

PITMAN ROAD
CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 1, 2020
Volume 2, Issue 11
500 Pitman Road
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-1500
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

THE CARES ACT...A ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR, 2020



Dan Cooper
Connections Minister

Through the CARES Act, our Federal Government is allowing, even encouraging all Americans to be generous to our church (or any non-profit organization) this year. If you are a single person, you can deduct up to \$300 on your federal tax return, even though you take the standard deduction. If you are married-filing-jointly taxpayers, you can deduct an "above-the-line deduction of up to \$600" on your 2020 tax return. Your donation must be made before December 31, 2020, and it needs to be a check so your donation can be documented.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from you IRA

Tax year 2020 has provided a one year relief to traditional IRA owners in exempting them from taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their accounts. However, individuals age 70^{1/2} or older may still direct distributions from their traditional IRA to registered charitable organizations, such as The Pitman Road Church of Christ. In most cases, it is one of the most tax laden assets a

person owns and one of the most tax-wise assets to use when supporting charity.

Distributions your IRA are limited to a max of \$100,000/year.

Distributions are excluded from taxable income.

Please note, this appeal is not made to those who have lost jobs or who are hurting due to the pandemic. This appeal is made specifically to those of us who still have our jobs, and are still drawing a regular paycheck. And remember, our generous giving says as much about our spiritual health and well-being as it says about our financial management abilities.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- Dan

THANK YOU. YOU ARE A BLESSING!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this past Family Promise Host Week a success, once again.

Our next host week will be in January 2021.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



We want to thank our church family for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and acts of love over the past few weeks as we grieve the loss of **Celie, Mike's sister**. She was such an inspiration to us! Celie will be remembered for loving well and for the hard battle she fought with such bravery and positivity. We have been blessed by her life, and will remember her with fond memories! Also, **Mike's dad, Jake** is doing well after his hip surgery. Again, we say thank you for the concern and many prayers lifted up on his behalf! We are pleased to say that the surgery went well and his recovery is off to a good start! Keep the prayers coming for his complete recovery! We give thanks for such a thoughtful and prayerful church family! We are blessed by you! - **Mike and Tina Broyles** and **Jake and Carol Broyles**

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

[A PEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE]

I AM THE TRUE GRAPEVINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE GARDENER.

- JOHN 15:1



Joey Peacher
Preaching Minister

My kids like strange plants, like Venus flytraps. What boy doesn't like a plant that eats bugs? Pitcher plants are another carnivorous plant. These jug-shaped plants lure insects with nectar oozing from the rim. One species that grows in Borneo can adjust the slipperiness of its rim. When the rim is dry, scout ants check it out, but this pitcher plant remains how it is. The plant waits to wet its rim until the scout brings back more ants. Besides being cool evidence for divine design, the pitcher plant is a great example of patiently remaining. A common word Jesus repeats in John 15 is "remain." Remain in me. Remain in the Father's love. Remain attached to Jesus. Rest in him. Hold that thought.

Many of you probably don't know I enjoy gardening. Two images that come together for God in the above verse are two of my favorites: Father and gardener. Jesus is mistaken for a gardener when he is resurrected. God plants Adam and Eve in a garden and tells them to care for it. A garden plays a role in our spiritual journey. The gospel story is about humanity's exit from a garden and God's plan through Jesus to return us to a garden. We are dirt and from dirt dead things rise and bring new life.

The first words of the Lord's Prayer are "Our Father." Father is what Jesus calls God. It is what he invites us to call him. The evolution of God as Father in the Bible is an interesting one. There are nearly half a million words in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), yet God is portrayed as father only 15 times. When we read Jesus's words, he uses Father 65 times in Luke and over 170 in John. Many of you do know I am a strong advocate of Godly fatherhood. The influence of a father on children is paramount. There are elements connecting good gardening and good fatherhood.

There is the protection and nurturing of little shoots, the fight for health against predators, the pruning of dead or unneeded parts for the sake of better growth, but there is also much watching and waiting and praying. There is remaining. We must remain connected to our good roots. We must remain in relationship with the Father and divine gardener. God exists in relationship. He calls us to grow in relationship of reliance with Him. Maybe this is a season where the best (and perhaps only) thing we can do is "remain." But we can be sure of this: God is a gardener, and he is still tending to you. God is a Father, and he always loves you!

- Joey

CRAFT DAY

Saturday, November 28 from Noon - 4:00 pm

Bring Your Own Craft Day will resume this month! It will continue to be on Saturdays at the end of every other month.

We will still be in the Family Life Center, and socially distanced around the tables.

Hope to see you there!

Please make sure to wear a mask.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOX)



Have you picked up a shoe box to fill? They are available outside, under the white table, and inside in the foyer. **All packed boxes are due by Sunday, November 15.**

Visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> for important COVID-19 updates and how to pack your shoebox. You can also bless children around the world without leaving home, by building a shoebox online.

If you can, include a **\$9 donation** per shoebox for shipping/other project costs.

ADJUSTED OFFICE HOURS FOR THANKSGIVING

The church offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25. They will remain closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26 and on Black Friday, November 27.



