

NOWTHEN ALLIANCE CHURCH

Equipping people to find Life and Faith in Christ

This edition of the NAC eNews will focus on Thanksgiving. In addition, we will preview many of the events and ministries occurring at Nowthen over the Christmas season. Let us begin with the Thanksgiving Eve service:



Thanksgiving Eve Service: This traditional service will be held Wednesday, November 22, in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. The Lord's Supper will be served during this special service. Each year we receive a special Thanksgiving offering. This year the proceeds will go towards the additional expenses required to prepare for the addition of the third service.

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving? There are many historical accounts of "Thanksgiving" celebrations occurring as early 1620 in America. Each of these historical accounts places the Almighty God at the forefront. Granted, many of the celebrations included native Americans, but the purpose was always to honor God rather than honor any ethnic group. This fact is so well established that one can simply Google Thanksgiving. The Mayflower sailed in September and arrived in Cape Cod in late November of 1620. That first winter was extremely difficult and nearly half of the 102 Pilgrims died. Life was difficult in America and those that survived sought to give thanks to God for His provision. The day was not about a large meal, rather it was to honor God for the meager portions that they prayed would last the harsh winter.

Let us fast forward 160 years to 1780. By this time Thanksgiving was firmly established in American culture. As evidence of this fact, I would like to share a portion of the Thanksgiving proclamation made by President George Washington in 1784 (and revised in 1789) to demonstrate the mindset of the Founding Fathers.

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of

public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness. Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the People of this Country.”

Who wanted to give thanks to God at Thanksgiving? Well, according to George, the entire nation did, regardless of political party, church denomination, or cultural heritage. Today, Thanksgiving remains an official holiday, but the subject of our Thanksgiving has been removed. As you join with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, may you remember God’s provisions and the blessings that have been granted.



Christmas Services 2017: Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. There will be services at 8:30am, 11:00am, and at 3:00pm. All three services will be similar with the same message. The 8:30am service will be in the sanctuary while the 11:00am and 3:00pm services will be held in the lower worship center. More details will follow in the near future.



Give the Gift of Christmas to a Family: It has been a tradition of the Elders to provide funds to families in our service area that have struggled during the past year. If you know of a friend or neighbor that has struggled in 2017 and is in need of a blessing this Christmas submit their name and mailing address to Pastor Bruce. Early in December the church will mail selected families a package including: a word of encouragement and a Visa Gift card. The family will be able to purchase gifts for their children that they might not have otherwise been able to do. Names must be submitted to Pastor Bruce by Sunday, December 3, so the packages can be distributed in a timely manner. (Funding for this ministry comes from the Elders benevolence.)

Women's Christmas Brunch



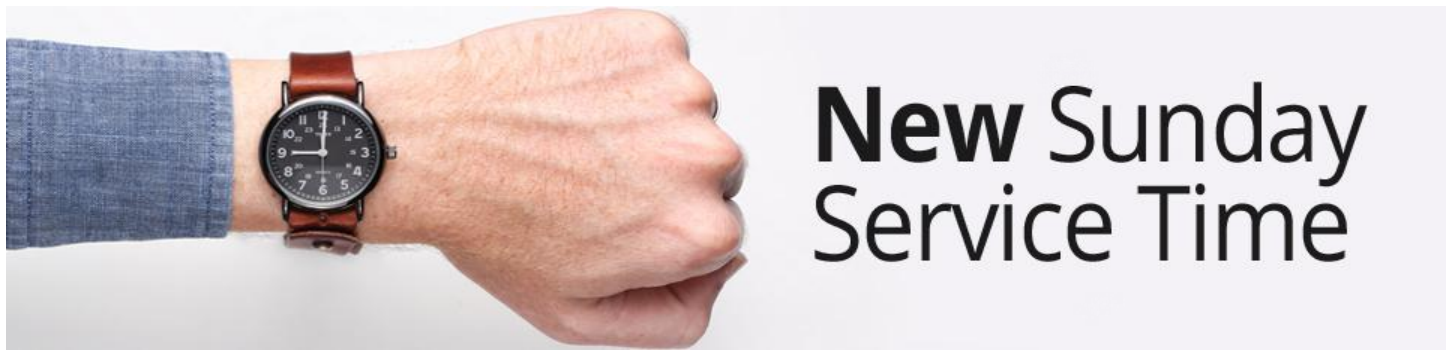
The Women's Christmas Brunch: will be held on Saturday, December 9, beginning at 9:30am, in the café. Join us as we hear from Kate Fonseca, who has served as an International Worker in Cambodia, share about her experiences. There is no charge for this event and all ladies are invited. Please invite your friends and neighbors for this time of fellowship.



