

Announcements

Cookies & Carols Tonight
The annual Cookies and Carols is tonight at 6:00 PM. Sign-up sheets are available, and you can also see Vicki Cowans or Ashley Dillinger for more details.

Afternoon Sunday Class Schedule
The 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon Bible class is on break today, and the current series will conclude next Sunday, December 14. After that, it will resume meeting some-time in 2026. See Mike Paden for more information.

- December Worship Schedule
- * December 14 & 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 Vic-ki 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. *

- January Events
More details on each of these events will be coming soon!
- * January 1 (Thursday) - Prayer time at the church building, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 - * January 4 (Sunday) - Worship time at Willow Brook, 2:00 PM
 - * January 25 (Sunday) - Potluck after the worship assembly

| 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 |

New Elder Nominated
The elders have recommended Franklin Agyei to become the congregation's fourth elder, begin-ning in January. See one of the elders if you have any questions.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana
The English and Ghanaian congregations contin-ue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ. They're currently raising funds for a mis-sion group to go there next summer. Please con-tinue 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.

- Current Mid-Week Studies
- * Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom) - Wom-en's prayer group, organized by Peggy Kai-ser.
 - * Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (Via Zoom) - Wom-en'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.

| Contribution | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Last Week | Average YTD |
| General: | \$7,231 | \$4,894 |
| Designated: | \$145 | \$237 |

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



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With Cords Of Human Kindness

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. - Hosea 11:1

As God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, Jesus has rescued us from the Egypt of this world's empty ways. Even before we turned to God, our Heavenly Father carried us and guided us:

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms;
but they did not realize it was I who healed them. - Hosea 11:3

Poet Autumn Leigh Waite often writes about the ways God has helped her get through difficult times, and in her recent collection of poems and essays she talks about the ways God shows us his care and kindness, even when we don't notice. In an essay she says "I am alike the sparrow . . . The winter comes and chills my hollow bones, and there is many a claw wishing to snatch me from the sky. And yet, my God in Heaven . . . clothes me with His splendor and feeds me from His hand . . . like the sparrow, my fickle mind cannot pro-cure a proper understanding of God's care."

Truly, the depths of God's compassion and kindness and wisdom are far beyond our earth-ly minds to grasp fully:

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. - Hosea 11:4

In her poem "The Sparrow", Waite writes first about the simple joys God gives us every day, "A little bird so pure and plain that taps upon my windowpane, bringing token of the spring - who knew what joy a bird can bring?" Indeed, whether through nature, or reading, or encouragement from a friend, or simply giving us some time to rest, our Heavenly Fa-ther surrounds us with these reminders of his understanding and care for us.

As she contemplates God's mindfulness of each sparrow, Autumn's poem continues "Tell me, Lord, how can it be that I am worth much more than these? I shall not argue, but de-light, that I am precious in your sight." For we are indeed like tiny sparrows, like fluttering doves, yet Jesus gives us redemption and salvation when we hear his call to walk humbly by faith in his message:

They will follow the Lord . . . They will come from Egypt,
trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. - Hosea 11:10-11

In another poem, Autumn Leigh Waite talks about the lasting blessings that come from humbly following Jesus, "Death cannot hold me, for that job belongs to Christ. Clothed in His blood, atoning . . . though wretched and unholy, I am righteous in His sight." For God gives us a living hope, a hope that depends on God's compassion and mercy, instead of human ability.

I will settle them in their homes, declares the Lord. - Hosea 11:11

And God has prepared an eternal home for those who put their faith in the message of his Son.

- Mark Garner, December 2025

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #1

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 33 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out this week's mystery verse.

- ACCOMPANIED
AFRAID
ANYTHING
ARRIVED
BARLEY
BETHLEHEM
CORNER
- DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
ELIMELECH
EPHRATHITES
GARMENT
GATHER
HARVEST
MISFORTUNE
- MOABITE
MORNING
NAOMI
RECORDS
RELATED
RETURN
RULED
- THRESHING FLOOR
THROUGHOUT
WATER JARS
WHEAT

W R T R H W A T E R J A R S
A H U E E B E T H L E H E M
L Y E L R A B S R E H T A G
N L D A E O R E D H I A E M
I A E T T D D V C H N O T I
S M V E C U I R T Y M S I S
R E I D T O O A T O O D B F
E N R U T E R H R T H R A O
T H R E S H I N G F L O O R
H E A A P N I A E U A C M T
G I D E G N O O F R O E H U
U I S P G A R M E N T R E N
A H C E L E M I L E O P H E
D E I N A P M O C C A L E T

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week.

In A Lowly Manger Sleeping

In a lowly manger sleeping, calm and still a babe we see,
'Tis the Holy Child of promise, light of all the world is He.
Holy angels sing His welcome in the realms of glory bright,
While the morning stars around Him fall in soft and tender light.
Blessed Savior, dear Redeemer, King of Judah, Prince of Peace,
Rock of Ages, Star of nations, Thy dominion never shall cease.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

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, Donna Smith writes about the wisdom from heaven that God gives freely to those who seek him humbly.

Wisdom From Heaven

As I've grown older, I've had the privilege to attend many reunions, home goings, and homecomings. The trending topics of conversation at these seem to center around who was considered to have made the wisest life choices in terms of education, marriage, career etc., who was thought to have the most successful children, and all factors thought to determine socio-economic status. After attending one of these events, I always left feeling like singing a phrase I sometimes hear the brothers sing in a particular hymn: "Won't you please Lord". However, I also remember being very thankful for God's perspective on these topics, as shown in the Bible. I was able to read in Isaiah 55:8 that His thoughts are not our thoughts, and neither are His ways our ways. There were also numerous other scriptures to remind me of His care for each of us and His view on what is important.

I saw in James that God freely gives any of us wisdom if we ask him to guide us in making choices. (James1:5) This wisdom comes from heaven and is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere (James 3:17). It is available to anyone who asks regardless of socio-economic status. It is stated in James that if we are wise and understanding, we are to show it by our good life and by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (James 3:13). In Psalm 111:10 we see *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all who follow His precepts have good understanding."* This verse means exactly that. It doesn't depend on education, career, marital status, or any of the factors discussed at the events I attended. All one must do is have a fear of God and follow His precepts. In the Bible, we see this exemplified in the life of Joseph.

In Genesis, we read that Joseph was promoted to second in command in Egypt (Genesis 41:43). We also read that Joseph feared God (Genesis 42:18). Despite being poorly treated by his brothers, Joseph responded to them with mercy and sincerity. He did not use his position of authority for revenge. Instead, he was submissive to God's will. He said that God sent him there so he would be able to save lives (Genesis 45:7). Joseph prior to his appointment as second in command, had taken a stance with another master's (Potiphar's) wife, and refused to sin against God. He chose to follow God's precepts (Genesis 39:9). Joseph did not allow fear of man or those in authority to replace his respect and reverence for God. He kept his focus on the main purpose for being in Egypt. He was wise enough and understood that his brothers' treatment of him ultimately fulfilled God's purpose.

"Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7, KJV) Wisdom will allow you to ignore emotions and react rationally.

- Donna Smith, December 2025