THANKSGIVING CARDS

Please be sure to visit the tables in the lobby and sign the handmade cards that are laid out for members who have moved, for missionaries, military, those needing encouragement, and continuing financial supporters. **They will be out to sign through Sunday, November 15.**

If you are still not attending Sunday worship in person, you can stop by the building any time from now until November 15th during office hours to sign the cards.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, December 13 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
At the Pitman Road Church of Christ

Join us here at the building for another American Red Cross Blood drive. You will truly be a blessing, as your donation will be used to save lives. You will also be tested for the COVID-19 antibodies automatically, and will be able to view your results to see if you ever had the virus.



Due to enhanced safety precautions, donors are being urged to schedule an appointment ahead of time so that we can properly manage the donor flow and number of people at the drive.

To make an appointment, call **1-800-733-2767**, or follow the online instructions below.

1. Go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and put in our sponsor code: **Pitman Road**
2. Our blood drive date, location, and time should come up. Click on **"See Times"**.
3. There, you will choose an available time slot, and whether you will give a regular blood donation or a power red donation. (If you choose power red, you will be giving twice the amount of red blood cells.)
4. Lastly, you will be prompted to either sign in to an existing account or create a new one in order to complete the registration process and secure your time slot.

RESIGNATION AS ELDER OF PITMAN ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

I have served with these two brothers from the beginning. I simultaneously feel joy and sadness at their decisions to resign. Joy for them and their wives as they move to their next season of life. Sadness for us because our church will miss their wisdom, dedication, and servant hearts. Horatio and Mike have devoted untold hours of their precious time both by offering individual counsel and by sitting in elders meetings as decisions were made.

It was not intentionally planned this way, but just as they were appointed at the same time, they reach retirement age simultaneously.

These two devoted followers of Jesus have not hidden their "lights under a basket." No!

I am persuaded that other devoted disciples will be selected from among our number to follow in their capable and loving footsteps.

Wishing you both all of God's richest blessings during your retirement years. Thank you again for your service to the Pitman Rd. Church Of Christ. (Fortunately, Horatio and Jackie will still be spitting their time between NJ and Florida for the coming year, and Mike and Donna promise to visit often.) - **Dan**



MIKE AND DONNA LAZAR

To the Pitman Road Church of Christ Elders, Deacons, Ministers, and Members,

I submit my resignation as an Elder of the Pitman Road Church of Christ. As you are aware, Donna and I are moving to Williamsburg, Virginia. We take this time to thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ here along with some amazing Christians. In particular, I wish to thank the former Elders Dwight, Greg, Tom and Larry for their guidance and also past ministers John, Glynn, Paul, Steve and Carlos. And I cannot forget Solid Gold for their fellowship.

I am very confident about the existing Pitman leadership, Ministers, Elders and Deacons.

We have been members here longer than any other church in our lifetime and in our hearts always will be members. We won't be too far

away, so don't be surprised to see us again once the pandemic is over, and that includes Camp. Blessings to all of you. Respectfully submitted, **Mike Lazar**

HORATIO AND JACKIE FENTON

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heaven.

Dear Pitman Family,

After much prayer and supplication, Jackie and I have concluded it is time to submit my resignation as an Elder.

It has been my privilege to serve Pitman for the past 20 years: 7 years as a Deacon, and 13 years as an Elder. As we prepare for retirement and our eventual relocation to Florida, we felt this was the appropriate time to begin our transition.

Serving as an Elder has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and we are eternally grateful for the love and support you provided to our family over the years. We look forward to continuing our worship with the Pitman family until our move.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Respectfully submitted, **Horatio L. Fenton**



PACK THE PULPIT

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME"
MATTHEW 25:35

We will be doing things a little differently this year, however, we still plan to collect and distribute 50 Thanksgiving baskets to those in need. So, what can you do to help make this food drive a success?

Pack a Bag

Pick up an "official" shopping list and grocery bag to fill. There are bags available outside on the white table, and also inside the building in the lobby. PLEASE only buy items that are on the list!

Packed bags are due by November 15, which will be "Pack the Pulpit Sunday". During service, family groups of our congregation will be bringing the bags forward, while masked, one at a time.

You do not need to wait until Pack the Pulpit Sunday to bring in completed bags. Packed bags can be dropped off to the building during office hours any day between now and then.

If you are aware of a family in need who will benefit from receiving a Thanksgiving basket, please see Dottie or contact her by calling our church office at (856) 589-1500 as soon as possible. Thank you!

Bring in a Turkey and/or Pie

We are also in need of 50 turkeys and 50 fresh pies to complete the Thanksgiving baskets. (Pies can be fresh, store-bought pies; they do not need to be homemade. **PLEASE, no frozen pies!**) If you would like to donate a turkey and/or a pie, please see or contact Dottie to let her know as soon as possible!

Turkeys and pies need to be brought in on November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please do not bring turkeys and pies in on "Pack the Pulpit Sunday". We do not have enough freezer space to store all of the turkeys for an entire week early. *(Contact the church office if this is going to be an issue, and we will work it out.)*

CONNECT WITH US



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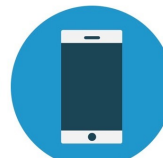


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WAYS TO GIVE



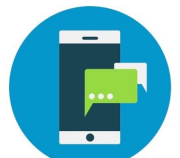
In person
at the
worship service.



Via the
easyTithe
mobile app.



On our
website at
pitmanroadcoc.com



Text to Give
Text amount to
856.209.6212

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