



January 3, 2021
Volume 3, Issue 1
500 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-1500
www.pitmanroadcoc.com

A YEAR IN REVIEW - 2020

PITMAN ROAD POST

Move

Meet

Make

O u r M i s s i o n

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

FROM DANIEL'S DEN

WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IN 2021?



Dan Cooper
Connections Minister

- 1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
- 2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
- 3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
- 4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
- 5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.
- 6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure

What is really important for 2021? I mean really, really important! BTW, you don't have to guess! The apostle Paul comes right out and tells us. He spells it out very clearly... "*I delivered to you as of first importance...*"

What did he say is of first importance? 1) Jesus died, 2) Jesus was buried, 3) Jesus was raised on the third day, 4) He appeared to many! (1 Cor. 15:1-9)

There you have it. What is most important in 2021? So, join me in making this one commitment for 2021... "**I WILL BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT SHARING WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT!**" MEET Jesus... MOVE into Family... MAKE a Difference

- Dan the Connections Man

As we enter 2021, I want to ask you a question...What is Really Important? First, 2020 is a year unlike any of us have seen before, and one that we hope not to repeat any time soon. Second, 2020 is a year we will tell our grandkids and great grandkids about. "I remember 2020..."

2020 Observations

- they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- 7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
- 8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars and keep men at home!
- 9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
- 10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- 11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
- 12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

- Author Unknown

"**I WILL BE
INTENTIONAL IN
SHARING WHAT IS
MOST IMPORTANT.**"

- Dan Cooper

**"TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN FAITH. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO SEE THE WHOLE
STAIRCASE, JUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP."**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

Baptisms (3)

Laine Taylor Bergen,
Alice Randazzo, Jonah Peacher

Placing Membership (2)

Laina Lusk, Alice Randazzo

Births (2)

Noah Rodriguez, Eliana Mendez

Deaths (8)

Nancy Smith, Doug Oliver, Ray Holmes,
William Maurer, Anita O'Hara, Jim Davis,
Florence Murray, Debbie Camorata

Engagements (1)

Jay Schneider and Alice Randazzo

Marriages (5)

Logan Davis to Adyson Marcus
Jay Schnieder to Alice Randazzo
Jay Lindsey to Ann De Leon
Esther Young to Jackson House
Claire Hutchinson to Joel Foster

Graduations (11)

Chuzik Ikeorha, Stephanie Pierre-Jacques, Brittany
Briar, Toria Haden, Logan Davis, Steve McBride,
Wesley Olley, Trent Spencer, Taionna Rutledge,
Miranda Yanzuk, Hannah Rodriguez

Moved (3)

Albert, Janet, and Kylee Betts
Mike and Donna Lazar
Horatio and Jackie Fenton

MONTH BY MONTH ACTIVITES AND EVENTS

JANUARY

First Family Promise Host Week of the new year, coordinated by John Ashton. Andy Mychajlowycz is announced by the Camp Manatawny board as Executive Director at camp in 2020. First Craft Day of the new year, coordinated by Dottie Grillo and Janet Betts. First Book Club of the new year, coordinated by Brenda Busch and Gloria Myerson. First Refuge of the year; First speaker of 2020 was our intern, Jackson House. Dan and Joey dropped off homemade baked treats to the Pitman and Mantua Police Departments for Law Enforcement Day. Thank you to Tim and Melody Davis and the teens for making the goodies!

FEBRUARY

"Souper" Super Sunday Pre-Game Party in the FLC; thanks to Tony and Stephanie DeStefano and Larry and Lisa Peterson for coordinating the event. Winterfest: chaperoned by many, teens involved, about 30 people in attendance. Refuge; Speaker was Esther Young.

MARCH

Annual Secret Sisters Revealing Party, hosted by Debby Durham, coordinated by Dottie Grillo. National pandemic COVID-19 causes halt to in-person service and activities, and results in quarantine. Sunday church service goes online Sunday, March 22. Our intern, Jackson, starts a Sunday Bible class on Facebook Live. Robin Steward starts sending out Orange materials for parents and caretakers to use with their children to keep them engaged. The church sets up a COVID-19 Assistance Fund, where members continued to give generously throughout 2020.

APRIL

Family Promise Host Week is modified due to COVID; families stayed at the Day Center, but our members still provided meals and shopped for their pantry. Some LIFE groups use Zoom to stay connected virtually, and Dan uses Facebook LIVE to hold a class on Wednesday nights. Diana Hutchinson and Brenda Busch start women's prayer groups on Zoom. Derrick Busch coordinates a men's prayer group over Zoom. The Camp Manatawny Board makes the official decision to cancel all 2020 summer sessions. Callie Peacher starts doing a short lesson and activity on stage with her sons Josiah, Jonah, and Finn for the kids at home to watch online.

