

## Announcements

### Bake Sale Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated money donated baked goods, or helped with the Bake Sale last Sunday. The proceeds will help the Northwest Ohio Christian Youth Camp; it will be used to restore parts of the old mess hall, update the swinging bridge, and pay off the new mess hall.

### Prayer Time Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 1, there will be a time of prayer right after the morning worship assembly. See Caleb or one of the elders for further details.

### Potluck On March 8

On Sunday March 8, there will be a potluck right after the worship assembly ends. (This has been re-scheduled from the snow day in January.) See Robbie or Jeff for more information, and details will be coming soon.

### Additional Events Coming In March

**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)** - \* Event postponed \* (see next announcement)

### Combined Worship Postponed

The combined worship time originally scheduled for March 29 has been postponed, due to a schedule conflict with another activity. It will be re-scheduled soon. See one of the elders for further information.

### 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.

### 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

**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

### 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
<b>General:</b>	\$5,230	\$4,206
<b>Designated:</b>	\$805	\$915



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## The Lord Will Make Our Paths Straight

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart . . . - Proverbs 3:5*

Amidst this world's confusion and uncertainty, the Lord speaks to us gently and calmly as he teaches us his eternal truths. Our Heavenly Father patiently calls us to trust in him with all our hearts and all our minds:

*. . . and lean not on your own understanding. - Proverbs 3:5*

Hannah Hurnard's 1955 allegorical novel "Hinds' Feet On High Places" (a hind is a female deer) follows the spiritual journey of the main character, Much-Afraid. She is a faithful follower of the Chief Shepherd, yet she has been unable to overcome her discouragements. Her family dislikes the Shepherd and they scorn Much-Afraid's devotion to him. Much-Afraid's appearance is disfigured, and she has a permanent foot injury, causing her family to belittle her and her faith.

As their ridicule and threats increase, Much-Afraid longs to be with her Shepherd, and one day she earnestly calls out to him, "Oh, if I could escape from this Valley of Humiliation and go to the High Places." At once the Shepherd appears and encourages her to take the path to the High Places. She is aware of the hazards she will face as well as her many limitations, so the Shepherd reassures her to put all her faith in him instead of in human opinions and outward appearances. Truly, when we trust in God and his promises, he will guide us on paths that are good for our souls:

*In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:6*

Much-Afraid's most persistent adversary is her cousin Pride. Once, when Much-Afraid is on the Shores Of Loneliness, Pride comes back along with his relatives Resentment, Bitterness, and Self-Pity. Increasingly unsettled by their words, Much-Afraid remembers her Shepherd's promises, and she calls on him humbly with all her strength. She does so; the Shepherd then appears and disperses this malevolent coalition.

Similarly, God calls us not to trust in human logic and human abilities, and instead to walk reverently and humbly by faith in him:

*Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. - Proverbs 3:7*

On the journey, Much-Afraid learns many uplifting teachings, especially when the Shepherd says, "I love doing preposterous things . . . I don't know anything more exhilarating and delightful than turning weakness into strength, and fear into faith, and that which has been marred into perfection." Truly, God, alone can transform us inwardly, and he protects us from this world's many snares:

*The Lord will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared. - Proverbs 3:26*

It is good to be near the Lord.

- Mark Garner, February 2026

### **Rest In The Lord**

*Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.  
- Psalm 37:7*

Rest, and be silent.  
For, faithfully listening,  
Patiently waiting,  
Thine eyes shall behold  
Perils in the waters  
of quietness glistening,  
Treasures of promise  
that He shall unfold.  
Rest, and be silent,  
for Jesus is here,  
Calming and stilling  
each ripple of fear.

*- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879*

### **When Christ Was Born**

When Christ was born in Bethlehem,  
Was born of mother mild,  
The wise men came with incense rare  
Unto the holy Child:  
The bells of Heaven rang out with joy,  
The shepherds joined the strain -  
And all the earth sang loud and clear  
Of peace on earth to men.

The Christ had brought this blessed peace  
To hearts with sin oppressed,  
And now, as then, the weary soul  
May find in Him its rest.  
O let us all rejoice and sing,  
And shout the joyful strain  
That Christ, the blessed Son of God  
Over Heaven and earth doth reign.

*- George Balch Nevin, 1859-1933*

*Composer and public speaker George Nevin made his living from managing a wholesale paper business, yet he devoted his free time to writing hymns and cantatas about God and the good news of Jesus. He had also studied music history, as well as doing research in local history, and he often spoke to interested groups.*

### ***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, Tara Neiswonger writes about the ways that this living water refreshes us and replenishes us.*

### **Refreshment & Replenishment**

I always start the year with the intent to drink more water. Almost half of the human body is water, and one can last only about three days without it. But best intentions fall away when life's busyness starts. That huge water bottle I lug to work comes home at the end of the day with only a few drinks less than when I left with it in the morning. Something so important washed away by daily to-dos and rearranged priorities.

*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. - John 7:38*

The above Scripture is found within the larger story of Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus attends the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, going in secrecy. While there, He goes to the temple courts and begins to teach. The biblical Feast of Tabernacles was a seven-day festival commemorating the Israelites' journey in the desert under God's guidance and protection for 40 years. The festival was a reminder of God's presence with Israel during that time. During the last day, Jesus speaks of the Spirit which is to be given to those who believe in him, the streams of living water in the verse above.

When I read of the 40 years in the desert I think of my own journey, and how at times it feels as if I am walking through a desert of my own making. The daily worries of life can lead me to feeling as if my walk is dry and barren, a rocky road that I trudge through with no refreshment. But that feeling takes away from the gift given.

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." - John 4:13*

Remembering to finish that bottle of water I carry to work each day replenishes my physical body. Remembering daily the water that quenches my spiritual thirst, that flows from Jesus, and that leads to eternal life, replenishes my soul. The Living Water cures the spiritual dehydration one feels, and gives one peace and joy as a child of God. Consciously and continually living within that stream and allowing it to refresh and replenish one leads to eternal life, and also shares the joy of life in Christ with those around us.

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessings on your descendants. - Isaiah 44:3*

*- Tara Neiswonger, February 2026*