



PITMAN ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 10, 2017

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500 Pitman Road
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www.pitmanroadcoc.com

Celebrate Christmas Eve at Pitman Road!

Christmas Eve

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 am in the Family Life Center



Something new for us this year! We are having breakfast together on Christmas Eve. AND we are inviting very special guests! We are reaching out to all of the families that we have served through our Food Pantry in 2017 and inviting them to join us. We are also inviting all who visited with us at our Sunday worship services in 2017. And finally, we are inviting both the Mantua Township and Pitman police departments in appreciation for their service to us. **Please invite your friends and family to this special event as well!**

Following breakfast will be a very special worship service.

This worship service will be designed with our guests in mind. Christmas is a time of year that those who do not belong to a church are looking for a place to worship. Please take advantage of this great opportunity!

Invitation cards for the breakfast and worship service will be available in the lobby to make it easy to invite friends, family, neighbors, etc. Invite someone today!

Besides inviting friends and family, there are more ways you can help to make our Christmas Eve event successful!

- ✿ **Tim and Melody Davis** are coordinating this event, and they are requesting the following items. Contact Melody at 609-335-6572 if you can help or donate any of the following:
 - ✿ 3 large griddles (to borrow)
 - ✿ egg casseroles
 - ✿ gallons of white milk and chocolate milk
 - ✿ juice
 - ✿ monetary donations
- ✿ **Arrival:** If you are bringing food, please arrive with your hot food heated at 8:30. If you are helping serving please arrive at 8:45.
- ✿ Please leave the best parking spots for our guests. Park at the back entrance or in the rear of the building.
- ✿ Please be prepared to be hospitable to our guests.

Our Mission

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

From Daniel's Den

The Holidays

Way back last January, 76 of our members committed to read through the New Testament this year. If you made that commitment, how are you doing? If you've been following the Ownit365 schedule that we provided, you have just finished reading the book of James. That's what I have been reading this past week. And some of those scriptures just about knock me off my feet with their relevance during the season of stress that surrounds the holidays. Be still, meditate, reflect on the following:

- Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (1:2-3)
- Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (1:12)
- My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (1:19-20)
- Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (1:26-27)
- If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. (2:8)
- ...judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (2:13)
- We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. (3:2)
- Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (3:13)

Enjoy some really good reading, *Dan the Reading Preacherman*



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

...during the
season of
stress that
surrounds the
holidays...

Be still,
meditate,
reflect ...



Brian Holden
Shepherd

Jesus went to the cross alone, but he is always with us so that we never have to be alone.

Shepherd's Voice

We Have the Victory

Recently, I attended a work related seminar in North Carolina. We were split up into groups and given this ice breaker: name two interesting things about ourselves. Coming up with one was enough of a challenge for me, but to come up with two took me a while! My two responses centered around church and family. Many responses were similar, but it was the response by a woman in my group named Shannon that brought an ovation from those in attendance. Shannon is a two-time cancer survivor of two different types of cancer.

I spent some time talking with Shannon; she told me that she was angry with God because she couldn't understand why He would allow her to go through the battle with cancer a second time. She proudly showed me a picture of her only child and told me that she couldn't have any more children. Shannon nearly died during the delivery of her child. I remembered thinking that she had gone through quite a lot. Then she told me that her sister had recently been diagnosed with cancer. She believes that God prepared her to be there for her sister so that she would not have to battle cancer alone.

I know that many members of our congregation, as well as family and friends, are going through difficult times. You have been an inspiration to many with your faith, strength, and commitment in your walk with the Lord. Jesus went to the cross alone, but he is always with us so that we never have to be alone. He has already given us the victory.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

-Brian

Please keep our new security measures in mind when coming and going from church on Sunday and Wednesday.

On Sunday mornings, the glass doors at **both** main entrances **will be**:

- **unlocked** from 8:00 to 9:15
- **locked** from 9:15 to 9:40
- **unlocked** from 9:40 to 10:15
- **locked** from 10:15 to 11:00

Please try to arrive early. In the event that you arrive while the doors are locked, a member of our security team will open the door for you.