MAY

First Men's Prayer Time outside under the car port due to social distancing. College seniors graduate virtually. A special Mother's Day video is put together to make our virtual Sunday service special. Dan starts our member video series called "Opening up...when we're shut down!" to keep us connected during this time of being physically apart. He will go on to do over 100 interviews in 2020!

JUNE

High school seniors graduate virtually. Diana Hutchinson and Desna Yanzuk coordinates the baby bottle campaign for Choices of the Heart.

JULY

Family Promise Host Week is once again modified due to COVID; families stayed at the Day Center, but our members still provided meals and shopped for their pantry. Tim and Melody Davis step down from their role as Youth Group leaders after years of dedication; Manny and Becky Vander Vennen take over as new youth leaders. Mandy Mansdoerfer coordinates another successful blood drive. Camp Manatawny directors, summer staff, and other volunteers amazingly create virtual camp. We begin to discuss re-opening options for in-person service.

AUGUST

Dan starts a new Sunday Bible class series on Facebook Live and YouTube. The decision is made to start safe and limited in-person worship again on Sunday, August 16. Online options are still equally encouraged. A longtime member of our church offers a \$5,000 matching gift challenge.

SEPTEMBER

Katherine Cooper resumes a socially distanced Tuesday morning women's class in the FLC. Another successful Baby Bottle Campaign is wrapped up, and \$2,218.57 was collected and given by our members.

OCTOBER

Our last Family Promise Host Week for the year 2020. Members continue to bless the families by cooking and shopping, even with the modifications due to COVID. A socially distanced Trunk or Treat and Movie Night takes place at the building. A Secret Sister Brunch (food prepared by Andrea Olley) is held in the large, new classroom on Halloween.

NOVEMBER

Handmade Thanksgiving cards (made with love by Janet Betts and her team) are signed and sent out. Pack the Pulpit food collection provides over 50 families with Thanksgiving dinner baskets. Tina Broyles coordinates annual collection of "shoeboxes" for Operation Christmas Child; over 100 boxes are filled by members. Andrea Olley coordinates "Adopt a West Point Cadet" to bless cadets with Christmas boxes. Dan teaches a two part series on Sunday morning on appointing new elders. A new matching gift challenge for \$10,000 is offered and our members continue to give generously. The last Craft Day in 2020, always coordinated by Dottie Grillo, is held in the FLC. Many members of all ages participate in Cardboard Testimony Sunday, sharing one physical blessing and one spiritual blessing.

DECEMBER

A COVID safe cookie exchange is held at the building. Dan Cooper becomes the first man to attend (and yes, he made his own cookies). Gift bags and snacks are collected and given to the single women staying at Eleanor Corbett House. American Red Cross Blood Drive, coordinated by Mandy Mansdoerfer, with a goal of 30 units; 35 units are collected. Maggie Mansdoerfer coordinates, collects, and delivers items to Veteran Haven. We close out 2020 with our first Pitman Road Christmas Show, hosted by Mike Broyles and put together by Will Mendez and Anthony DeStefano.

In Loving Memory



Nancy
Smith



Doug
Oliver



Ray
Holmes



William
Maurer



Anita
O'Hara



Jim
Davis



Florence
Murray



Debbie
Camorata



MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

We are still working towards our "Matching Gift Challenge". **Any donations made to our Capital Fund, up to \$10,000, will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous friend of our church.** We have already received \$7,630 towards our goal!

You may make your gifts to either honor a living friend, or to memorialize a deceased friend or relative. **Family members of those who are honored and remembered will be notified that you have made a gift in their/a loved one's memory.**

As you write your check to the church, simply add the name of the person you are remembering or honoring to the Memo Section of your check. You can leave your donation in the collection plate, or mail it in to the church office.

Thank you to those who have already contributed!

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to give the single women at the **Eleanor Corbett House** a special Christmas!

The money and items collected were used to make up gift bags packed with special items, and provided the women with snacks and treats. Your generosity blessed these women, and gave them something special that greatly encouraged them, especially during this time.

Thank you **Stephanie DeStefano** and **Melody Davis** for coordinating this special drive by collecting and shopping for the items, putting the bags together, and delivering them to the shelter.



DEARLY LOVED, DEEPLY MISSED

Longtime Pitman Road member and friend, **Debbie Camorata**, left this world to be at peace with her Heavenly Father on December 16, 2020 after battling COVID-19.

