

Announcements

Combined Morning Class Today

Today, the regular 9:00 AM Bible classes will not be meeting. Instead, there will be a combined session in room E44. Jeff, Franklin, and Caleb will be guiding a discussion about prayer.

Bake Sale Today

Today after the morning worship assembly ends, there will be a Bake Sale in the foyer to raise funds for the Northwest Ohio Christian Youth Camp. See Josh Evans or Meagan Stover for more details, including the projects at camp they hope to raise money for.

2025 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2025 can now be picked up in the church office for those who used envelopes or gave online. If you would like your statement mailed to you, see Ashley Dillinger or email office@ncocfamily.org.

Women's Bible Study & Brunch This Saturday

The next women's "Walking In Awe Of God" session will be on Saturday, February 21st. This is an opportunity for women to meet in the Fellowship Room (E41-42) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, for a Bible Study, brunch, and walking together.

Events Coming In March

* New Events Added *

March 1 (Sunday) - Prayer meeting after the morning worship assembly

March 8 (Sunday) - Potluck (re-scheduled from last month's snow day)

March 14 (Saturday) - Women's "Walking In Awe Of God" session, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

March 15 (Sunday) - Worship time at Willow Brook, 2:00 PM

March 21 (Saturday) - Group reading of 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy

March 29 (Sunday) - Combined worship with the Ghanaian congregation

Support For The Ministry In Ghana

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church Of Christ (along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, as well as a prison ministry). They've asked us to pray for one of their members, who has sickle cell anemia, and needs regular treatments. They're also raising funds for these treatments, as well as for a mission group to go there next summer. You can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei for more information.

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.

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, coordinated by Tara Lynn Bell. The class topic is now "Grace & Gratitude".

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, meeting in the Fellowship Room. Currently the class is studying John.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2,812	\$4,035
Designated:	\$1,665	\$933

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



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New Birth Into A Living Hope

Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:2-3

Our Heavenly Father gives abundant grace and lasting peace to those who put their faith in him instead of in worldly teachings, and it is good to praise him. Jesus, in his unfailing compassion, died on the cross and rose from the grave to give us new birth and lasting hope:

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. - 1 Peter 1:3

Bristlecone pines often look like pudgy, twisted tree stumps with sparse vegetation. Yet these remarkable trees are one of God's longest-lived creations, as well as a reminder not to go by outward appearances. Bristlecone pines grow in places where little else can grow; they live at high altitudes with rocky ground and little rain, and they grow very slowly. Yet they are constantly renewed, enabling them to live for thousands of years.

Their wood is highly resistant to rotting, due to its high resin content. The resins provide healing and renewal, and also protect the tree from infection, fungus, and insect attacks. Similarly, God protects us with his Spirit and his words. He shields us from the infections and fungus of this world's futile ways and its empty thinking, and from the attacks of its snares and its temptations. And our Heavenly Father gives us an inheritance that will last far longer than even bristlecones:

... and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power. - 1 Peter 1:4-5

The very slow growth rate of bristlecone pines (they get about 1/100 of an inch wider each year) makes their wood quite dense and hard, giving them extra protection against winds, storms, and insects. As their patient pace helps them endure these harsh conditions, God and the promises of Jesus also enable us to endure patiently this world's trials and sorrows:

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. - 1 Peter 1:6

Although bristlecone pines are unimpressive on the outside, inwardly God does amazing things for them that give them life and ongoing renewal. Likewise, God does unseen wonders of grace and care for us every day, and he has also promised salvation and eternal life to those who humbly walk by faith in the light of his Son:

Though you have not seen him, you love him ... and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. - 1 Peter 1:8-9

Knowing Jesus gives us peace and joy that transcend this world's appearances and circumstances.

- Mark Garner, February 2026

Deeper, Deeper

Deeper, deeper in the faith of Jesus,
Holy faith and true;
In His power and soul exulting wisdom
Let me peace pursue.

Deeper, deeper, blessed Holy Spirit,
Take me deeper still,
Till my life is wholly lost in Jesus,
And His perfect will.

O deeper yet, I pray,
And higher every day,
And wiser, blessed Lord,
In Thy precious, holy Word.

- Charles Price Jones, 1865-1949

Hymnwriter and public speaker Charles Price Jones, often known as C.P. Jones, began following Jesus when he was about 20. He wrote both the words and music to several hundred hymns.

Sing, My Soul

Sing, my soul, the Rock whereon thou standest,
Firm, unmoved, thy anchored hope shall keep;
He, thy Lord, still walking on the billow,
Calms the troubled wave like a child to sleep.

Hark, my soul, from distant realms eternal,
Borne in light on faith's celestial wing,
Love's glad songs to thee are gently wafted,
Songs that by and by thou wilt learn to sing.

Saved and redeemed, through simple faith in Jesus.
Now I am His, and He abides in me;
Saved and redeemed. Oh, shout aloud the story;
Hid with Him forevermore my life shall be.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

A Spring Of Living Water

In John 4, Jesus talks about the living water that can satisfy our souls' thirst for God. This and other Scriptures tell us about the spring of living water that Jesus promises us. This week, Donna Smith writes about this promise, what it involves, and the certainty of God's promises.

Water That Satisfies Spiritual Thirst

As a new convert, I found it easy to recall and be enthusiastic about any promises I read in scripture. Like with any new valuables, I found myself talking about them, sharing information about them in cards and letters to others, placing copies of them on my mirror, singing about them, defending them, most of this done with the absence of fear and self-consciousness. I was confident that every promise was credible and guaranteed and were yes in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20, "all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen".)

At that time, I can remember the people at church singing songs like "Jesus Gave Her Water" and "There's a Fountain Free". I sang along but did not fully understand the lyrics. It wasn't until I studied the gospel of John that the meaning of the lyrics became clearer. In John chapter 4 Jesus passed through a town in Samaria on his way to Galilee. He met a woman at Jacob's well. To her surprise he asked her for a drink. She was surprised because Jews and Samaritans did not associate with each other.

Jesus then explains to her that if she knew who he was she would ask him for water. He said anyone who drank the water he offered would never be thirsty. (John 4:13-14, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.")

As I continued my study in the gospel of John, I read of Jesus in John 7:37-38 telling the people at the Feast of Tabernacles: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." In verse 39 I learned that this meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive once Jesus was glorified. It was encouraging to confirm that the anyone in Jesus' promise also included me, and this Spirit would comfort, guide, teach and strengthen me throughout my Christian life. I could continue to have the same confidence and trust in all his promises then and in the future. I was assured that this living water (Spirit) would be an advocate continuing to satisfy spiritual thirst, teaching, and reminding of Jesus' teachings. (John 14:25-26)

Over the years, I've had many personal bible studies and sat through many led by others. However, I am still in awe of the power of the message of truth. I'm also grateful for the Holy Spirit and the opportunity to be included by grace as written in Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession --to the praise of his glory.*

- Donna Smith, February 2026