

Announcements

Holiday Schedules

- \* **Sunday Morning Bible Classes** - Will not meet next Sunday (December 28), and will resume on January 4
- \* **Sunday Afternoon Class (4 PM)** - The class is taking 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 resume on January 6
- \* **Wednesday Bible Study** - Will not meet on December 24 and December 31, will resume on January 7
- \* **Friday TGIF Bible Study** - Will not meet again until January

Singing Worship Next Sunday

Next Sunday, December 28, most of the worship assembly will be devoted to singing. Also, next Sunday 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 “Walking In Awe of God” session
- \* **January 25 (Sunday)** - Potluck after the worship assembly

Winter Women's Events

There will be three Winter opportunities (January 17th, February 21st, and March 14th) for women to gather for Saturday Bible Study, brunch, and walking together. The theme will be "Walking In Awe Of God". More details coming soon!

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

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.

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 \* 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
<b>General:</b>	\$2,310	\$4,820
<b>Designated:</b>	\$45	\$229

**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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Emmanuel Has Come Into Our Lives

Of equal importance to our faith as the phrase "He is Risen", is the phrase "A Son is Born". In a way, they are the same phrase – one referring to the miraculous purpose of Jesus’ life on this earth, and the other referring to the miracle of God entering this world.

Read the beautiful first lines of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel;  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

In a few phrases it presents the gospel.

We were dead in our sins, lonely and disconnected from our creator, and at the same time desperately needing His love and His purpose in our lives.

As we celebrate this week the Baby who came into this world, let us also remember God’s miraculous plan, his miraculous love for us, and the miraculous freedom that God provides.

As we celebrate this week by opening gifts from loved ones, let’s remember the gift that God gave us - all we have to do is open it.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

- Karen Susenna, December 2025

We Saw His Star

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea . . . Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. - Matthew 2:1-2

God knew these seekers' thoughts, and in his grace he showed them a star to guide them. Likewise, each of us once began our walk of faith by seeking God, hoping to know him better. When the Magi ask for guidance, they learn that the Savior, our heavenly Shepherd, was born in Bethlehem:

This is what the prophet has written:  
... You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least . . .  
for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. - Matthew 2:5-6

One of the oldest Christmas hymns sung today is "The First Noel", which describes the responses of some of the first persons who went to see the newborn Jesus long ago. The hymn itself has been sung for centuries, for it has its origins in Cornwall (in southwest England) in the 13th century (or perhaps even earlier). The names of the believers who wrote the words and the music were lost to history long ago, and over the years the words have occasionally been revised.

The hymn opens, "The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay . . . ", and later says "They looked up and saw a star shining in the east . . . and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night . . . " God showed this great light both to the Magi and to the shepherds to guide them. Similarly, whenever we too seek God, whether for guidance or understanding or mercy, he will light the path for us with a "star" that we can see and understand with the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know that God is near:

They went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. - Matthew 2:9-10

Today the word "Noel" means Christmas day or a Christmas carol. It comes from a word in Old French that also meant "birth", a fitting word for the coming of our Immanuel, who gives us rebirth in this life as well as the promise of eternal life. For as the hymn says in a later verse, "Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought." It is good to praise and honor and worship Jesus, our Lord and our Savior and much more:

They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. - Matthew 2:11  
We may not have any of these gifts, yet God asks us to give him the gift of our hearts and minds.

- Mark Garner, December 2025

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #3

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

ABSENT	BURIED	HANDLE	INVISIBLE	RECONCILE
ALIENATED	CANCELED	HIDDEN	KNOWLEDGE	SPECTACLE
ALREADY	CONTINUE	HIERAPOLIS	LOVED	TRADITION
ANYONE	CREATED	HUMAN	PEACE	TREASURES
BECAUSE	DISCIPLINED	HUMILITY	PROCLAIM	
BODILY	ELEMENTAL	IMAGE	PURPOSE	

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

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's puzzle answer: **They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. - 2 CHRONICLES 15:5**  
- Mark Garner, December 2025

A Hymn For Christmas Day

The shepherds watch their flocks by night, Beneath the moon's unclouded light,  
All around is calm and still, Save the murmuring of the rill.  
When lo, a form of light appears, And on the awe-struck shepherds' ears  
Are words, of peace and comfort glowing From lips with celestial glowing . . .  
To a poor and crowded inn - Tremblingly their way they win  
To the stable, where they find The Redeemer of mankind  
Just born into this world of danger, Lying in a humble manger.

- Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894