NEW! On Wednesday evening the glass doors at the carport entrance will be unlocked. **The glass doors at the far end near the children's wing will remain locked.** Please park in the main section of our parking lot.

If you have concerns or questions, please share them with Leonard Collier, or one of your shepherds or ministers.



Holiday Schedule



- On Christmas Eve there will be no Bible classes, instead we will have the Pancake Breakfast at 9:00 am followed by the special worship service.
- New Years' Eve, we **will** have our regularly scheduled Bible classes at 9:00 am and worship service at 10 am.
- LIFE Groups **will not** meet on December 24 or 31.
- We **will not** meet at the building on Wednesday, December 27.
- The church office will be **closed** for the holidays on Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 2.

Financial Peace University

This changes EVERYTHING! Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's way of handling money with **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University**! Financial Peace begins January 18, 2018, at the church building. This course is for adults and older teens. If you are unable to attend any night, make-up classes are available online.

Please register ahead of time and order your class kit at this website: www.fpu/1054125, and a \$10 discount will be available to you. If you have previously taken FPU, bring your old kit to use again, but do register as well. Consider purchasing a gift membership kit for someone for Christmas!

Any questions, or for help with registration, contact **Adam and Helena Cerquoni** at 856-275-1581 or helenasophia53@gmail.com.

Dinner at Joe's Place

Next Saturday, December 16, **Adam and Helena Cerquoni** will be preparing and serving at Joe's Place at Broadway and Ferry Avenue in Camden. The meal is provided for homeless and indigent Camden residents. We have a really great time doing this!

We set up from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, serve from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, and cleanup from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Any help purchasing food, cooking, set up, serving, and clean up will be much appreciated.

Contact Adam or Helena at 856-275-1581 or helenasophia53@gmail.com.



Encouragement During Transition

Last Sunday, **Jonathan Steward** shared from a blog post on church transition by **Ben Simpson** of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky. We adapted this blog post for length and for relevance to Pitman Road. If you missed last Sunday, we encourage you to read it now, and if you were here, these words are worth a second look.

Six Biblical Truths to Encourage You During Transition

Dan is preparing for retirement, and we are preparing for his departure. Although this will be a gradual change, the church has moved into a time of transition, and for some members, this can be a scary time. Be encouraged by these six biblical truths.

1. God will be with this church at all times. God is with Pitman Road. **"I will never leave you or forsake you."** (Hebrews 13:5) Ministers and preachers will come and go. Only God will never leave us. And the presence of God is more vital to the life of the church than any minister.

2. God is in control. God **"works all things according to the counsel of His will."** (Ephesians 1:11) This transition is not happening outside of the will of God. So the question is not, "Who is in control?" It is, "Will you rest in God by trusting him?"

3. God plans good out of this transition. It might not feel good right now, but God has promised that he **"works all things together for the good of those who love him."** (Romans 8:28) This transition is included in "all things." So, you can rest assured that good will come from it. That's how awesome God is: even those things that don't feel good are used for good. It might not be the

good you have in mind, but it is good. Walk forward in faith.

4. It's okay to weep. While good will come out of this transition, that doesn't remove the deep sadness. Losing a minister hurts. The Ephesian elders wept at Paul's goodbye in **Acts 20**. The Ephesians probably knew that God would be with them, that he was in control, and that he was going to bring good out of this transition. Nevertheless, they wept. And it's okay to weep.

5. Ministry must go on. Notice what the **Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)** does not say, "Go therefore and make disciples . . . if Dan is the minister." The Great Commission doesn't include any conditionals. During the transition, the shepherds and members must make sure ministry continues. Get to work!

6. The church must not scatter. Jesus promised the flock would scatter at his crucifixion (**Matthew 26:31**). For a season, that's exactly what happened. The same often happens in churches during transition. Because "their" long time minister is no longer there or ministry begins to lag, folks trickle out. Some reasons for going might be legitimate, but this is also be the time in which the congregation should gather together for support and encouragement. Recognize the temptation to leave, and work more diligently to stay bound together in unity and love.

