

Magnifying and proclaiming Christ: sharing His love.



PLEASANT HILL
church of the brethren

**Join us every
Sunday!**

8:00 AM

Contemporary
Worship

9:15 AM

Sunday School for
all ages

10:30 AM

Traditional
Worship

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Romans 12:2:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

There is some excitement left after Christmas presents are unwrapped and leftovers put away. Many of us still anticipate ringing in the new year December 31. January 1 is a somewhat arbitrary date to begin the new year, although its proximity to the winter solstice makes sense to mark the lengthening of days as a new beginning. China's new year is February 10, and many Europeans used to celebrate New Year April 1. That is until Pope Gregory XIII changed it permanently to January 1, and those who refused to abandon the old calendar were referred to as "April Fools."

The problem with "flipping the page, turning over a new leaf, and other such occasions of "new beginnings," is that we invariably bring most of the old stuff with us. Our desire to start fresh with Baby New Year will be met with the reality of Old Man Time 364 short days later. Each January 1st we bring our past experiences, current concerns, and lifelong struggles into the new calendar with us. And try hard as we might the new year usually ends up looking much like the old.

So while we do our best to forget "those things which are behind," Philippians 3:13, what do we do about our recurring thought patterns? Or those fond memories of God's grace we want to cherish? Or those hard learned lessons we should never forget?

Thankfully Romans 12:2 above holds the key, along with 2 Corinthians 10:5: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;".

While our past can never change and our circumstances may or may not, God CAN grant us a new mind about all those things. That now our past sins are opportunities for confession, repentance, and restoration. That our emotional struggles are opportunities for God to pour in and fill the deep wounds in our hearts with his healing grace. And that the wrongs done is by others are opportunities to extend forgiveness and demonstrate the gospel.

Instead of selfish rage we may display godly indignation, John 2:15-17. Instead of crippling doubt we may exercise reckless faith, Mark 5:22. Instead of paralyzing fear we may exercise godly submission and obedience, Luke 22:42. We need no longer run from our past in a vain attempt to leave it in the trash with last year's calendar, rather we can behold "all things new" through the mind of Christ.

And that is something truly exciting, that no matter how regrettable my past or difficult my circumstances, Christ will bring transformation not with a new year but a new me!

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Pastor Rob

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS: January 8, March 11
6:30 PM Commissions, 7:00 PM Board
CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING:
January 29, 7:00 PM

Sympathy

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of RICHARD RHODES SR., who passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Memorial Gifts & Donations

Donations have been made by Norma Reighard and Janet Harrison to Pleasant Hill Church in memory of Carol Moschgat.

MEMORIAL DONATION A donation has been made to the Memorial Trust Fund by Arnold and Lana Leidy in memory of JEAN SNYDER.

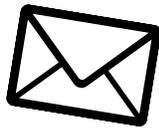
In lieu of flowers and at the request of the family, a monetary contribution is being made by our church to St. John's Reformed Church, in memory of Kathleen D. Piper. Kathleen was the mother of Robb Piper.

In lieu of flowers and at the request of the family, a monetary gift is being made by our church to our memorial trust fund in memory of Richard Rhodes, husband of Donna, father of Rick, Tracy, and Stacy, and grandfather of Katie, Lindsey, Ashley, and Eric.

A donation has been made by Buck and Gaynelle Laposata to Pleasant Hill's Renovation Fund in memory of Rich Rhodes.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN VESTIBULE

NOTE: In order to decrease the cost of ordering offering envelopes that are no longer used due to various reasons, some higher numbers have been eliminated and reassigned to available lower numbers. This eliminates gaps, which reduces the number of offering envelope boxes ordered and not used.



For anyone currently using your bank's bill pay, your number will not change. If you have any questions or would like to begin using offering envelopes, contact Donna Smith at 814 535-1102.

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY JANUARY 7 & FEBRUARY 4

We meet the first Sunday of every month (second Sunday in October) from 6-8 PM. Topical focus each month is gleaned from a yearly Bible-reading schedule.



Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, etc. during our Mother's (Sara Jean Snyder) stay at the home. She missed attending church and was so happy to be remembered.

We also want to thank everyone for their calls, cards and prayers of support upon her death. A special thank you to Pastor Rob for his visits, taking communion to her, and the lovely funeral service.

Glenda, Sherri & John Devlin and families

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all the birthday wishes I received this month. Thank you Jesus and Pleasant Hill family!

Bob Hay

Thank you for your donations to St. Andrew's and Walnut Grove Food Pantries this past month. Because of your generosity, we were able to donate:

47 boxes of cereal
15 bottles/boxes of juice
124 cans of fruit
46 jars of peanut butter
40 boxes/packets of instant potatoes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and cards as I celebrated 95 years on this earth. I never dreamed that the Lord would grant me that many years and the pleasure of serving the Lord in many capacities. It is my prayer that we never forget who we are as members of the Church of the Brethren faith.
Thanks, Brother Bill Owens

Dear Church Family,
Your thoughtfulness and kindness of cards and calls is so deeply appreciated.
Robb Piper and Family

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Pleasant Hill could begin 2024 DEBT FREE with everyone's help! As of today, PHCoB only has \$31,208 \$16,500 remaining debt on the loan to cover the costs of paving the driveway. The Board would like each family to consider making a contribution to help erase this debt as we finish 2023. When the debt is paid, this will free up funds to be able to use freely as God allows. You can mark your contribution "Renovation Fund" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. The children are committed to helping as well (they get to play and run on the new driveway so they care about it, too!). They have created a big thermometer that they hung in the gathering space so that they can track the progress of the debt being cancelled with everyone's help!



ONE CALL NOW

Pleasant Hill subscribes to a service called "One Call Now". This is how we get the word out about meetings, special services, events, etc. If you would like to have your phone number added to our call list, or if there has been a change in your information, please contact the church office.



2 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION JANUARY 7, 14

The 2 Cents a Meal program is designed to help with the ongoing problem of world hunger. Families are encouraged to take a soup can and keep it in a handy place. As you sit down to eat, have each member of your family put 2 cents into the can and pray for people who don't have enough to eat around the world. The bucket is available the first 2 Sundays a month for you to deposit the contents of your can. All money collected will go to our local food pantries.



PRAYER MEETINGS

PHCoB Prayer meeting are held Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. Join us during this precious time with the Lord and each other. We pray about what is on our hearts and minds. You can pray out loud or silently. Prayer is the engine of the church. When we come together as a family of faith, we grow in relationship to Jesus and to each other. Please talk with Pastor Rob if you have any questions.



USED SHOES NEEDED

We are continuing to collect gently used shoes to benefit the Orphanage in Honduras (Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel). You may bring your extra shoes to the chapel, or leave them at Lou and April Mackell's back door. Thank you for being a part of this project!

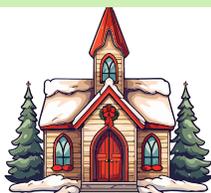


PLEASANT HILL MEAL MINISTRY

The Women's Bible Study group leads our Meal Ministry by providing opportunities for Meal Trains (signing up to take a meal or providing a gift card) when families are facing difficult times, celebrating, or otherwise in need. They also provide support to grieving families by helping to set-up and serve funeral meals, prepare desserts, and coordinate with the Pastoral leadership and families for whatever needs families have in times of grief. If you would like to join the Meal Ministry, please contact Theresa at theresajwolf@gmail.com or 732-690-8768.

MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor: Robert Wolf
Youth Directors: Josh and Liz Fabina
Christian Education Director: Liz Fabina
Secretary: Jessie Rager



UPCOMING CAMP HARMONY EVENTS

Jr./Sr. High Camp

Jr/Sr High winter camp for grades 7-12 is a fun-filled 24 hours of games, friends, food and Jesus! This camp is a great way to hang out with friends, bond through Bible study, play games, sled (weather permitting), and many more fun-packed experiences! Lodging, 1 snack and 3 meals are included for ONLY \$45! This camp begins on Fri., Jan. 19 at 7 pm and ends on Sat., Jan. 20 at 7 pm.

