

**PITMAN ROAD**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 2, 2020  
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500 Pitman Road  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-589-1500  
[www.pitmanroadcoc.com](http://www.pitmanroadcoc.com)

# PITMAN ROAD POST

**Our Mission**

Meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ.



# FROM DANIEL'S DEN

## GOD DID THAT!



**Dan Cooper**  
Connections Minister

What follows is a true, but very personal story.

### **Gifts From My Father and Gifts From My FATHER**

Many of you know I traveled across the continent to see my father last week. His health has been declining, and his memory is almost completely gone. I decided it was worth the risk, even with COVID-19 concerns, to travel to see him.

We played his favorite card game, Rook. We ate meals together, both in restaurants and at home. Every morning that he was willing, I would take him to McDonald's for "senior coffee." (He cannot resist a discount. And, neither can I!) Within two minutes of walking into that McDonald's, they had his hot coffee fixed just right, sitting right in front of him.

Still, we finally ran out of things to do and say. He remembers very little about his childhood. He remembers very little about the places where he preached. He remembers little of those who were once close friends. He does not even remember what happened ten minutes ago.

With time hanging heavy on my hands, I thought what can I do now? I say to him, "Dad, you always had great penmanship. Can I help you write some letters?" Guess his response. He said, "I don't know what to write, and I don't know *who* to write."

He is 91, almost 92, and I knew it would be good for his motor skills if he would write. So I said "how about if you write to my kids and I'll dictate for you." He reluctantly agreed.

I dictated letters to each of my kids, his grandkids, who had children. The grandkids kids would be his great grandchildren.

It took patience, but one by one he wrote to each of my kids with children. As he concluded each letter, I had him say, "I am including \$10 for each of my great grandkids. Please treat them to McDonald's."

He hesitated, "These great grandkids don't even know who I am, and I don't have money here." I assured him that was okay and that I would use my money to send each of his great grandkids \$10. And, he would gift them with a special treat. I told him "You've done so much for me, so let me treat your great grandkids to honor you."

In addition to those letters, I helped him write several other letters to old neighbors and friends. Again, his penmanship is still wonderful.

Before that letter writing campaign was done, I gave

away \$80 in my father's name to honor him (\$10 for each of my eight grandkids, his great grandkids.). It was an absolutely wonderful experience. I was blessed in every way.

But that's not the end of the story.

My last day in Spokane, my sister, Mary Beth, who cares for my dad, came to me with \$200 and said, "Here Danny, dad wants you to have this to help with your trip." My \$80 turned into \$200. God did that!

But that's *still* not the end of the story. On the final day I was about to leave to catch my plane home, my brother-in-law came and said, "Hey, I was looking in the safe and found some of your dad's money. We forgot it was in there. We need to divide this money four ways between you four kids."

As he began counting out the money, he counted out over \$1000 more. I was speechless. The \$80 that I had given in my dad's name five days earlier to his eight grandkids had now turned into over \$1200. God did that!

I am still learning to take God at His word.

### **Answer these questions...**

- **Does God ever lie?**
- **Does God always keep his promises?**
- **Did God really mean it when He said, "give and it will be given unto you"?**
- **Did God say, "Put me to the test" and see "if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need." Malachi 3:10**
- **Do you believe God will keep His promises if you give generously?**
- **Do you really believe the words of Jesus in Luke 6:38? ... "give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38**
- **Does your giving demonstrate that you really believe God will keep his promises?**

Don't miss our new four part Sunday morning class series starting next Sunday...

Dr. Kevin Hood wrote the class series and it is entitled, "Taking God at His Word."

Pick up a free copy of the paper back book just outside the glass doors, next to the communion supplies.

- **Dan the Connections Man**

# A PEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

## BREAKING WAVES



**Joey Peacher**  
Preaching Minister

Your throne, O Lord, has stood from time immemorial.  
You yourself are from the everlasting past.  
The floods have risen up, O Lord.  
The floods have roared like thunder;  
the floods have lifted their pounding waves.  
But mightier than the violent raging of the seas,  
mightier than the breakers on the shore—  
the Lord above is mightier than these!

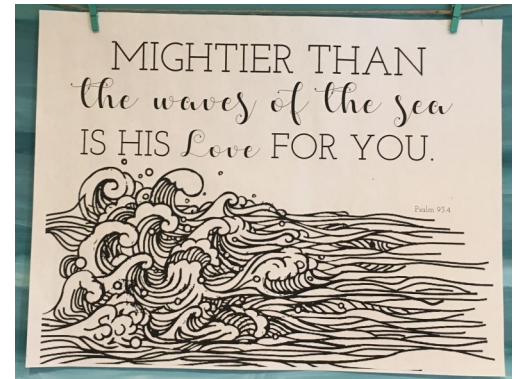
**Psalms 93:2-4**

It's quite fair to say I am not a fan of the beach. I don't like sand. I don't like heat or sweating. I don't like the sun beating down on my skin, threatening to burn it or consistently applying chemicals to protect it. Some of you love the beach. A few have even argued that New Jersey has the best beaches in the country. I'm not a fan of the beach, but I love the water. I love the refreshment it offers. I love the mystique surrounding it. I love swimming in it, riding on it, and listening to the sounds of the waves roaring against the shoreline.