It is the hope and prayer of the leadership here at Pitman that this season of transition brings blessings we never expected! Pray for our shepherds as they lead us in seeking God's will for the ministerial staff here at Pitman Road.

Our Schedule

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Classes

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Last Week

Bible Class	151
Worship	233
LIFE Groups	134
Wednesday	NC
Contribution	\$10,450.00
Weekly Goal	\$9868.00

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praises: Thanking God for successful blood drive and that many needy people were fed a hot meal in Trenton yesterday.

Prayers Requested:

John Grillo will be having surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurism this Tuesday Please pray that it can be done laparoscopically.

Judi Campbell will be having surgery to remove squamous cell carcinoma from her nose on Wednesday.

JoAnn Ruhland, broken bones in her leg and foot.

Barbara Smith, a woman who visited our food pantry, asks for prayers as she seeks employment.

The Holmes Family asks for prayers for safe travel to and from Jamaica.

Brian, the brother of a friend of Ashley Corey. He has diverticulitis and a perforated bowel. He is not doing well. He had to have the surgery doctors had hoped to avoid.

Mike Lazar had an epidural that will hopefully relieve the debilitating pain he has from a pinched nerve in the area of his neck.

Isaac Isaziga will have spinal fusion surgery to correct and stop scoliosis on January 18. The surgery will take about 4 hours and he will be in the hospital for 5 days. Carlos is requesting our prayers.

Larry Point, awaiting results of cardiac testing.

Ray Holmes, prostate cancer; will have radiation, date TBD.

Cindy Holden is recovering from wrist surgery.

Dwight Thompson, lymphoma, chemotherapy.

Jacob Thies, continued chemotherapy treatment.

Ministers

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

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Elder on Call for December: Dave Perine

Serving Us Today

Nursery	Tina Broyles
Kids For Christ	Robin Steward
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer/Harry Ake
Greeters: Front Entrance	Corny & Phyllis Walker
Greeters: Back Entrance	Derrick & Brenda Busch
Information Center	Brenda Peoples
Ushers	John & Corey Peoples
Shepherd's Call	Dan Cooper
Song Leader	Mike Broyles
Communion	Harold Pearl

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Mychajlowycz's at noon	908294-4056
Brook Besor	Durham's Tuesday at 7 pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7 pm	856-419-0544
Cornerstone	Church Bldg. rm B2 at noon	609-226-4031
Hammonton	Ashton's at 4 pm	609-233-4330
Life Challenges	Church Bldg. rm B4 at noon	267-303-4877
Men's Bible Study	Winter Hiatus/Resumes Jan. 8	856-217-3956
Solid Gold	Walker's at noon	856-478-6972
Teens	Church Bldg. at noon	610-476-9057
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6 pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. FLC, Tues. 9:45 am	856-981-9754
Young Married	TBA	

Find Us on Social Media:

 @pitmanroadcoc  www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist  @pitmanroadchurch

Thank You!

Dear Pitman Road Church Family,

Thank you for loving and thinking about us at Thanksgiving!

When I saw your card in our mailbox my mind immediately went to...Janet Betts and Pitman Road Church Family's Famous Thanksgiving Cards!! It was so encouraging to read your notes of love and memories. We miss you and talk often about your spirit of love and generosity to others. Thank you for living and loving Jesus. God is good! **-Steve and Patti Sikes**

Thank you for the flowers and for your love as we said our earthly farewells to Alison's mom. **-Charles and Alison Woods**

Wish You Were Here...

Our church received a personally hand written note from **Craig and Katie Young...**

Dear Christian Family at Pitman,

Our church, La Chappelle de Fuveat, will celebrate her 20th birthday at the current location in our neighborhood next weekend. We don't expect you will be able to come to the special celebration, but we wanted to send you the invitation anyway and seize the opportunity to thank you for your faithful support for us and La Chapelle de Fuveat during these last twenty years.

As we have prepared to share with others the written history of our work here, it has allowed us to see in fast-forward the hand of God constantly at work. We are amazed and thankful at what He has done and allowed us to do. Please offer prayers of thanks and praise with us...

(Please see entire note and the invitation on the bulletin board in the adult classroom wing.)