Pre-teen Camp

Pre-teen overnight winter camp, for grades 4-6 is the ultimate way to spend a weekend. Enjoy great food, play fun games, and dive into inspiring Bible lessons, tournaments, and much more. The fun never stops! Lodging, 1 snack and 3 meals are included for ONLY \$45! This camp begins on Friday, February 2 at 7 pm and ends on Saturday, February 3 at 7 pm.

Elementary Camp

Elementary Winter Camp for K-6th grades will be packed with thrilling games, fun activities, inspiring Bible studies and unforgettable experiences! This exciting day will take place January 27 from 10 am to 4 pm and includes lunch for ONLY \$15.



Camp Craze Days

Grades 5-9
January 15 & February 19
9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Free Event!



Women's Retreat

(Friday, January 26-Saturday, January 27)

3D Archery Shoot Fundraiser

(Saturday, April 6)

Men's Retreat

(Friday, April 19-Saturday, April 20)

Visit campharmony.org for more details or to register.

PENNIES FOR PEDALS

Join our Gold Team in collecting one mile of pennies!



Approximately 84,480 pennies (\$844.80), lined up end to end, would cover a mile of ground. How fitting to collect these pennies to allow BCM International to purchase bicycles for pastors in India!



Please place pennies in the bike basket in the vestibule. Thank you for your donation!



January Birthdays

- 1 Zachary Lambie
- 2 Daniel Natta, Jr.
- 4 Mary Ann Bravo
- 5 Emerson Carney
- 5 Windsor Handel
- 5 Sandy Harrison
- 5 Alex Pudliner
- 7 Riley Marye
- 8 Roman Harris
- 8 Starr Selders
- 9 Jeff Tarbay
- 9 Gail Miller
- 10 Michael Shaulis
- 11 Annie Cekada
- 11 Mike Saintz
- 12 Matthew Demchak
- 12 Colton Fabina
- 14 Faith Murray
- 14 Becky Swick
- 15 Mason Natta
- 17 Michael Blue
- 17 Alisha Demchak
- 19 Carrie Metzgar
- 20 Logan Chernay
- 20 Kary Roberts
- 20 Stephanie Roberts
- 20 Connor Serenko
- 21 Bob Plunkard
- 22 Brenda Ciner
- 24 Karen Miller
- 25 Nathan Saylor
- 26 Cindy Cummings
- 26 Stacy Rhodes
- 26 Tracy Rhodes
- 28 Sue Graham
- 28 Baylee Pudliner
- 28 Denise Barr
- 30 Janet Pudliner
- 31 Marcee Finch
- 31 Terra Gibson



January Anniversaries

- 12 Lloyd and April Mackell
- 21 Ray and Joyce Oaks



February Anniversaries

- 24 Jack and Shirley Rager
- 24 Joel and Devery Harmon
- 26 Eric and Sharon Allison

February Birthdays

- 1 Oren Kosakowski
- 1 Sean Lambert
- 1 Madison Swick
- 3 Phillip King
- 3 Joyce Thomas
- 5 Jonathan Cummings
- 6 Butch Derr
- 7 Renee Bell
- 8 Wendy Tomechak
- 9 Kalee Bell
- 10 Audrey Illig
- 10 Eric Rhodes
- 10 Ashley Rhodes
- 11 Joshua Day
- 13 Laney Blue
- 13 Wesley Harrison
- 14 Mikayla Lambie
- 14 Leila Wolfe
- 15 Olivia Smith
- 16 Jordan Rager
- 16 Wyatt Swick
- 17 Estelle Burkett
- 18 Barry Natta
- 18 Lori Rhodes
- 19 Doug Swick
- 20 Sally Allison
- 20 Mike Ryan
- 21 Rocky Kelley
- 21 Tyler Plunkard
- 22 Lori Denhard
- 23 Luna Gibson
- 24 Devery Harmon
- 25 Rick Kosakowski
- 26 Laird Rager
- 26 Mark Roberts

