

Hebrews 10:23-25NRSV

²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

From the Pastor

We have been working our way through the book of Hebrews. On November 5th, Larry Harter will regale us with inspiration on Psalm 23, "A Psalm for the Living," then we are back to chapter 10 in Hebrews which contains the above verses.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and Advent it becomes more and more important to "provoke one another to love and good deeds".

We do need to encourage one another and realize that we do not act alone but in concert with all Christians in presenting the love, and works, and Good News of Christ.

We do not do good deeds to gain attention or good standing in the community - but we do them in response to the goodness and love Christ has done for us.

He does not see the faults of people and write them off, he sees the potential in people and continuously offers them hope for the future.

Since we too were the receivers of such love, how can we do any less for those around us.

To use a Star Trek term, set your heart for stun in this season of joy - Stun people with love so they are shocked into a new way of seeing Christianity.

Pastor Ken



Pittsburg CoB

"Link"

November 2017

Web: www.pittsburgcob.org
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Pastor: Ken Oren

Sunday 9:00 am - Sunday School
Sunday 10:00 am - Praise and Worship

--- CALENDAR OF EVENTS ---

- Nov 1 Kairos cookies due, Kairos weekend Nov 2-5
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation chapter 19
- Nov 4-5 **Time change, fall back**
- Nov 5 Sunday 6:00 pm Gospel Concert
Featuring: **The Morse Family**
- Nov 8 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation
- Nov 15 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation
- Nov 22 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation
- Nov 29 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation
- Dec 3 Sunday 6:00 pm Gospel Concert
Featuring: **Christmas Concert**

**NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Kylie Emrick
- 2 Brenda Westfall
- 3 Matthew Marker
- 7 Barbara Sease
- 10 Jeanette Cook
- 14 Nadine Zimmer
- 15 Dustin Williams

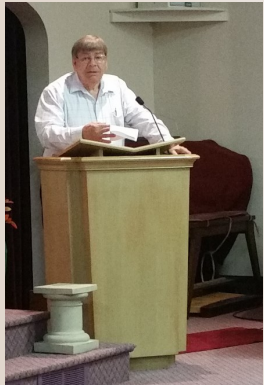
Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

Castine Area Food Bank
Food item for November
is:
Canned fruit

**Sunday evening Concert
in November (11-5 at 6 pm)
The Morse Family**



Jonathan & Heidi Morse have each seen the Lord's hand move powerfully in their lives. Having been through trying times and seeing how the Lord has taken them through them allows them to identify with those who are hurting and are thirsting for the Lord's touch in their lives. The kids take part in the ministry as well. Carlie sings and plays her violin. Hope is learning violin and Holly just started mandolin lessons. They are singing more and more and Gabriel isn't afraid to get on the microphone either (well, most of the time!!) Gideon was born in January 2013 and has been exposed to Southern Gospel music early as he crawled around on the floor while we practice! Now he sings along at home and one of these days will make it on the stage. Baby 8 is on the way as well so we have another member up and coming.



Jonathan has traveled with Gospel Quartets for years and is thrilled to be serving the Lord with his family. He is also the youth pastor of his church. Heidi leads a youth praise, drama and singing group called Ablaze. When not raising the seven children she is also involved with leading the youth group and counseling those in need. Also joining the family at concerts is Jonathan's dad Bill. Bill has been playing the piano for over 50 years and is known by many in the area for his beautiful music. He plays along with the family while they sing in addition to piano solos. The public is invited to come and listen to this talented family's gospel music. A love offering will be accepted and refreshments will be served following the concert.

Book Report:

The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel

When Lee was an investigative reporter his wife accepted Christ as Savior. Lee was an atheist and decided to prove her wrong through investigation of Christ as a farce and legend. He was determined to make his point known to her and to all who believed the Christian way of life. Determined to prove there is no basis to the Christian belief. In his quest for truth he used his investigative skills and experience to find the truth.

