



PITMAN ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 5, 2023 | Volume 5, Issue 2 | 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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

[A PEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE]

FILLED WITH JOY, HATED BY THE WORLD



Joey Peacher
Preaching Minister

Later this month, a group of both teens and adults will head to Gatlinburg for the annual trip to Winterfest. I will attend my first Winterfest with this group. This year's theme is "The Hour Has Come" and revolves around Jesus' prayer in John 17. There are devotionals built around this prayer during the Winterfest days, and devotionals to prepare your heart ahead of time. I'm interested to see the direction the discussions go, but one passage struck me as I read through John 17:

I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (John 17:13-14)

Jesus is speaking the night before He died. He gathered His closest friends to tell them His final words. Part of those words were a prayer for them to continue in joy without Him. There would be grief, confusion, maybe blame. They would question the wisdom of giving Himself up and not calling on the legions of angels at His disposal. Like a parent reminding his or her child that there is a method behind the madness, Jesus wants them to remember that everything He said and did was for them. He says, "I told them many things, SO they would be filled with joy." His messages, discussions, answers, prayers, and miracles provide a plethora of memories to rely on when life gets hard. Jesus knows they will fall apart and go their separate ways. The disciples would flee, deny, doubt when He did return, hide from the world, and return to what they knew. When circumstances got difficult and Jesus was no longer around to hold them together, they would falter. He knows life will get hard.

I wonder what John thought as he reflected on these words of Jesus decades later when he organized his gospel. By then, John had lost all his friends and family. His brother had been killed early on because of his allegiance to Jesus. John sits on a small island in the Mediterranean Sea because he has been exiled for his allegiance to Jesus. He has experienced the hatred of the world, yet the words of his books and letters are full of joy.

This prayer is mere minutes after Jesus redefines the Passover meal as a memorial moment for Him. What did John think at the Passover eleven months after Jesus disappeared into the sky? What about sixty years later when he writes his gospel? Every time John celebrated pivotal moments in his people's history, he remembered Jesus. Just as bad moments occurred since Jesus left, many good ones did, too. The church expanded by thousands and into the farthest reaches of the Roman Empire. A vicious persecutor of Christians named Saul had become one of their most ardent defenders. Hearts had been softened. Lives had been changed.

John was able to endure the hardships of his life because he focused on the joy of victory in Jesus. It was no mistake that the last thing Jesus said to all His disciples before He prayed for them in their presence were these words: "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

The reminder of hardships in the world buffers the difficulties when they come. We expect them and can be ready for them. Jesus left us with His Spirit and His words compiled by His closest friends to give us peace and joy despite the hatred of the world. The future is full of good and bad experiences. As Jesus overcomes the world, so can we.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR PITMAN ROAD FAMILY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Christmas gift. We are grateful to be part of a church family that loves us and helps give our boys fun and memorable experiences. We look forward to 2023! Thanks again, **The Peacher Family**

THANK
YOU

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING

As a nonprofit organization, recognized by the state of New Jersey as a tax exempt corporation, the state of NJ mandates that we meet annually. That being the case, our elders have selected Sunday, February 12th as the date for our annual meeting. Please consider this your written notification of our church's annual meeting. If you are an active member of the Pitman Road Church of Christ, and in good standing, please consider yourself informed and invited to the **Pitman Road Church of Christ's annual corporate meeting, Sunday, February 12, 2023 immediately after morning worship assembly.**

SECRET SISTER INFORMATION

The Secret Sisters Revealing/Joining Party will be on **Saturday, March 4 at 1:00 PM** at the building in the Family Life Center. Visit the table in the back of the auditorium for more information!

Will you be joining us or continuing as a **Secret Sister?**

If you are interested in becoming a Secret Sister this year, or if you are already one but would like to edit or add to your S.S. form, PLEASE see/contact Dottie ASAP!

DELAY IN CONTRUCTION OF HARRY'S CAFE

Due to issues with building permits and architecture, the construction of Harry's Cafe in the foyer has been delayed. This will just make us appreciate it more once it's done. We can't wait to see the fireplace! In the meantime, construction began on merging two of the children's classrooms in the D-wing. The wall between Room D-4 and Room D-5 was removed to create a larger space for the kids. Go check it out!



Check out our new church van!

We went from a 2000 GMC to a 2016 Chevrolet. Tip-top shape, just detailed and four new tires. With God's blessing, this van will serve our church's teens and adults for many years to come.

CRITTER DINNER

Saturday, February 25 at 6 PM
At Fairton Christian Center

What is a "Critter Dinner?" Well, if you are curious about and/or interested in this event, contact Will Mendez no later than Sunday, February 19. If we have enough interest, we will use the church van!

Bring Your Own
Craft Day
Saturday, February 25
Noon to 5:00 pm
in the Family Life Center
Snacks are provided!
Hope to see you there!

