



# PITMAN ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 4, 2022 | Volume 4, Issue 12 | 500 Pitman Road, Sewell, NJ 08080

## Our Vision

To be a place where God's love is experienced, known, and shared by all.

## Our Mission

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

# *Pitman Road* POST

Make  
a difference

Move  
into family

Meet  
Jesus

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

[A PEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE]

## THE POWER BEHIND CHRISTMAS



**Joey Peacher**  
Preaching Minister

I have been reading through 2 Kings as part of my Year of Discipleship with Josiah (if you want to know more about what that is, ask one of us). Josiah chose it as our Bible book to study together. 2 Kings is filled with stories of God's power through Elisha, sad stories of Israel's kings, and hopeful stories of Judean kings, such as Hezekiah and Josiah. This passage stood out to me one day:

*But these various groups of foreigners also continued to worship their own gods. In town after town where they lived, they placed their idols at the pagan shrines that the people of Samaria had built. Those from Babylon worshiped idols of their god Succoth-benoth. Those from Cuthah worshiped their god Nergal. And those from Hamath worshiped Ashima. The Avvites worshiped their gods Nibhaz and Tartak. And the people from Sepharvaim even burned their own children as sacrifices to their gods Adrammelech and Anammelech.*

2 Kings 17:29-31

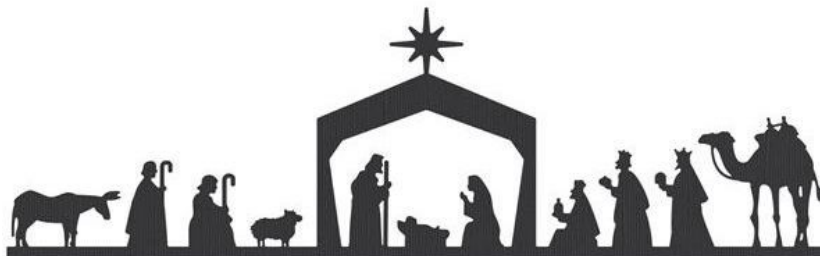
This is after Israel has been conquered by the Assyrians during King Hoshea's reign. The Assyrians move people into Samaria and are taught about Israel's God, but still worshipped these minor deities. What struck me were the variety of gods. How many idols did these people bring with them? How many different allegiances did they have? How much fear ruled their lives? What would drive someone to burn their own children as the people of Sepharvaim did? Worshipping all these other gods was not new to Israel. In fact, the author writes earlier in the chapter, "this disaster (Assyria conquering Israel) came upon the people of Israel because they worshiped other gods." People had traded the true power of God for the powerless idols of false gods. Thus, disaster ensued. This brings me to the power behind Christmas.

The angels sang out in chorus on the night of Jesus' birth. They witnessed, through song, to shepherds in the fields, a new power coming from Heaven to Earth. The King of Heaven would bring joy and peace. The night of Jesus' birth was and is a night of celebration, but not even the angels knew the ultimate and mysterious plan of God (Eph 3:9). The plan included Christ's death on the cross. What started on the glorious morning of God becoming flesh as a newborn baby, ended in the most shameful death imaginable. Yet, what Jesus did on the cross affected more than just humanity. Paul writes to the Colossians, "He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets" (2:15, Msg).

What Paul's words mean is the power the Israelites and Babylonians handed to the minor deities listed in 2 Kings 17 has been taken back by Jesus. What we see happening to him on this side of the veil is reversed in the spiritual realm. Instead of him marching naked through the streets to Golgotha, it is the false gods who march naked. We give power to all sorts of idols in our day. They don't have names like Tartak or Nergal. They have names like money, possessions, sex, food, sports. We give power to them by giving away our time and sacrificing our families for them. Jesus came to strip powers from spiritual tyrants, and we give it back. One of my favorite Christmas songs is Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (listen to the Pentatonix version). There is some great theology within the lyrics of this song. The first verse goes like this:

*Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies*

The celebration of Christmas is the celebration of what God is willing to do to reconcile with his people, who have given allegiance to other gods. He entered our realm as a vulnerable baby, endured the scorn of men, and died a death on the cross. Jesus triumphed over all gods to whom we give power. This Christmas, as we remember and celebrate God Incarnate, let's remember the power behind Christmas is the power of Jesus on the Cross.







**Our semi annual blood drive is NEXT Sunday, December 11 from 9 AM till 2 PM.** Our blood drive is intentionally scheduled just before the holidays, when there is frequently an extra large demand for blood. You can give the gift of life. Just as Jesus gave his blood for you, you can give your blood for someone else!

Go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/> find-drive and use sponsor code "Pitman Road" to schedule an appointment today.

