# Announcements

# Send-off for Isaac Kyeremateng Next Sunday

There will be a send-off for Isaac Kyeremateng next Sunday, July 6 in the Sunshine Room (E31) following the morning worship assembly. This will be an opportunity to thank Isaac for all he has done for Northland and to say goodbye before he leaves for Medical School. Gift cards would be appreciated to help with his move. Please note that there will be no outreach team meeting. See Jeff McVicker if you have any questions.

### **Church Camp At Fort Hill Starts July 13**

Summer church camp week at Fort Hill will be from July 13-19. Registration is still open; the cost is \$250. Potential scholarships are available. See Josh Evans if you have any questions.

# Willow Brook Worship On July 13

Northland will be organizing the worship time at Willow Brook Christian Home (55 Lazelle Road) on Sunday, July 13 at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come. See Caleb or one of the elders for more information.

# **Clothing Closet Schedule**

The Clothing Closet will next be open, by appointment only, on Wednesday July 9, from 6:00-7:30 PM. For appointments, please call 614-918-7925. Please let Robbie, Pam, or Vicki know if you are available to help.

## **From The Clothing Closet**

We are currently overstocked, so for the time being we don't need any donations. Instead, we do need your help with getting the word out to those in need. Please let people know they can visit the Clothing Closet by appointment by calling or texting 614-918-7925. The Clothing Closet Team is very grateful for your donations and support.

### **News From The Ministry In Ghana**

Franklin and Isaac have finished their time helping the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ (the congregation that Northland and the Ghanaian congregation are supporting). Franklin has now returned to Columbus, and Isaac is currently visiting another congregation in Ghana before returning home. They have asked us to pray for God to help the seed grow, as well as for Isaac to have a safe trip home. You can support the ministry in Ghana with your contribution envelope, or by giving online.

### **Sunday Morning Children's Classes**

There is a combined children's class available from 9:00- 9:50 AM. Children's worship begins after the Lord's Supper with classes for ages 2-3, 4-8, and 9-12. See Vicki Cowans, Lynn Paden, or Emily Graham if you can help with any of these classes.

### **Current Mid-Week Studies**

Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's prayer group - see Peggy Kaiser for details.

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's Bible study, now coordinated by Tara Bell. See Tara for more information. The current study is based on "God, Pass By Me: A Study Of The Names Of God" by Casandra Martin.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study on the gospel of John, organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, is currently meeting in the Fellowship Room.

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans, currently meeting in room E41. Contact Mike or Leisha for details.

# **Contribution**

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4,453	\$4,743
Designated:	\$45	\$190

# **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: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack

Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

# The Gracious Hand Of Our God

# Hottlened Church of Christ



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June 29, 2025 Volume 34, Number 26 Ezra arrived in Jerusalem . . . He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. - Ezra 7:8-9

As Jerusalem was being rebuilt, Ezra was called to make the long journey from Babylon to Jerusalem, so he could teach and explain the Scriptures to the Israelites. It would be a difficult and hazardous trip, so Ezra puts his faith in the gracious hand of God. God is gracious to us all, and he pours out spiritual blessings on those who humbly devote themselves to following Jesus:

Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. - Ezra 7:10

Jerboas (about 30 species) are small, cute, often amusing mammals that live in deserts. They move by jumping, conserving energy and giving them remarkable agility to help them avoid attackers. God enables them to do this by giving them strong muscles in their hind legs, as well as long tails for balance. Though their bodies are at most 6 inches long, jerboas can jump more than 10 feet ahead, can move in unpredictable directions, and some species can jump over 6 feet straight up.

Similarly, as we are on our journey of faith, we often face this world's sorrows and fears, yet we can be encouraged by knowing that God's hand is upon us, guiding us and comforting us:

Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me. - Ezra 7:28

The soles of jerboas' hind feet are covered with thick, stiff fur to give them extra traction on sand, and some of the small bones on their hind feet are fused together, giving them additional jumping strength. They also don't need to drink water, since their digestive systems can extract all the water they need from their food. As God graciously does all this for these small, furry animals, he has given us the priceless gift of his Spirit who lives within us:

I said to them, You as well as these articles are consecrated to the Lord. - Ezra 8:28

Many species of jerboas are nocturnal and eat insects. One is the long-eared jerboa (its home is the Gobi Desert in Asia); its body is just 3 inches long, with a tail of 6 inches. Its ears are longer than its head, giving it keen hearing that helps it avoid many dangers, as well as finding food. Similarly, on our spiritual journeys our Heavenly Father nourishes us, and he also protects us from spiritual enemies too strong for us:

The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way. So we arrived in Jerusalem, where we rested three days. - Ezra 8:31-32

God's hand guides us, and he gives us rest for our souls amidst this world's confusion and noise.

