

Announcements

Combined Morning Class Today
Today, the regular morning Bible classes will not be meeting. Instead, there is a combined adult session in the auditorium (at 9:00 AM). See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Fall Picnic This Saturday
Our congregational Fall Picnic will be this Saturday September 13, from 4:30-7:30 PM. It will be at our usual place, at the Sycamore Picnic Area in Blendon Woods Metro Park.

Safety Workshop On September 20
On Saturday September 20, there will a Safety Workshop from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. It will not be at the church building; it will meet at the Activity & Recreation Center in Dublin ("The ARC"). The address is 7200 Coffman Road, Dublin; it is across the street from the Dublin Baptist Church. This will be the third in a series of safety workshops, and it is open to all members.

Medical Safety Team Meeting On September 28
There will be a meeting for the Medical Safety Team on Sunday, September 28, after worship at 11:30 AM in E41/42 (the fellowship room). Franklin Agyei is now organizing the group (see him for more details). *Note* This is for the Medical Safety Team, and it is a different session from the one on the 20th.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana
Prayer Update
Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ. Current needs include a motorbike for the preacher, computers for high school students, and support for the prison ministry. You can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online.

Treatment has started for the member of the Seikwa church who has been diagnosed with elephantiasis, and the congregation would appreciate your continued prayers. Please also continue praying for the ministry and for those involved. You can also see Franklin Agyei for more information.

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 Galatians?
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 Galatians?" The entire series is viewable on the Northland website, under Resources.

Needs For The Clothing Closet
We would currently appreciate donations of clean, gently used clothes and small household items. Also, we can always use donated blankets and linens. Please continue to let those in need know about our Clothing Closet ministry. Note that the Clothing Closet is currently open by appointment only, by calling or texting 614-918-7925. Thank you!

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 9-11. 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, coordinated by Tara Lynn Bell. The current study is based on "God, Pass By Me: A Study Of The Names Of God" by Casandra Martin. See Tara Lynn for more information.

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 and updates.

Contribution		
	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5,671	\$4,834
Designated:	\$193	\$213

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



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

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When We Were Still Powerless

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. - Romans 5:1-2

When we put our faith in Jesus instead of in human ways, God's grace overflows to us, and he cleanses us of our sins. We were powerless to save ourselves, yet Jesus died to save us:

At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. - Romans 5:6

The okapi (pronounced oh-kahp-ee) is an unusual mammal that lives in the rainforests of the Congo River valley in Central Africa. Okapis are fairly large (height about 5 feet, average length 7-8 feet), though they are timid and lack any defenses. They face dangerous predators, so God gives them ingeniously designed camouflage. Their legs, necks, and hindquarters are covered with black-and white stripes like zebras, while the rest of their bodies are reddish-brown.

In the underbrush of the rainforest, this makes it very difficult for a would-be attacker to find them. At the same time, young okapis see only the adults' striped legs, and since each okapi has its own unique stripe pattern, it is easy for young okapis to find and follow their own parents through the thick vegetation. As God protects these vulnerable creatures, even more so Jesus had compassion on us; he knew we couldn't have redeemed ourselves, so he came to pour out his lifeblood for us:

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8

Besides giving okapis all this protection, our Creator gives them further blessings. Their velvety coats are coated with an oil to make them waterproof amidst the rainforest's constant precipitation. Then, since okapis need plenty of nourishment, their systems can digest over 100 types of plants, several of them poisonous to other animals (including humans). Similarly, God not only sent his own Son to save us, he gives us many more spiritual blessings when we follow Jesus humbly:

If, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life. - Romans 5:10

Biologists have used specialized equipment to identify okapis using a large range of sounds at frequencies too low for most other animals to hear. Using these "private channels" enables these shy, quiet animals to communicate freely with one another without fear of being overheard. Similarly, God gives us an even greater blessing: the gift of his Spirit who lives in us, who helps us understand God's words, and who reassures us that God is with us, giving us enduring hope:

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. - Romans 5:5

We are weak and powerless, yet our Heavenly Father makes his strength perfect in our weaknesses.

- Mark Garner, September 2025

What Cannot Be Broken

Upon the Word I rest,
Each pilgrim day;
This golden staff is best
For all the way.
What Jesus Christ hath spoken,
Cannot be broken.

Upon the Word I stand.
That cannot die
Christ seals it in my hand.
He cannot lie.
The word that faileth never
Abiding ever.

- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

Heavens, Haste Your Dews To Shed

You heavens, O haste your dew to shed,
You clouds, rain gladness on our head,
Thou earth, behold the time of grace,
And blossom forth in righteousness.

O living Sun, with joy break forth,
And pierce the gloomy clefts of earth;
Behold, the mountains melt away
Like wax beneath Thine ardent ray.

Refresh the parched and drooping mind,
The broken limb in mercy bind,
Us sinners from our guilt release,
And fill us with Thy heavenly peace.

- Johannes Campanus, 1572-1622

Czech college teacher and writer Johann Campanus (at the time, the nation he lived in was known as Bohemia) taught Greek, Latin, and Bohemian History at a number of universities, as well as writing poetry about Christian themes. This poem later was set to music that had been written by Johann Sebastian Bach, and after that it was one of the many hymns translated into English by British linguist Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878).

Like A Mustard Seed

In Matthew 13 and Mark 4, Jesus compares God's kingdom with a small mustard seed, for God can take the smallest of beginnings, nurture it, and make it grow. This week, Karen Susenna writes about the ways God can use our "mustard seed" of faith when we acknowledge our need for him.

Raise Your Hand

Last week I heard Jose Pereira, former CEO of the Oil Company Citgo, speak on the topic of resilience and purpose in the face of adversity. Pereira was part of the "Citgo-Six": 6 top executives from the Oil Company who were captured by the Venezuelan government after a business meeting in the capital of Caracas. They were forcibly taken, confined to small quarters, with little food and seemingly no way of escape. How does one continue to have faith, hope and a purpose in this situation? "Raise your Hand" was Jose's answer. Let me explain.

When there is no hope in sight and everything looks bleak, raise your hand and confide in a brother or sister. Rely on the hope and faith of a friend. Allow that friend to dispel the darkness, depression or deceit you may have bought into. For myself, the hardest part is deciding to raise my hand. Deciding to let someone else in, share my burden, and be vulnerable. Through this vulnerability, I'm healed. This vulnerability and openness allowed the Citgo Six to stay hopeful and grounded in God during their 5-year imprisonment.

I must also raise my hand to God. The day-in, day-out grind of life can feel purposeless and empty. When I get to that point, I take a quiet break with God and ask him some big questions: What do you have for me in this life? Where are you leading me? How can I be encouraged and encourage someone else? How can I stay focused on You and Your Word? How can I experience You in the day-in, day-out grind of life? These are big questions, but He is a big God who is gracious to answer. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."* (James 1:5). In the same way I'm vulnerable with a brother or sister, I must be vulnerable with Him.

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13: 20-21)

- Karen Susenna, September 2025