

# PITSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

You can see our services on  
Facebook or YouTube  
Under "Pittsburg Church of the Brethren"

## September 2023

Pastor: Ken Oren email: [pittsburgcob@yahoo.com](mailto:pittsburgcob@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.pittsburgcob.org](http://www.pittsburgcob.org)  
Facebook: Pittsburg Church of the Brethren

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

#### Sundays:

8:45 am Coffee fellowship

9:00 am Bible Café led by Dewayne Heck

10:00 am Praise and Worship

#### Tuesdays:

LifeWise classes resumes this month

#### Wednesdays:

7 pm Bible Study resumes Wednesday, Sept 20

Sept 4 Labor Day

Sept 6 Board meeting  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sept 13 Council meeting  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sept 20 Bible Study resumes  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Oct 8 Sunday evening 5:30 on  
Building remodel dedication and open house

Oct 28 Fall for Jesus  
Carriage rides, food, fun and fellowship  
Saturday - time to be announced

Dec 2 Live Nativity

1 John 1:8-9 (NRSV)

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### FROM THE PASTOR

I was in a discussion recently where we wondered what the biggest problems Christians were facing today. Perhaps one of the biggest is Biblical literacy. Either we don't know what we are talking about - or the person we are involved with doesn't know. So many have heard a snippet or sentence taken out of context, then had a total misinterpretation of the subject at hand. That mixed in with a "attitude" can make Christians mean-spirited or ignorant. Our goal is to represent Christ in everything we do - that means we need to learn all we can about what Christ said, what He did, how He lived - and most importantly - how and why He died. Then what it means that he rose again.

At Pittsburg we have endeavored to dig a little deeper into the Bible - and together learn passages that help us with life. We certainly have a long way to go - but it is good for us to make the journey together.

Pastor Ken

#### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Jim Black	9	Molly Dues
4	Cynthia Brown	10	Elizabeth Hamilton
4	Lois Stickley	11	Diane Baker
5	Jessica Marker	15	Kal-El Morales
6	Craig & Rebecca Horner	16	Gilbert Jay
7	Isaac Dues	21	Melinda Harter
7	Erica Williams	24	Steven Marker
7	Gail & Mark Bankson	26	Justin Strawser

#### Castine Area Food Bank

September food item is Crackers

*Items may be left with the Strawzers for transport.*

#### WORSHIP LEADER:

September: Diane Jay

October: Ron Goubeaux

#### Note:

If we have not listed your  
birthday or anniversary,  
please contact the Pastor so

## PITTSBURG YOUTH ACTIVITIES

On Saturday August 12th, our youth and adults went canoeing on the Great Miami River.

It was about a three-mile trip but some were able to stretch it out to about eight miles (zig-zag path).

Fun and fellowship was experienced by all. In the canoes were Chad and Kinzie Williams, her friend River, Tom, his son Chris and his son Zach; and Dewayne and Pastor Ken rounded up the crew.

We had three much wiser than some of us, as Donna Jean Heck, Linda Walker, and Erica Williams stayed on dry land and watched after visiting Charleston Falls.

Yes, we had some out of the boat and into the river.

Some almost ran over some kayakers, while others did run into the bank on several occasions. There were those who had to duck low for tree branches.

This is what a church family is all about. Having fun and fellowship together. After wearing ourselves out we met at Marion's for some great pizza.

Maybe next year the Amazon River!

Why Become an active Member of the Church (edited from article by Lee Smith - brethren pastor)

One reason why every Christian ought to be a member of a local church is to be obedient to Scripture.

While it is true that you will not find mentioned a "Thou shalt become a member of a local church" in the Bible, we do have a number of commands given to Christians that practically cannot be lived out properly outside of the context of being a member of a local church.

For instance, there are 51 "one another" commands in Scripture such as love one another (John 15:12), encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25), and pray for one another (James 5:16) just to name a few. These are all things that you cannot do unless you are continually with some "another" Christians on an ongoing basis to get to know them. How else can you effectively understand how specifically to encourage them? What ways you can go about to show love to them?

If you have nothing more than a loose connection with a group of people, you can't effectively love, encourage, pray, or anything to or for them.

The initial entrance ramp onto the road of membership is baptism, which clearly is a command that Jesus Himself has given Christians. In His parting words to His Church, He instructed that all new converts are to be "baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Another reason a Christian should become a member of the church is to officially be counted as part of the congregation. Until a formal commitment to the other members of the congregation has been made, someone who attends the services and volunteers their time are just "hanging out" with us but are not fully "all in" with us or "belong" to us.