- Mark Garner, June 2025

# **God Of The Changing Year**

God of the changing year, whose arm of power In safety leads through danger's darkest hour, Here in Thy temple bow thy children down, To bless Thy mercy and Thy might to own.

Thine are the beams that cheer us on our way, And pour around the gladdening light of day; Thine is the night, and the fair orbs that shine To cheer its hours of darkness; all are Thine.

O lend Thine ear, and lift our voice to thee; Wherever we dwell, still let Thy mercy be; From year to year still nearer to Thy shrine Draw our frail hearts, and make them wholly Thine.

- Emily Taylor, 1795-1872

British writer Emily Taylor wrote books in several areas, and she was best known for writing historical stories for young adults. She also wrote about natural history.

### **Be Still**

Be quiet; fear not. - Isaiah 7:4

Thou layest They hand on the fluttering heart,
And sayest, Be still.
The silence and shadow are only a part
Of Thy sweet will.
Thy Presence is with me, and where thou art
I fear no ill.

- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

### The Lord's Infinite Treasure

The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure. - Deuteronomy 28:12

His love is the key and His glory the measure Of grace all-abounding and knowledge of light: To thee shall be opened this infinite treasure, To thee, the unsearchable riches of Christ.

- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

British poet and hymnwriter Frances Havergal would often write short poems like these on a Scripture that had particularly encouraged her or enlightened her.

### Jesus Has Overcome The World

In John 16, as Jesus is about to go to the cross, he reassures the disciples that he has overcome this world, though not in the way they might have expected. Jesus has indeed overcome this world's fears, its harshness, its snares, and much more. This week, Micah Evans writes about the ways that Jesus overcame the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of human nature.

### The Humanness of Jesus

Each night, one of our kids picks a story out of their Bible to read before bed. Our oldest, Milo, is reading independently now, so one night recently he decided he would read it out loud to us. The story he chose to read was Jesus being tempted in the desert by Satan. A story we have all heard many times. We went over the story, kissed the kids goodnight and they went to bed. Then I put my ear buds in to listen to the Bible while I cleaned up the kitchen. Well, what story was first on my daily list of passages according to my current reading plan? Matthew chapter 4. Jesus being tempted in the desert by Satan! I thought to myself that God really wanted me to internalize this story this day, so I got to thinking and praying on it . . .

Jesus was a human. If you let that sentence soak in, and I mean really soak in, it's kind of wild.

Jesus was a HUMAN. He walked the same ground, breathed the same air, had the same need to eat food, that we do. He had morning breath and dirty fingernails. Of course, we know that Jesus was and is completely and fully God. But He was, for about 33 years, also fully human.

Now, the humanness of Jesus really should not be taken lightly, because the only difference between us as humans and Jesus as a human, is a big one. That difference is that He lived his human life perfectly. He erred not one single time.

Well sure, but it would be easy not to sin if you're literally God incarnate, right?? Not exactly, not when you're also completely human. And part of the shared human experience is to suffer. Jesus absolutely suffered. Not just physically as He did on the cross, but mentally. Emotionally. Even spiritually, we see in His prayer in Matthew 26 starting in verse 38, that His "soul was sorrowful." Jesus experienced the death of loved ones, He experienced betrayal by His friends, He experienced emotions that were too much for Him to carry on His own. And each and every time, we see Him taking His troubles to God. We see Him praying, quoting scripture, and letting Abba Father see Him through every trial that confronted Him.

When I go through hard things, the most comforting people to talk to are the friends who I know have previously walked through what I am currently. I know they understand, that they've felt what I've felt, and that they know what I may need to hear in those moments. Jesus is exactly that friend, every single time. Because He has been through these moments right alongside us. And what's even better is, He can literally lighten our load, as He Himself tells us in Matthew 11:28-30.

Jesus as a human did something that no human ever will do again. He lived in it, and also overcame it. But the best news is that He allows us to do the same only through Him, and spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Jesus was fully human, but He is especially, fully God. How incredible!

- Micah Evans. June 2025