

Psalm 100:1-5NRSV

¹A Psalm of thanksgiving. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. ²Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. ³Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. ⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

From the Pastor

As I write this, many people are cooking, cleaning, preparing for a festive meal with family and friends. We surely have much for which to be thankful. I'm extra thankful for a faithful congregation of fellow Christians who are willing to work together. As we were preparing for our annual Christmas concert, we found we needed a lot of help. Very quickly, many people jumped in and volunteered. It looks like we will have a wonderful concert and play to which you may invite your friends and family. December 3rd is also the first Sunday in Advent. For the next four weeks we will be preparing for the coming Lord. Not just shopping but reflecting on our attitude and by looking for ways to help others. Our Bible study has been reminding us that we should be preparing all the time - especially as the day approaches. One way we can preparing is by coming together in study. On Wednesday evenings we are finishing our Revelation study and beginning a new thing - we are studying the life of King David and how the Psalms intertwine with the events of his life. Join us!

Pastor Ken



Pittsburg CoB

“Link”

December 2017

Web: www.pittsburgcob.org
email: pittsburgcob@yahoo.com
Pastor: Ken Oren

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

-- CALENDAR OF EVENTS --

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| Nov 26 | Sunday 3:00 pm
Play practice for “Hart’s Grill” |
| Nov 29 | Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Revelation |
| Dec 3 | Sunday 6:00 pm Gospel Concert
Featuring:
Our annual Christmas Concert
And an original play, “ Hart’s Grill ” |
| Dec 6 | Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David |
| Dec 13 | Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David |
| Dec 17 | Sunday morning special guest music,
Jahn Luke and Karen Runck |
| Dec 20 | Wednesday 7:00 pm
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David |
| Dec 24 | Sunday 10 pm Christmas Eve Service |

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Gilbert & Diane Jay
- 5 Jerrlyn Hart
- 6 Marilyn Miller
- 9 Chase Scantland
- 15 Genevieve Dues
- 19 John Strawser
- 20 Doug Bevins
- 26 Rebecca Horner
- 31 Patricia Campbell

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 December
is:
Canned meat



Practice for “Hart’s Grill”
Come see it Dec 3 at 6 pm
At our annual Christmas Concert

**Sunday evening Concert
in December 3rd at 6 pm)**
Christmas Music and “Hart’s Grill” play



The Pittsburg Church of the Brethren will present, “Hart’s Grill”, on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 6 PM. The play was written and directed by Pastor Ken Oren. The play demonstrates how a diverse group of people react to each other while being stranded together during a snow storm, and how first impressions can often be misleading. There will also be congregational singing of traditional Christmas songs. Refreshments will be served following the concert. The public is invited to come and enjoy an evening of Christmas celebration.

The Tradition of Advent - Sunday December 3rd

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

There are three meanings of 'coming' that Christians describe in Advent. The first, and most thought of, happened about 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. The second can happen now as Jesus wants to come into our lives now. And the third will happen in the future when Jesus comes back to the world as King and Judge, not a baby.

No one is really sure when Advent was first celebrated but it dates back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas.

Some people fast during advent to help them concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus's coming.

There are some Christmas Carols that are really Advent Carols! These include: *People Look East, Come, thou long expected Jesus; Lo! He comes, with clouds descending;* and perhaps the most popular advent song, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel!*.

According to the standards of the world Floyd was nobody. Floyd traveled around the country looking for work at harvest time. Floyd had no home and no place to go. A couple invited him into their home and gave him a home-cooked dinner. Floyd said very little as they ate. The wife, Nancy, offered to wash his clothes for him but Floyd declined the offer. He picked cherries in the orchard next to their home that day and slept under the trees that gave him his livelihood.

Early the next morning Floyd returned to the couple who had shown him kindness. While he finished one last project in the orchard, Nancy, on an impulse, wrote him a letter telling of God's love. Then she tucked it with a little cash into a New Testament. She found his backpack in the yard, and stuck the packet inside. She imagined him traveling that day looking for work and at the end of the day bedding down somewhere under the stars, weary and all alone. She was warmed by the thought of Floyd's surprise when he discovered her note, the New Testament and the cash she had planted in his backpack.

This Christian couple never saw Floyd again. Four years later Floyd's sister wrote to them, telling of his death. As Floyd's sister was going through his few belongings she found the New Testament and the letter Nancy wrote telling of God's love. "They must have been very dear to his heart," Floyd's sister concluded, "for he carried them with him until he died."

It was such a simple gesture " a note, a Bible and a little cash " but little counts for a lot in the kingdom of God. I don't know about you, but I want to be surprised at finding myself among the sheep on that day of judgment. More importantly, want to possess a faith that's real. I want to take advantage of one of the most joyous opportunities Christ gives us, to minister to him.

Nancy Leman, Traveling Friend, Adapted by King Duncan, www.Sermons.com



Ambrose (c. A.D. 340-397) was born in Gaul, where his father was governor. His family shortly moved to Rome where Ambrose was raised to be a skilled poet, orator, and lawyer. After practicing law in the Roman courts for a time, he was named governor of an Italian province and headquartered in Milan. A crisis arose there when Bishop Auxentius died in A.D. 374. The city was divided over who should replace him, and tensions were high. Ambrose assembled the people and used his oratorical powers to appeal for unity. But while he was speaking, a child cried out: "Let Ambrose be bishop!" The crowd took up the chant, and the thirty-five-year-old governor, to his dismay, was elected the city's pastor.

He set himself to study theology, soon becoming a great preacher and a deft defender of orthodox doctrine. He combated paganism and heresy with diligence, maintained the independence of the church against civil powers, and championed morality. He confronted political leaders, even emperors, when necessary. He wrote books and treatises, sermons, hymns, and letters. He tended Milan like a shepherd.

Perhaps none of that was more important than his influence on a hot-blooded infidel who slipped into town one Sunday to hear him preach. The skeptical Augustine found himself deeply impressed by the power of Ambrose's sermons, and he sought personal counseling from the bishop. But Ambrose was too busy. Visitors were allowed into his room, but he paid scant attention to them. He just went ahead reading. Several times Augustine sat watching him, but Ambrose remained unaware of it. His preaching, however, reached the prodigal, and shortly afterward Augustine was converted.

Ambrose continued preaching until he fell sick in A.D. 397. When distressed friends prayed for his healing, he said, "I have so lived among you that I cannot be ashamed to live longer, but neither do I fear to die; for we have a good Lord." On Good Friday, April 3, Ambrose lay with his hands extended in the form of the cross, moving his lips in prayer. His friends huddled in sadness and watched.

Sometime past midnight, their beloved bishop passed to his good Lord.

Morgan, R. J. (2000). Nelson's complete book of stories, illustrations, and quotes (electronic ed.) (86). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

PITTSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
8376 PITTSBURG LAURA RD
ARCANUM OH 45304
www.pitsburgcob.org



If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at pitsburgcob@yahoo.com



Noah rocks a praise song on Sunday morning. Come share in the praise!



John steps in as worship leader. We are thankful for all who give of themselves and share the joy of being together worshipping God.