

Announcements

Holiday Schedules

- * **Sunday Morning Bible Classes** - Will resume next Sunday, 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 tomorrow, and will resume next week (January 5)
- * **Tuesday Women's Bible Study (7:15 PM)** - Is not meeting this week, and will resume next week (on January 6)
- * **Wednesday Bible Study** - Not meeting this week, and will resume on January 7
- * **Friday TGIF Bible Study** - Will resume meeting in January; see Mike or Leisha Evans for the schedule

Prayer Time On January 1

This Thursday, January 1, there will be a prayer time, including prayers for the coming year, at the church building from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come.

January Events

- * **January 4 (Sunday)** - Worship time at Willow Brook, 2:00 PM
- * **January 17 (Saturday)** - Women's "Walking In Awe of God" session, 10:00 AM - Noon
- * **January 25 (Sunday)** - Potluck after the worship assembly

Winter Women's Events * New Details *

There will be three Winter opportunities (January 17th, February 21st, and March 14th) for women to gather in the Fellowship Room (E41-42) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon for Saturday Bible Study, brunch, and walking together. The theme will be "Walking In Awe Of God".

2026 Offering Envelopes

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

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

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

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: \$4,044	\$4,805
Designated: \$145	\$228



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New Year, Renewed Focus

A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

New year . . . renewed focus. I like to take the end of the year and think about what I should focus on for the next year. What in my walk am I missing or lacking, and how can I address that. As I was thumbing through my Bible thinking about this, I found a piece of scrap paper. Written on it was 'how to love Jesus' and the response of 'keep his commandments'. Well, let's explore this.

In Luke 10, Jesus is asked what one must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds by asking what is written in the law and the response is: *Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, love your neighbor as yourself.* Part of this is a reference to Deuteronomy 6:4-6. The questioner then asks, who is my neighbor. Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

As with Jesus' parables, so much can be gleaned from such a small story. One of the takeaways for me at this point in my life is that love encompasses the whole of you. It is the giving of self to God and in service to him, as well as service to others, to my neighbors. And who are those neighbors, as was asked of Jesus? As the parable walks us through the story, it is someone in need. This someone may not have any connection or commonality with us. And how does that love manifest? In this parable, it is service to their needs of healing and restoration to health. It was seeing another's needs as if they were our own, and doing what we can to serve those needs. It seems to me to be calling to have mercy and compassion not only for those we know but to those we do not. Our neighbor is our fellow man.

I have always heard this following verse recited during wedding vows. But to step away from that context, and to read it as an all-encompassing definition of how love manifests in one's life, gives an active, living definition of love in action.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. I Corinthians 13:4-8.

- Tara Neiswonger, December 2025

We Have Seen His Glory

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. - John 1:14

Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh and blood, our Lord and our Savior, descended from on high to make his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory in more ways than we could count. Who are we, that our Heavenly Father is so mindful of us, that he sent Jesus to bring overflowing grace for our souls and timeless truths to renew our minds:

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14

Scottish poet and writer James Montgomery (1771-1854) was known in his lifetime for the wide range of his writings. Today he is remembered for his hymns, especially the Christmas hymn "Angels, From The Realms Of Glory". It begins "Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight over all the earth; you who sang creation's glory, now proclaim Messiah's birth." Truly it is good to give praise and glory to Jesus, who came from heaven to dwell among us.

Montgomery's hymn continues "Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching over your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant's light." In Jesus the fullness of God dwelled, he radiates our Heavenly Father's light and understanding, and through him grace flows freely to those who humbly put their faith and hope in him and in his message:

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. - John 1:16

James's hymn also reminds us of the depths of our need for the grace that comes through Jesus, "Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains, justice now revokes the sentence, mercy calls you - break the chains." Human efforts and human teaching cannot redeem us, so Jesus has come to bring us the mercy and care and grace that we all deeply need:

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. - John 1:17

Jesus was both Son of God and Son of Man; he lived and breathed like one of us, he bore our sins on the cross, he was raised from the grave, and he has ascended to heaven. As James Montgomery's hymn says, "Though an infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne, Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down."

We have never seen our Heavenly Father face-to-face, so Jesus came to make known the fullness of God's splendor and wisdom and compassion:

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. - John 1:18

And Jesus has made known God's desire to bring redemption and salvation to those who walk in the light and grace of his Son.

- Mark Garner, December 2025

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #4

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

ANSWER	CUPBEARER	JERUSALEM	REPAIRS	SQUARE
BURDEN	GARDEN	LEARNED	RUBBLE	STOREROOMS
BURNED	GOVERNOR	OPENED	QUARTER	SURROUNDING
CARRIED	GRACIOUS	OUTSIDE	SANBALLAT	VINEYARDS
COLLECT	INSTRUCTION	POSTED	SECTION	
COVENANT	JACKAL	REBUILD	SPREAD	

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

The answer will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's puzzle answer: **God made you alive with Christ. - COLOSSIANS 2:13**

- Mark Garner, December 2025

Jesus, Blessed Savior

Jesus, blessed Savior, help us now to raise
Songs of glad thanksgiving, songs of holy praise.
Oh, how kind and gracious Thou hast always been,
Oh, how many blessings every day has seen.
Jesus, blessed Savior, now our praises hear,
For Thy grace and favor crowning all the year.

- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879