## ~~Second Sunday Social~~

**There will be NO Second Sunday Social in the month of December.** The next potluck will be on Sunday, January 8 at 11:45am in the FLC.



## SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

**From Now Until Sunday, December 18**

Maggie is doing her annual donation collection for **Veteran's Haven Homeless Shelter** in Hammonton.

If you have any questions about what to donate, here is a list of some options: toiletries, blankets, clothing, shoes, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Bring your donations to the church building on a Sunday morning or any time during office hours. Place items in the designated boxes in the foyer. Please make sure all products are brand new. The shelter will not accept any old or used products.



## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Joey Peacher's grandmother, **Bobbie Sorgenfrei**, went to be with the Lord on November 16. Our love and prayers are with **the Peacher family** during this time.

Starting in January, Refuge will be taking an undetermined amount of time off. We're sad too, but God has other plans. #lastrefugefornow

**REFUGE**  
COME AS YOU ARE

**SUNDAY**  
DEC. 18, 5:30 PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
PITMAN ROAD CHURCH



## MANY THANKS

Pitman Road Church Family,  
"This extra-special thank-you note sent to you today holds more appreciation than any words can say. You're among the nicest people I have ever known, and you'll never be forgotten for the thoughtfulness you've shown." Thanks for everything.

- **Your Sister, La'Verne Daniels**

Dear Church Family, we thank you for the Thanksgiving card, it was a joy to receive! After signing those cards annually for over 20 years, it was surreal to be on the receiving end. Your messages of love warmed our hearts and reminded us how blessed we have been all these years to be a part of the Pitman church family. We miss you all and wish you peace and joy in the coming holiday season and new year!

- **Love in Christ, Dave and Annette Perine**

*Retreat program, 3 nights lodging & 9 meals*  
**only \$99 \$79**

**Winter Retreat**

**L**earn **I**nspire **F**ortify **T**ransform **U**plift

*for college-aged young adults and high school seniors*

**December 29, 2022 – January 1, 2023**

## NEW WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS

"The Heart of Our Faith" is a class that seeks to discuss the heart of the Christian faith. We will explore this concept in two parts beginning with reading through Timothy Keller's book, *The Prodigal God*, that challenges Christians everywhere to self reflect on their faith journey. The second part of class will explore and discuss the heart of our faith at Pitman Road as put forth in our common language: vision, mission, core beliefs and values, spiritual growth goals. We especially invite all our members to be a part of this timely self and group reflection. This class will be facilitated by Mike Broyles.

## PACK THE PULPIT/THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This year, when our church "packed the pulpit" and donated turkeys and pies, **48 families** received Thanksgiving dinner baskets! Thank you to all who contributed turkeys, pies, and groceries. Thank you to all who helped gather, organize, pack, and distribute the boxes. A special thanks to Dottie Grillo for contacting the families and coordinating the collection and distribution of the dinner baskets.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE

Thank you, Tina Broyles (and Mike) for always making this a success! We would also like to thank everyone at Pitman Road for your giving hearts and for another successful collection of items and toys that will put a big smile on a child's face.

This year, we were given a goal of collecting 115 boxes, along with the motivation of Joey and our elders agreeing to take a pie in the face if we were to reach or exceed our goal. Did we reach our goal? We think this picture speaks for itself!

(129 boxes were dropped off this year!)



## CONNECT WITH US



[www.pitmanroadcoc.com](http://www.pitmanroadcoc.com)



@pitmanroadchurch



856.589.1500



[www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/pitmanroadchurchofchrist)

## WAYS TO GIVE



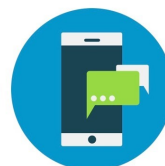
In person  
at the  
worship service.



Via the  
easyTithe  
mobile app.



On our  
website at  
[pitmanroadcoc.com](http://pitmanroadcoc.com)



Text to Give  
Text amount to  
856.209.6212

### Minister

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### Office Staff

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

### Elders

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

**Dan Cooper** ..... [dcooper@cochrist.org](mailto:dcooper@cochrist.org)

**Brian Holden** ..... [bcholden94@hotmail.com](mailto:bcholden94@hotmail.com)

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



❄️ *Pitman Road Christmas Show* ❄️

**Saturday, December 17 at 7PM**

**Here at Pitman Road**

Join us for live music,  
individual and congregational singing,  
holiday and traditional classics,  
and more holiday fun!

There will be door prizes.







A Christmas party big enough for the whole family!

**Sunday, December 18**  
**During Our 10AM Worship Time**



**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING  
EXCITING FOR THE  
ENTIRE FAMILY TO DO  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?**

Take a break from all the baking, the shopping, the endless rolls of wrapping paper, and join us for an unforgettable Christmas experience complete with fun, games, music, and lights!