"THE CHOSEN" TV SHOW: WATCH AND DISCUSS GROUP

Starting Sunday, March 5 at 5 PM
Here at Pitman Road

Join us as we watch and discuss all episodes of "The Chosen." We will be starting from episode 1.

REGISTER FOR OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP AND PAY IN FULL BY MARCH 31

CAMP MANATAWNY

JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

GET \$26 OFF PLUS A FREE T-SHIRT



Please continue to pray for this Malawi Project. Pray we can make a difference. Pray for the safety of the delivery of these babies. Please bring in all

donations by **Sunday, February 19, 2023**. You have been very generous, and because of you many of these women of Malawi will be able to deliver their babies in the safest place possible.

Items still needed:

- * Trash Bags- 40 gallon or larger (300 still needed)
- * Receiving Blankets
- * Baby Wash Cloths
- * Wash Cloths for Mom
- * Baby Hats (200 still needed)

After counting your generous donations, we will let you know where we might be short.

Monetary donations are still needed for many other items! (These items included: chux pads, soap, razor blades, and nylon cord, which we will purchase.)

Our goal is 500 - 1 gallon bags. We can do this!

A HEARTFELT MESSAGE FROM GARTH AND DIANA HUTCHINSON

With mixed emotions, we shared this announcement with our church family on Sunday, January 8. We are certainly wishing Garth and Diana God's blessings in their future endeavors, and we are thankful for the years they have served our church. The Hutchinson's will continue to worship with us as they await God's direction for their future:



During this past year, Diana and I have been seeking God's will concerning our future in His kingdom. Ever since the passing of Dad Rhodes in 2015, we have been wondering if it was time for us to be involved in a mission effort or possibly to return to our work in Marseille, France. My time at Missio Seminary has invigorated me spiritually and confirmed my desire to be more directly involved with mission work in an urban setting.

We are prayerfully considering our next steps; however, we have not yet made a decision. When we do, we will certainly communicate with you all. As we go through this process, we will continue to give ourselves to prayer, planning, and preparation. For this reason, I feel that I will not be able to continue in my role as an elder here at Pitman church. I feel that it would be too much for me to pursue our personal preparation and at the same time adequately help lead our church.

I will continue taking classes at Missio until June to complete my theology degree. During this time, Diana and I will periodically visit mission efforts in Philadelphia and surrounding areas on Sundays and at other times.

We appreciate you all very much and we love the Pitman Road Church. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we go through this time of learning and searching. We love you, and we deeply appreciate your prayers. Much love and respect, **Garth and Diana**

HOW TO SUPPORT BLACK HISTORY MONTH YEAR ROUND:



Support Black-owned businesses in your community



Read a book or watch documentaries about Black history



Volunteer at local community organizations and get involved



Educate friends and family

CONNECT WITH US



www.pitmanroadcoc.com



@pitmanroadchurch



856.589.1500

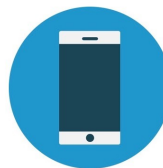


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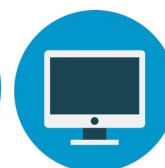
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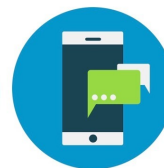
In person at the worship service.



Via the easyTithe mobile app.



On our website at pitmanroadcoc.com



Text to Give
Text amount to 856.209.6212

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Second Sunday Social

"Souper" Bowl Pre-Game Party

Next Sunday, February 12, 2023

In the Family Life Center at 11:45 AM

After the Worship Service and the Annual Corporate Meeting

All of our members and guests are invited to attend our annual "Souper" Bowl Pre-Game Party!

Members are asked to bring soup, chili, and sandwiches.

Please bring all food pre-cut and pre-heated!

Desserts will be provided by elders' and deacons' wives. Beverages will also be provided.

Questions?

Please see/contact Tony or Stephanie DeStefano

Super Bowl House Parties

Sunday, February 12
The game starts at 6:30 pm

At the home of **Corny and Phyllis Walker**, arrival time is 5:30 pm. Please contact Phyllis and let her know if you'll be attending, and what you will bring.

At the home of **Aaron and Jenn Pearl**, arrival time is 6:00 pm. Bring an appetizer and/or a dessert. Drinks are provided. Kids are welcome.

At the home of **Tim and Melody Davis**, arrival time is 5:30 pm. Pizza will be provided. RSVP to Melody if you plan to attend.

Be Super Generous

You will have an opportunity to make a donation to our Family Promise ministry at the "Souper" Bowl Pre-Game Party or at any of the house parties!

Cash and/or gift cards are greatly appreciated!

\$25 gift cards to: Wawa, Walmart, Target, or Aldi along with cards for gas and transportation (Uber or Lyft)