It is like the difference between spending time with someone as their boyfriend or girlfriend rather than being committed to them as their husband or wife. In the first case, there is no close bond of commitment holding the two parties together whereas in the other they are bound by a commitment

expressed in vows.

There are many folks today who merely "date" a congregation but who fail to commit to join it. And while someone can point to the church that they have merely be attending and say that it is MY church, that doesn't carry as much weight as if they have made an official commitment to the people there and can say that they are a member of it. Then, and only then, they rightfully can say that they genuinely belong to it.

A Christian should be a member of a congregation to affirm their faith in Christ. In both baptism and being received as a member of the church, a Christian professes their faith in Christ publicly before the congregation that they are joining. The congregation in receiving them as members in essence affirms that they recognize that profession and will seek to hold them accountable to it.

Every candidate for membership must affirm that there has been a moment in their life where they came to, by the work of God's Holy Spirit, see their sinfulness, were brought to repentance and put their trust in Jesus Christ alone to be their only Lord and Savior. In a sense, when someone is received into the membership of the local church, the congregation is saying "we recognize that you belong to us as a fellow believer in Christ and will both view and treat you as being a blood bought member of the family".

A Christian also should join a local congregation of other believers to be held accountable for their faith.

The truth of the matter is that every single one of us have blind spots. Areas of sin in our lives that we just cannot see or are aware of. (Or sometimes, perhaps more often than not, they are areas that we are aware of but don't want to address or deal with.) What we need are brothers and sisters in the Lord who love and care for us and our walk with the Lord enough that they will point out to us some of those areas when they become visibly noticeable to them as we spend time together.

The desire of every Christian should be to grow in grace and holiness. The reality is that this growth does not occur on our own. God must bring it about and one of the primary means that He uses is the local church; through the faithful encouragement and challenge of fellow believers as we sing, pray, worship, listen to God's Word, serve and live together. And, finally, a reason a Christian should become a member of a local church is so that they can take a more active role in the life and ministry of the church.

There are some privileges that are understandably restricted to only members such as voting in our congregational business meetings and teaching a Sunday School class as well as serving on certain committees and boards.

Once someone joins us as a member, they are free to serve fully with the gifts that God has graciously given them in the areas that He has called them.

If you have any questions yet about becoming a member at Pittsburg contact the Pastor or Deacon Chair (John Strawser). For those of you who faithfully have been serving as members let me say "thank you" for honoring the Lord with your commitment to those in this congregation and encourage you to continue for His glory.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Ken



Pray peace for us and our teammates in transition. Pray for deep friendships for all of us (especially our kids) as we experience the loss of our old friends. (Story behind the photo: Halfway through dinner, we noticed Nate's wedding ring was missing. Our guests said a quick prayer and minutes later our friend's daughter scooped out a second helping of rice...with Nate's ring on top. In Thai cooking, bare fingers are used to rinse and measure the amount of water for rice. Good thing our friends were gracious and understood Thai rice-making protocol!)



Nate leading a missions session at camp

What an encouragement you have been to us these last few months! Thanks for praying for us as we shared at churches, visited friends/supporters, served as camp counselors, and spent treasured time with our Midwest family. Although we're grateful for these opportunities to raise missions awareness, we are eager to return to Thailand on August 28.

Pray for a good finish to the summer and good goodbyes with Ivy's parents. The goodbyes get increasingly bittersweet as the years go on. Pray too for clear thinking as we work through passport renewals, doctor visits, and the many logistics of switching continents.



One of the hardest parts of being away from our Thai "home" is that we don't get to have a last goodbye with translators/friends who move away mid-furlough. We are thankful that one of the departing families visited us in Ohio during their short trip to the States.



Our newest group of Bible translation students are finishing their "trial courses." Each student who does well on the initial courses is invited to complete the rest of the program with the group. We are grateful for the hard work of these individuals. One woman who was not able to complete the coursework last year returned this year and passed all her classes! She speaks six languages and is wanting to translate the Bible for her home community.

Pray for perseverance and wisdom for these future translators. We look forward to being back with them in-person soon. THANK YOU to each of you who has poured into our lives and ministry so we can be a part of this work!

For Financial Partnership Send a Check to:  
Wycliffe USA  
PO Box 628200  
Orlando FL 32862\*

\*Attach a note saying: "for the ministry of Nate & Ivy Cheeseman account 248577."



Our own Tom Walker plays with the Richmond Jazz Orchestra. You are invited to attend their performances. Next show at Preble Co Sat Sept 30, noon  
For more information, ask Tom.

PITTSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
8376 PITTSBURG LAURA RD  
ARCANUM OH 45304  
[www.pittsburgcob.org](http://www.pittsburgcob.org)



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



**August 12th  
Youth canoe  
trip**

