's futile thinking, and to trust fully God and his words. He reassures us that,

Whoever loses their life for me will find it. - Matthew 16:25

- Mark Garner, October 2026

Moments Of Blessing

Rich are the moments of blessing
Jesus my Savior bestows;
Pure is the well of salvation
Fresh from His mercy flows.

Why should I ever grow weary?
Why should I faint by the way?
Has He not promised to give me
Strength for the toils of the day.

Ever He walks beside me,
Brightly His sunshine appears,
Spreading a beautiful rainbow
Over the valley of tears.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Trust In Him

I trusted in Him for guidance
And help upon my way,
And He, in his loving kindness
Has led me day by day.
I often would not have chosen
The paths that He bade me go,
But often though his ways seemed hidden,
He leads aright, I know.

Before His throne I'm bowing
In gratitude and praise
To him who will never fail me
Unto the end of days.
To Him I'll leave the guiding
Through what remains for me;
Until at the journey's ending,
With Him at home I'll be.

- Herman von Berge, 1871-1963

German-American college teacher Herman von Berge was born in Germany, and came to the U.S. for his graduate studies. Besides teaching, he also wrote the words to numerous hymns both in English and in German. Later he was the editor for two hymnals, as well as writing the libretto for an Easter cantata.

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, Dot Duncan writes about the ways that God both cautions us about coming spiritual storms as well as providing us with the refuge we need.

When the Storms Come, Run to God

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." — Psalm 46:1

Psalm 46 is one of my favorite Psalms. Whenever I read the words, *"God is our refuge,"* my mind goes back to something that happened when I was a child.

One day, my siblings and I were working with my granddaddy in the cotton field. As we worked, we noticed rain clouds beginning to form in the distance. At first, they were simply clouds in the sky, but before long, the weather began to change. The wind started blowing harder. Then we heard the thunder, and the lightning began flashing across the sky.

My granddaddy realized we were in danger. He told us to go home. We didn't argue. We ran. I can see us now, hurrying through that cotton field, trying to reach home before the storm overtook us. We knew exactly where we needed to go. Home meant shelter, protection, and safety. Home was our refuge. Whenever I remember that day, I think about Psalm 46:1: *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

The Hebrew word for refuge, *machaseh*, means a shelter or a place where we can run for protection. As a child, I understood what it meant to run to a physical place for safety. As I have grown older, I have learned what it means to run to God for safety.

The storms I face today are different from that storm in the cotton field. Sometimes the clouds that gather over our lives are sickness, grief, financial problems, loneliness, fear, disappointment, or uncertainty about tomorrow. And sometimes we can see those clouds forming before the storm ever arrives. But I have learned something through the years: when the storm comes, I know where to run. I can run to God in prayer. I can open His Word and hold on to His promises. I can tell Him when I am frightened, confused, hurting, or simply too tired to know what to do next.

Taking refuge in God does not mean the storm immediately disappears. It means that I am not facing the storm alone. Just as my granddaddy saw the danger that day and told us to run home, God's Word reminds us where we can run when trouble comes.

Today, if you see storm clouds gathering in your own life, remember Psalm 46:1. Run to God.

He is still our refuge.
He is still our strength.
And He is still our very present help in trouble.

- Dot Duncan, October 2026