His interviews to him to many authors, professors and scholars asking questions as to the viability of scriptures, especially the gospels, and if historical facts could corroborate these.

While interviewing Bruce Metzger, PHD; he was told of a group of people from all religions, even atheists, met to discuss the validity of Jesus. This was called the Jesus Seminar. Gregory Boyd PHD also mentioned this group. The Jesus Seminar claimed the gospels are not accurate or reliable. They believe only about 2% of the words accredited to Jesus were actually said by him.

They also claim that he didn't do any of the miracles in scripture or that he was supernatural. Their point was to get the result they wanted from the beginning.

They said that his followers wanted him to be bigger than life, a legend.

History has written proof of Jesus' and his followers lives written down. Those who were so strong in belief that they would rather die than recant those beliefs.

Historical writings mention the darkness that covered the Mediterranean area when Christ was crucified. This happened during the 202nd Olympiad in 33 AD.

"It became night in the 6th hour (noon) of the day" was written in documents. Jewish documents claim Jesus was a sorcerer, the reason he could do all the miracles he did.

Paul's letters are an important witness to the deity of Christ, and he was raised in a strict Jewish home.

Historical evidence reinforces scriptures.

Even secular sources tell us about Jesus' divine nature and corroboration of these maintain Jesus is the most influential individual who has ever lived.

Science, through archaeology, has great bearing on the reliability of the gospels. Ancient census reports lend credence to Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Scripture can be validated by the cities mentioned but not in other books as the Book of Mormon whose cities can't be found in history.

Some people believe Jesus was a good man who can inspire others to lead a good life and have hope in the midst of despair. Christian faith has always been rooted in reality - not so with faith of liberal scholars just

following a pipe dream.

What sets Jesus apart is his miracles and him saying they are a sign of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

He always said "Amen, I say to you" which means it is the truth. He called God "Abba" which is an intimate word that Jewish children called their fathers. It is a term of endearment. All that Jesus did was the work of God. Jesus didn't make claims about himself that he couldn't back up with miracles! He didn't just claim to be God - he backed it up with feats of healing, power over nature, teaching and divine insights to people and his resurrection. He could exorcise demons and send them into pigs who plunged to their death over a cliff. Gary Collins PHD stated "It's one thing to claim divinity; it's quite another to embody the characteristic that makes God God!"

The question came up during a talk with Donald Carson PHD "If God is a loving God, how can he send people to Hell?" His reply was "They're consigned there, because they reject the Maker and want to be at the center of the universe. They do it to themselves and still won't repent." Continuing on "In the end no one will be able to say "this isn't fair!" you're either on God's side or Satan's side."

Prophecy in scripture was fulfilled by Jesus and no one else. The odds are so staggering against one person doing this yet Jesus did do it. Even Jewish scholars don't claim fulfillment of prophecy was falsified. Muslims don't believe Jesus died on the cross, but fled to India, but history tells us he was. The Jesus seminar came to the conclusion that Jesus was buried and dug up and consumed by wild dogs. Mark's gospel some think to be the earliest account of the resurrection, tells that women found the empty tomb. Jewish custom was that women were not valid witness to anything, but yet they were the ones who found Jesus had risen from the dead. Other friends of his were witness to the Risen Savior later. Jesus resurrection changed the lives of Disciples to the point they were willing to die for their conviction. They saw him, talked to him, ate with him. In 1844, German scholar, Julius Muller challenged anyone to find a single example of a legend developing as fast as Jesus in history. The response was silence.

After his investigation of historical and scriptural facts Lee Strobel decided in 1981 that his biggest objection to Jesus also had been quieted by the evidence of history and it would take more faith to remain an atheist than to trust in Jesus! He is now a Christian husband, father, author and pastor.

This book and the movie based on it is inspiring and worth the time.

Submitted by Sue Strawser

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Pastor Rob Dothard



Margaret & Terrance

Scenes from the Revival brought by
Rob Dothard and company.

We were blessed with four days of good words,
good friends, and good music.
Thanks, Rob for inspiration, challenge and hope!