The water is the one redeeming feature of the beach. There is exhilaration in trying to conquer the waves. Watching the waves build, then crest, then crash into themselves reminds me of the cyclical nature of life and the intricate design within God's creation. Water is powerful. I love staring into the distance where water's edge meets sky and reflecting on the immenseness and might of God. The way the light reflects and shimmers off the surface reminds me of how we should reflect and shimmer as the lights of the world. Sometimes, the waves overwhelm me. They knock me down. By the end of the day, I feel battered and beaten by forces beyond my control. Ancient Hebrew culture believed the sea was a source of evil, a source of chaos. As I stand in the shallows, trying to anchor myself to the soft earth beneath and declaring to the swirling tides and currents, "Come and get me. Try to break me," I feel strong and powerful. Then the waves break in a mighty way and down I go.

It is into these powerful breaking, chaotic waves that Jesus steps and calmly, but surely walks. It is to these swelling and foaming billows that Jesus says, "Be still." Isn't it amazing the waves listen? Jesus calmed the waves breaking across the sea, displaying his ability to control the source of evil and the chaotic forces of nature. He calms and controls the chaotic forces within us as well. The swirling waves inside us diminish. Our souls are refreshed. There is divine design behind water baptism. We leave our dead sins at the bottom of the water, anchor ourselves firmly to Jesus, and rise up to begin again.

After a day of pounding at the beach, I'm more amazed at Jesus. There is someone beyond my control, someone greater; someone who can love stronger; someone who can save better. Jesus is someone who can break the waves, calm the waves around me and within me. - **Joey**



## CANDLELIGHT PRAYER VIGIL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION



**TODAY, Sunday, August 2, at 8:15 pm**

Join us on the walkway to the main entrance of Saint James Lutheran Church of Pitman (400 Columbia Avenue, Pitman) for a time of prayer for racial justice and reconciliation.

This will be a time of reading, prayer, silence, and singing. Please bring your own candles and chairs. Wear a mask and keep a social distance. - **Laurie A. Johnson, Pastor**

**Dan plans to be there  
and would love for  
you to stand with him!**

Saint James Lutheran Church  
**400 Columbia Avenue, Pitman, NJ 08071**  
(856) 589-1180

# A LETTER FROM THE ELDERS

To the Pitman Road Church Family,

*"For God is my witness, how I long for you with the affection of Christ Jesus"*

*"Therefore my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved."*

These words were penned by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians. They showed his deep affection for, and longing to be with, the church family in Philippi. It is a blessing to be a part of a church family that expresses such thoughts; and our church family is doing just that. Praise be to God!

**We wanted to provide an update on the plans to bring the church body back together.** The situation is always fluid and our plans will be impacted by the circumstances surrounding Covid-19 within our communities, governor Murphy's guidelines, and the recommendations of our own Transition to In-House Worship committee. **Dr. Carla Clements** and **Dr. Kathy Ashton** are leading this committee. They are joined by other members that work in the medical field or who oversee our facility. The committee has already completed a detailed action plan and the elders take its recommendations very seriously. The health of our church family and guests is our paramount concern.

**Several things must be in place prior to meeting for in-house worship.** These include: specific equipment for hygiene and cleaning, appropriate signage and instructions for social distancing and behavior within the building, materials to educate our church family on safety and who is most at risk, protocols for entering and exiting, and guidelines for worship. These things are coming together for a possible opportunity to offer limited in-house worship on the second or third Sunday in August. Our live stream worship experience will continue even after we begin meeting together in reduced numbers. It will be just as meaningful and even appropriate for individuals to continue to make use of this option.

**Thanks you for your patience and faithfulness throughout this unprecedented journey for our church family.** Even in the midst of struggle, Pitman Road continues to be a "light on a hill" through its committed generosity and service to God's work. Feel free to contact a shepherd with any questions.

Praying without ceasing. - **The Elders**

## CONNECT WITH US

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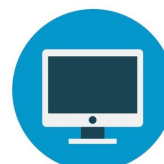
## WAYS TO GIVE



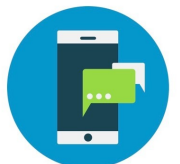
In person  
at the  
worship service.



Via the  
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mobile app.



On our  
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Text amount to  
856.209.6212

### Ministers

**Joey Peacher**, Preaching Minister ..... [jpeacher@cochrist.org](mailto:jpeacher@cochrist.org)  
..... 979-599-4590

**Dan Cooper**, Connections Minister ..... [dcooper@cochrist.org](mailto:dcooper@cochrist.org)  
..... 856-589-4197

### Office Staff

**Dottie Grillo** ..... [dgrillo@cochrist.org](mailto:dgrillo@cochrist.org)

**Katelyn Ikeorha** ..... [kikeorha@cochrist.org](mailto:kikeorha@cochrist.org)

### Elders

**Mike Broyles** ..... [mbroyles777@gmail.com](mailto:mbroyles777@gmail.com)

**Horatio Fenton** ..... [horatiofenton@comcast.net](mailto:horatiofenton@comcast.net)

**Brian Holden** ..... [bchandle94@hotmail.com](mailto:bchandle94@hotmail.com)

**Garth Hutchinson** ..... 609-414-2606  
..... [grth.hutchinson@gmail.com](mailto:grth.hutchinson@gmail.com)

**Mike Lazar** ..... [teacher.engineer@comcast.net](mailto:teacher.engineer@comcast.net)

**John Peoples** ..... 609-617-7451

**Dave Perine** ..... [davidt.perine@comcast.net](mailto:davidt.perine@comcast.net)