Relatives and friends were invited to a graveside service which took place on Tuesday, December 22, and was followed by a virtual memorial service to celebrate Debbie's life.

In lieu of flowers, donations were made to the Pitman Road Church of Christ in her memory.

Our love and prayers are with Debbie's daughter Lauren, her three grandsons, her five siblings, and the rest of her family and friends during this time.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make the last blood drive possible, and a special thank you to **Mandy Mansdoerfer** for always setting up and coordinating these drives.

We are so thankful to announce that we exceeded our goal of 30 units, and obtained 35 units. These lifesaving units will reach up to 105 hospital patients. Your generosity is so deeply appreciated!

The next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, July 18 and will once again be here at Pitman Road in the FLC. More information will be sent out as it gets closer, but you can mark your calendars now. Thanks again for helping to make this a success!



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone who donated items to the men at Veteran's Haven shelter.

Thank you **Maggie Mansdoerfer** for coordinating this drive, and personally delivering all of the collected items. (Pictured above is Maggie with one of the servicemen. They were all so grateful!)

A special thank you to **Tamme DeLoskey's quilting group, Wenonah Depot Quilters**, for their generous contribution to this cause.

It is truly a blessing to bless others!

Sign Up Now
to Build Communities
and Strengthen Lives!



Family Promise
Host Week



FAMILY PROMISE

Sunday, January 17 through Saturday, January 23

Our first Host Week of the new year is coming up, so it's time to fill the volunteer positions!

Please contact **John Ashton**, our coordinator, at **609-214-8522** or **jashton834@comcast.net** if you would like to help.

THERE'S AN A.P.P. FOR THAT!

[A PEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE]

2020 TOP TEN

The year 2020 has been filled with disappointments in many ways. New lingo such as social distancing and face coverings has become commonplace. Some people long to visit extended family not seen in a year or more. Some people continue to be quite concerned about the virus that has disrupted many lives and convinced people to isolate themselves from "normal" living. The year has been filled with heartache and emotional storms.

I am reminded of an old hymn, written by a New Jersey native, which begins like this:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost
Count your many blessings name them one by one*

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done

The solution, according to the hymn writer, is to count your blessings. Number the ways in which things have gone well. It's easy for us to become bogged down in how horrible life is. It's easy to stop living in faith and start living in fear. We may even tell ourselves we are changing how we approach the world because it's all about protecting or loving others, but are we really allowing the tempests of life to discourage us and make us fearful? When we begin thinking life as we know it is lost, it's helpful to remember all

the good things.

This is the time of year for "best of" lists. To turn this tempest tossed 2020 into something better, I looked through the pictures on my phone and compiled my favorite memories of 2020. My list includes (in no particular order): live imitation of famous paintings, flying with Aaron Pearl, playing in waterfalls and witnessing hundreds of horseshoe crabs, sneaky Easter egg hunts, hiking in Acadia National Park, rafting in Hickory Run State Park, an impromptu photo shoot, the boys' first sledding experience, picking blueberries, cranberries, cherries, and apples; and Jonah's baptism.

This year has been filled with good things in many ways. Maybe our lingo should include things such as, life is blessed and life is meant to be lived. Perhaps we can develop new relationships and find families we didn't know we had. Maybe life will seem more "normal" when we stop focusing on the storms and step into the tempest with our eyes on Jesus and all the goodness he brings.

I encourage you to pick up your phones or cameras and look through this year's pictures. Read through journal or diary entries. Ignore the fear-mongering headlines of 2020 and make your own list of favorite memories. May 2021 be filled with better memories. - **Joey Peacher**

CONNECT WITH US



www.pitmanroadcoc.com



@pitmanroadchurch



856.589.1500



www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist

Ministers

Joey Peacher, Preaching Minister jpeacher@cochrist.org 979-599-4590

Dan Cooper, Connections Minister dcooper@cochrist.org 856-589-4197

Office Staff

Dottie Grillo dgrillo@cochrist.org

Katelyn Ikeorha kikeorha@cochrist.org

WAYS TO GIVE



In person
at the
worship service.



Via the
easyTithe
mobile app.



On our
website at
pitmanroadcoc.com



Text to Give
Text amount to
856.209.6212

Elders

Mike Broyles mbroyles777@gmail.com

Brian Holden bcholden94@hotmail.com

Garth Hutchinson 609-414-2606
..... grth.hutchinson@gmail.com

John Peoples 609-617-7451

Dave Perine davidt.perine@comcast.net