

Announcements

Holiday Schedules

- * **Sunday Morning Bible Classes** - Will not meet on December 28, will otherwise meet as usual
- * **Sunday Afternoon Class (4 PM)** - The class is meeting today, and then will take a break until sometime in 2026
- * **Monday Women's Prayer Group (6:30 PM)** - The prayer group will not meet on December 29, will otherwise meet as usual
- * **Tuesday Women's Bible Study (7:15 PM)** - Taking a break on December 23 and December 30, will otherwise meet as usual
- * **Wednesday Bible Study** - Will not meet on December 24 and December 31, will otherwise meet as usual
- * **Friday TGIF Bible Study** - Will not meet again until January

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are now available to be picked up in the foyer for those who have requested them. The names are written on each box. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, please see Ashley Dillinger.

Singing Worship On December 28

On Sunday December 28, most of the worship assembly will be devoted to singing. Also, on December 28 there will be no 9:00 AM Bible classes, including the children's class.

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 17 (Saturday)** – Women’s Bible study, brunch, and walking at the church building, 10:00 AM - Noon
- * **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

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.

Support For The Ministry In Ghana
* Including An Update *

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. The Seikwa church is also involved in a prison ministry, and there have been three baptisms there recently. 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.

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.** *

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3,780	\$4,871
Designated:	\$45	\$233



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Godliness With Contentment

Godliness with contentment is great gain. - 1 Timothy 6:6

Our Heavenly Father patiently calls us to live godly lives, to be content with what he gives us, and to be content with who we are, amidst this world's many discontents and widespread bitterness:

If anyone . . . does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching . . . They have an unhealthy interest in controversies . . . and constant friction between people of corrupt mind . . . But godliness with contentment is great gain. - 1 Timothy 6:3-6

Basilisks are large lizards (up to 2 1/2 feet long) that live near water in the forests of southern Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. There are four species, and each of them is often called a "Jesus lizard" ("lagarto de Jesus"). This name comes from their ability to run across water for 50 feet or more. When attacked, they drop into a stream and scurry across it with their hind feet to safety, eluding dangers from aquatic predators as well. Their feet and their long tails (about 2/3 of their body length) are designed to enable them to do this.

Likewise, we too face many spiritual dangers from this world's distractions and snares. God helps us to seek instead the lasting peace and hope that can come only from following Jesus:

Some people . . . have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. - 1 Timothy 6:10-11

Basilisk lizards are also well camouflaged. Depending on the species, they are shades of green or brown, and each of them have crests on their heads as well as long, fin-like crests on their backs. Thus they blend in well with their forest surroundings; and when they remain still, they can be difficult to spot. Similarly, when we walk humbly by faith in the message of Jesus, God protects us from spiritual dangers, and he leads us on paths that lead to eternal life:

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called. - 1 Timothy 6:12

Young basilisk lizards are born ready to walk, run, and get food for themselves (basilisks eat insects). The young have additional stripes to add extra concealment, and they can run even faster and farther on water than adult basilisks can. As our Creator shows this extra care to these young, vulnerable lizards, he also knows our weaknesses, and he protects us in many ways we don't even notice. And this is merely the outer fringes of God's splendor and compassion:

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light . . . To him be honor and might forever. - 1 Timothy 6:15-16

It is good to praise and honor our God.

- Mark Garner, December 2025

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #2

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 39 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out this week's mystery verse.

- ACCLAMATION
- ALWAYS
- AMORITES
- ANNOTATIONS
- CALLED
- CARPENTERS
- COURAGEOUSLY
- COURTYARD
- DISGUISE
- DIVISIONS
- ESCAPE
- FORGIVE
- GAINED
- IMPOSED
- OBEDIENCE
- OPENED
- PLEASE
- RESPONSIVE
- SACRED
- SAFELY
- SOLOMON
- THOUSAND
- UNLEAVENED
- VILLAGES

D I V I S I O N S A F E L Y

R I U N L E A V E N E D L T

A H S E Y S O I M P O S E D

Y U R G E G H L T G U A O N

T R E O U V D L E O E C B O

R E T A D I I A E S G R E I

U S N E R N S G A I N E D T

O P E N E D A E R L Y D I A

C O P O A R L S T O N D E M

A N R M U P W C U I F H N A

L S A O E W A A A O R S C L

L I C L F O Y P U N H O E C

E V D O B Y S E T H E T M C

D E M S N O I T A T O N N A

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's puzzle answer: The Lord had come to the aid of his people. - RUTH 1:6

- Mark Garner, December 2025

Jesus, Regard Me From Above

Lord, what am I without Thy love?
Without Thy smiles I cannot rest;
Shine, Light effulgent, from above,
And with a word pronounce me blest.
Jesus, regard me from above,
My soul with all its powers are Thine,
My life depends on Thy love,
O make Thy face on me to shine.

- Susanna Harrison, 1752-1784 (from her poetry collection "Songs In The Night")

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, Dot Duncan writes about the benefits that come from putting God's words into practice.

There Is Wisdom Behind The Commands Of God

Have you ever thought about the wisdom behind God's commands? I can't say that I have until this series on the wisdom of God. You see, there's power and thought behind the commands of God. His commands were in place before the world were established. They are of ancient. I would like to suggest that when God commands something of us there's a reason and benefit - both earthly and spiritual. Let me demonstrate this with a couple of commands from the Sermon on the Mountain, Matthew 6.

Matthew 6:43-48 *You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

In this passage Jesus command is that His followers are to love their enemy and pray for those who persecute you. Why? Because this is what the Father had done for them through Christ. They are identifying with their heavenly Father.

Matthew 6:23-24 *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*

Here Jesus is telling the non-guilty party to go make the first move to be reconciled to their brother. Why? Because it causes the non-guilty to humble themselves and show their brother that it didn't matter who was wrong that love was greater.

This is what *Jesus did for us* (Romans 5:6-8) *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Since God's wisdom can be found in His commands, let us hold fast to God's commands.

- Dot Duncan, December 2025