Matthew 1:18–21 (RSV)
18 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. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 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. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

From the Pastor
As I write this we are reminded to be thankful for all our blessings - our families, our sustenance, creation - but we also will enter the season of Christmas. The time we celebrate Christ’s birth. The real meaning of the season though is in the last line of the above scripture. He is no ordinary baby - but God’s Son - and the reason he came was to allow himself to be put on the cross - then rise again - so that we might know the power of redemption. That is what makes the season so beautiful, his gift of everlasting meaning. Ponder the deeper meaning of Christmas. Pastor Ken

Do you have a different photo or new phone number? Check and update the pictorial directory binder in the back of the sanctuary. We hope to print in January.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Alice Rayburg
4 Gilbert & Diane Jay
5 Jerrlyn Hart
6 Marilyn Miller
9 Chase Scantland
14 Bill & Kim Kessler
15 Genevieve Dues
18 Ray & Alice Rayburg
19 John Strawser
20 Doug Bevins
22 Taylor & Jessica Somers
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
December food item is Canned meat
The Pitsburg Church of the Brethren will present their annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 1, 2019, at 6 PM. This year’s program will include:

*The Christmas Story in Music*, presented by Harmony

A drama titled, *A Fruitcake Homecoming,*

presented by the Pitsburg COB Players featuring Norma Baker as Momma.

The evening will conclude with candlelight singing. The public is invited to share in this annual event. The church is located at the west edge of Pitsburg at 8376 Pitsburg-Laura Road.
Some of the missions we support:

**Nate and Ivy Cheeseman**, from the Darke County area, stationed in Thailand.

For financial partnership, send a check to:
Wycliffe USA
PO Box 628200
Orlando FL 32862-8200.

Attach a note saying:
For the ministry of Nate & Ivy Cheeseman account 248577.

Or go to:
http://www.wycliffe.org/Partnership.aspx?mid=FCA44A

For prayer partnership: Contact them directly:
nateandivy@gmail.com
http://nateandivy.blogspot.com

**Mission in Haiti:**
Rebecca Karns
8348 Lullwater Dr
Dallas TX 75218

**Castine Area Food Bank**
624 State Route 127
Castine, Ohio 45304
Phone (937) 678-4405

**BRC Resident Aid Fund**
750 Chestnut Street
Greenville, Ohio 45331
(937) 547-8000

Pong and Few have dreamed of going to college and are saving up money to do so. As a way to serve the local church and earn money, they have agreed to help us assemble audio Bibles a few hours a week and coordinate pick-ups with several local churches/ministries. We thank God for his answer to our earlier prayers about partnering with local churches. We are thankful to him (and you!) for the ways he is financially providing for this work. But there's still a lot of details to iron out. On the latest batch of machines, the audio wants to start at random chapters instead of the first book of the New Testament. Pray for good communication with Pong and Few as we troubleshoot technical glitches together. Pray that there would be little waste and that each audio Bible would go to someone who will use it regularly. ( Particularly those who cannot see or read well.)
This Sunday, December 1st at 6 pm, is our annual Community Christmas Concert and drama. Come and feel the Spirit. See inside for details.

If you have questions or prayer concerns, you may call Pastor Ken at 937-546-6808.

Drama practice—come see the performance on December 1st at 6:00 pm—more details inside.