

# Pitsburg Church of the Brethren Newsletter

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Pastor: Ken Oren

## December 2016

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

### --- CALENDAR OF EVENTS ---

- Nov 30 Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Dec 4 Sunday worship special - New Dawn  
6:00 pm Sunday Evening Concert  
**Christmas Concert**
- Dec 7 Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Dec 11 Sunday worship special -
- Dec 14 Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Dec 17 Family Fun night 4-8 pm
- Dec 18 Sunday worship special -
- Dec 21 Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Dec 24 Saturday 10 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 Sunday worship special -
- Dec 28 Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible Study



Matthew 1:18-21NRSV

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

From the Pastor

Andy Strawser and the Tower youth have been actively striving to learn about each other and about God. They have had several Wednesday evenings packed with joy and enthusiasm. Now they are working to bring some of that enthusiastic learning to us as they help with the annual Christmas concert by participating in an original skit. Most of them have not had theater experience, but it is encouraging to see their willingness to share a message of love.

Please plan on attending and inviting family and friends to this important seasonal spiritual launch. In this season of Thanksgiving, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to the congregation and all who work diligently behind the scenes to serve God and our Christian Family. It is a blessing to be here and to seek Spiritual growth together. May God continue to bless us as we journey into the unknown future.

Pastor Ken



**DECEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Gilbert & Diane Jay
- 5 Jerrilyn Hart
- 6 Marilyn Miller
- 9 Chase Scantland
- 15 Genevieve Dues
- 19 John Strawser
- 20 Doug Bevins
- 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

**Canned meat**

*Box in cloak room*

**The December 4 Concert will be:  
“Christmas Vacation”**



The Pitsburg Church of the Brethren presents,  
“Christmas Vacation,” a play written by  
Pastor Ken Oren and directed by  
Pastor Ken and Youth Director Andrea Strawser.  
The play reminds us of the Spiritual side of Christmas  
amongst a secular society, and how two families with  
differing outlooks come to see the true meaning of  
Christmas.

New Dawn Trio will be performing and congregational  
singing will be included. The public is invited to come  
and enjoy an evening of Christmas celebration. For  
more info, call Bruce at 937-564-2891.

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship  
Hall after the concert.



Larry Harter  
graciously  
came and  
shared the  
message while  
Pastor Ken  
and Doug  
Bevins was  
helping in  
Kairos.  
Thanks for the  
cookies!

# The Pitsburg Church of the Brethren Players

*present:*

## “CHRISTMAS VACATION”

featuring

## New Dawn Trio

A group of Moms got together and composed a list of things they are thankful for. They wrote that they were especially thankful:

"For automatic dishwashers because they make it possible for us to get out of the kitchen before the family comes back in for their after dinner snacks.

"For husbands who attack small repair jobs around the house because they usually make them big enough to call in the professionals.

"For children who put away their things and clean up after themselves. They're such a joy you hate to see them go home to their own parents.

"For teenagers because they give parents an opportunity to learn a second language."

And finally, "For Smoke alarms because they let you know when the turkey's done."

Each of us would have our own list of the things for which we are thankful. Most of us are mature enough in our faith to recognize that Thanksgiving is a most dangerous holiday. When we give thanks for our good health, what does that say to people who do not have a healthy body? Does that say that we are more deserving than they, or that somehow God loves us more?

When we thank God for our nice homes or our families or our freedom as Americans, what does this say about good, decent God-loving people around the world who do not share these blessings?

I have no ready answers for such questions and neither does anyone else. I would prefer, however, as we give thanks this Thursday and all the rest of the year, that we do it for the right reasons.

What are some of the things that every Christian, regardless of his or her circumstance, in every corner of the globe can be thankful for this Thanksgiving season?

Let's explore a few of them.

In Paul's letter to the church at Colossae, he begins by giving thanks for the members of this church. He prays that they might be strengthened "with all power, according to [God's] glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father . . ."

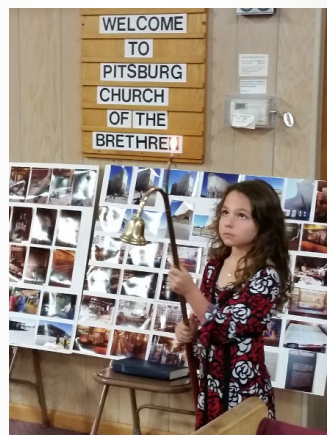
And Paul gives the church at Colossae some very specific things for which they ought to be thankful.

*From Sermons.com*

### Colossians 1:11-20 NRSV

<sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

<sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.



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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at [pitsburgcob@yahoo.com](mailto:pitsburgcob@yahoo.com)



Darwin blesses all of us by giving the children's story and leading the children in singing praise.  
Thanks for all you do, Darwin!