

Announcements

Cookies & Carols Next Sunday

The annual Cookies and Carols will be next Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 PM. Sign-up sheets are now available, and you can also see Vicki Cowans or Ashley Dillinger for more details.

Also In December

- December 21** - AM classes and the worship assembly will meet as usual.
- December 28** - No AM Bible classes. Most of the worship assembly will be devoted to singing.

Helpers Needed For Children's Classes

We currently need helpers for the ages 4-8 class during the worship assembly, and for the combined children's class during the Bible classes. Both classes have regular teachers (Linda Garner teaches the age 4-8 class, and Jenny Coate teaches the combined 9:00 class), so we just need helpers to assist with class activities. See Vicki Cowans or Lynn Paden if you are able to help.

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 the message above on the need for helpers. *

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 will conclude its current study soon, and will then choose a new topic.
- Wednesdays at 6:30 PM** - A Bible study on John, organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, meets 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 E41-42. See Mike or Leisha for more details.

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
Afternoon Class (English)	4:00 PM

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

New Elder Nominated

The elders have recommended Franklin Agyei to become the congregation's fourth elder, beginning in January. See one of the elders if you have any questions.

Graduation

This December, Patricia Stevens's son Sean will be graduating with a Physician Assistant degree. Please pray for his future plans, and Patricia would appreciate any notes of encouragement to him. His address is: Sean Stevens-Ferguson, 7226 West 4th Avenue #101, Hialeah, Florida 33014.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ. They're currently raising funds for a mission group to go there next summer. Please continue praying for the congregation, and you can support the ministry in Ghana either with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. See Franklin Agyei for more information.

On their last mission trip, they had started a small student group at a local school, led by a church member who teaches there. The group has been meeting at the school, and it has continued to grow. Here is a recent picture of the students:



Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5,445	\$4,844
Designated:	\$295	\$239



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

Website
ncocfamily.com

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Looking Intently Into God's Perfect Word

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. - James 1:21

God patiently calls us to accept his words humbly, and he writes them on our hearts when we look beyond this world's false hopes and its empty promises. Our Heavenly Father has planted a seed in all of us, and he asks us to let him nourish it, for the words of God are indeed good for our souls:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. - James 1:22

Northern Irish astronomer Jocelyn Bell Burnell (1943-present) is best known for being the first person to identify the beams of radiation from pulsars. Both in her work and in her daily life she can see God's splendor and his care. As Bell Burnell writes, "There is a God, a living, loving God . . . prompting, nudging. A God of inspiration, or creativity; a God we can sense in the silence."

God's words call us to look beneath the surface; as Jocelyn says, God is "One who holds a mirror up to us so that we can see our behavior, keep our standards. One before whom masks, poses and postures drop away." And God asks us to let his words take root in our hearts:

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and . . . goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. - James 1:23-24

Sri Lankan-Australian epidemiologist Raina MacIntyre (1964-present) is best known for her research on infectious disease prevention. Her faith has helped her through the difficulties of daily life as well as the problems she encounters with her work; as she writes, "faith . . . certainly helps me to be resilient. I can deal with hardship and suffering because I have faith in a grander plan."

MacIntyre talks about how remaining close with God helps her throughout the day, "I pray in the morning. I pray in the evening. It's the first thing I do in the morning and the last thing I do at night." Raina also writes about the significance of being aware of God's presence, "Our existence is more than just our physical body, and I think a lot of people lose that. They spend their whole lives focused on material things that are not connected with that spiritual side of our being."

Truly, when we set aside our preconceptions and look more deeply into God's words, our Heavenly Father can renew our spirits and can transform our minds:

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. - James 1:25

God's words are flawless, and they bring spiritual blessings to those who ponder them.

- Mark Garner, November 2025

God's Thoughts and Mine

The Hammer thoughts that pound and shatter peace;
The Rodent thoughts that gnaw and will not cease;

The Brier thoughts that pull and prick and scratch;
The Rover thoughts that I can never catch;

The Serpent thoughts that leave their lairs at night;
The Shadow thoughts that dim the new day's light;

These are my thoughts; Oh, take them, Lord, I pray,
Out of my heart, and cast them far away;

And in their stead give me those thoughts of Thine,
So crystal-clear, so holy, high and fine,

That I shall grow by their pure grace enticed,
Worthy to think the lovely thoughts of Christ.

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932

Trusting Thee

I am trusting, Lord, in Thee;
Though the night is cold and dark,
And the raging, stormy sea
Threatens too engulf my bark.
I am trusting, Lord, in Thee,
I am trusting, Lord, in Thee.

Long the journey, rough the main,
Still the harbor far away -
And I toil in numbing pain,
Through the billow icy spray.
Trusting Thee, trusting Thee,
I am trusting all to Thee.

So, obeying Thy command,
I am trusting, Lord, in Thee.
I am weary, far from land,
But salvation I see.
Trusting Thee, trusting Thee,
I am trusting all to Thee.

- Mary Ethel Chamberlain Wyeth, 1832-1887

Writer Mary Wyeth is best known for her poems; her poetry first appeared in local newspapers when she was a teenager. She also wrote short stories, with some of them appearing as pamphlets and others appearing in collections. Her earlier works often appear under the pen names, Ethel Gray or Ethel Grey, that she used before she was married.

Where Does Wisdom Come From?

In Job 28, as he is enduring a painful time, Job ponders the true source of knowledge and wisdom. It is also good for us to remind ourselves that all genuine wisdom comes from God. This week's article is from the Northland archives; it appeared in the bulletin on December 5, 1999. In it, Jack Evans writes about the ways we see God's wisdom and care in all that he has created.

As I Ponder . . .

As I ponder about the universe - the creation of this great planet we live on - this planet called earth . . . I wonder how anyone could claim that at one time there was nothing - then "Bang" we were here! I wonder how a big "Bang" could accidentally create the four different seasons, as we know them - Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

I wonder how a big "Bang" could create an energy source (the sun), so large (865,000 miles across-109 times that of the earth) so hot (10,000 degrees on the surface - several million degrees at the core), and so far away (92,958,350 miles). And yet it still provides us with warmth for our bodies and in the summer, can cause our skin to tan, or if we stay out in the sun too long - to cause our skin to burn (ouch!).

I wonder how a big "Bang" could cause rain. Rain which nourishes us and causes plants to grow. Rain which turns into white fluffy snow that kids of all ages enjoy, and snowmen are made from. The same snow that puts a blanket of white on the ground and trees which is beautiful beyond description. I wonder how a big bang could cause the leaves of trees to change color in the fall - from green to yellow, orange, red, then brown.

I wonder how a big bang could cause all the different animals (crawling animals, walking animals, flying animals, and swimming animals) to come about. How some of these animals are good for companionship, some are for protection, and how some are here for our nourishment.

But, I don't wonder how great, how glorious, how powerful, how forgiving, and how loving my God is. And I don't wonder how great it will be, to someday be in heaven with my God.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20

- Jack Evans, December 1999