Snow Shoveling Team: While Nowthen contracts for parking lot snow removal we try to save money by shoveling sidewalks and entrances. The staff can handle this task during the week but we do organize a team to cover this need on Sundays. A signup sheet has been posted in the Café near door "D". Those signing up early get the best choice of weekends!

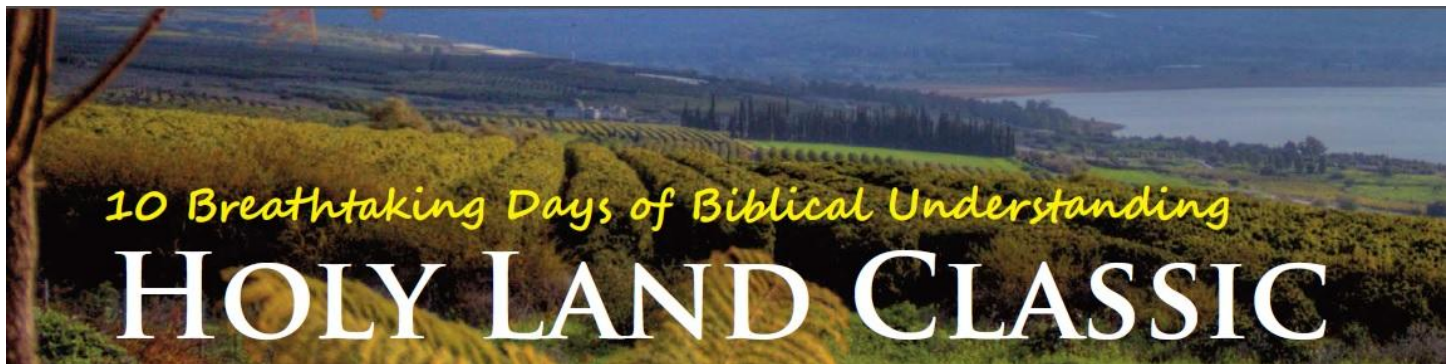
Volunteers needed for Serving groups and Meal ministry: It is our desire to serve the people in our congregation when the need arises. In order to do that, we need YOUR help! We have a need for people willing to bring a meal to families who are going through joyful times as they celebrate the arrival of a baby, or difficult times as they experience surgery or hospitalization, etc. We also have a need for people willing to provide food for funerals and special events, or who are able to help serve the meal. If you are willing and able to serve in either or both of these ministries, please contact the church office, or note it on your connection card this Sunday, including contact information. Thank you!

Ushers and Greeters needed: Beginning in January Nowthen will have three Sunday services and we will need additional ushers and greeters. Please contact the church office for details.



New Sunday Service Time

New Sunday Service Schedule: Beginning January 14, 2018, there will be three worship services at Nowthen. The first (traditional) service will meet in the sanctuary at 8:00am. The second (contemporary) service will meet in the lower worship center at 9:30am, and the third service (contemporary) will also meet in the lower worship center at 11:00am. The Elders made this change to accommodate the growth that we have experienced in 2017. Pastor Nate and the ministry leaders request your prayers as we continue to work toward the implementation of this plan over the next few months.



10 Breathtaking Days of Biblical Understanding

HOLY LAND CLASSIC

Israel tour 2018: Nowthen Pastors are hosting a ten-day tour of the Holy Lands in October of 2018. Highlights include: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Galilee, and the Dead Sea. Information sessions for this tour will be held on November 26 and December 3 in the conference room at 9:45am. Information brochures are also available in the literature racks near doors A and B. We would love to have you join the group on this amazing tour!



Taiwan 18: The dates have been set and we will schedule an information session in January. A team from Nowthen will travel to Taiwan on September 3 and return home on September 14, 2018. This short-term team will have two primary tasks: assist the O'Dells with remodeling the second AROMA coffee shop, and conduct ministry and Outreach in Taipei.