

The Pleasant View

PASTOR ED'S EPISTLE

“We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing”

is the beginning of the first verse of that great Thanksgiving hymn of old, “We Gather Together.” November is our month to focus on giving thanks to the faithfulness of our God and it is especially appropriate this year with all that has transpired.

With all the negativity in our news and social media, I hope that we can have a month of refreshing focus on being filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for despite COVID-19, the Derecho, ethnic unrest, the weeks leading up the election and the people in our church who are suffering with different illnesses and the Corona virus. As I have been saying on numerous occasions, the Bible says that faith overcomes our fears. While we live in uncertain times, we know who our God is, who we are in Christ and our hope is in heaven while we are citizens here on earth. We continue to be salt and light to an ever-darkening world that so desperately needs Jesus.

It is with that backdrop that we come to November 1st and have one person, each week, from our church family share their story of thankfulness to God. While the holidays will be very different and glossed over by the secular media and society due to the pandemic, we as believers need to gather and share our praises with one another in community. God desires as much as we can to meet in person. So, for those who are healthy and willing to come in person to a service, we will celebrate God’s goodness on Sunday – November 22nd at 6:00 pm with a praise service full of music and testimonies from God’s people. We will enjoy pie, ice cream, coffee and socially distanced fellowship after the service. This service along with all of our Sunday worship services will be streamed online for those who need to stay home but wish to participate in this way.

Austin Fink and I have been working on our plans for Christmas at PVBC. We hope the season will be special. Our Christmas season last year was marred by a week of unrest leading to a protest in early December that left us hurting as a church family through the rest of the Christmas season. Despite the pandemic this year, we are planning to make this Christmas season a time of deep reflection as we unfold the Christmas story from God’s Word. The sermon times will look at the Christmas story from the perspective of Mary, Joseph, the Angels and the Wise Men. We will focus on Jesus being the Light of the World who has come to earth on Christmas Eve. I am looking forward to great

special music, possibly a skit and our times around the Advent wreath each Sunday in December. It is a time for our church family to focus on traditions and our families during this time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior – Jesus Christ.

I have been praying through the month of October and planning with Austin that our time together in November and December will be a deeper and more intimate focus on our Heavenly Father and our relationship with Him as we avoid the distractions of this world going on all around us.

On November 1st, we will take time in our service to pray for the persecuted believers living in harm’s way around the world.

We encourage everyone to stop by the Operation Christmas Child table in the lobby to pick up boxes to fill for needy kids around the world. Our goal is 100 boxes this year. The deadline to bring them to the church is November 15th.

We will have a special Christmas Night of Worship on December 6th at 6 pm. with people bringing Christmas cookies and enjoying coffee and hot chocolate after we share songs of Christmas together with Austin Fink and the worship team.

Our holiday celebration will culminate with our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm on December 24th, 2020. That is a precious time for our church family to gather and for many begin their family Christmas celebrations together. It is probably my favorite service of the year next to our Thanksgiving Praise service.

I hope that through all that is going on, you will keep the main thing the main thing through November as we develop an attitude of gratitude and through the Advent season as we move away from the commercialization of the season and return to the beauty and simplicity of all that Christmas means to us as Christ followers.

Here is hoping that you and your family will have a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Christ Honoring Christmas as we finish out the year of 2020. I am faithfully,

Yours and His,
Pastor Ed Hedding

gather together

ELDER REPORTS

The elders are Aaron Barfels, Mike Fendley, Dale Von Thun and Pastor Ed Hedding.

The elders met September 8th, 21st, October 5th, 12th and 26th.

The elders always begin their elder meetings with prayer for the church family, the church and the needs of the elders.

The elders approved the six-month budget for the rest of our fiscal year: October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. The business meeting is set for September 27th at 11:45 am.

- ◇ The business meeting agenda will include a vote on Aaron Barfels to be reaffirmed for another three-year term as elder and the six-month budget proposed by the Finance Team and supported by the elders.
- ◇ Both items as mentioned above were voted in unanimously at the September 27th Business Meeting.

The elders discussed several names of people to be contacted for church leadership. Some of them had received elder/deacon training in the past and others to be asked would have to be trained.

The elders discussed a proposal from the Task Force meeting concerning our annual Thanksgiving Dinner: The proposal was that there will be a 6:00-6:30 pm Thanksgiving praise service with music and testimonies with a pie social upstairs in the lobby and sanctuary following the service. The date is set for Sunday, November 22nd. This will be in lieu of the traditional Thanksgiving dinner due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The elders agreed to do what several church families asked and that was to have some outdoor services on our church property while the weather is good. The dates proposed were September 27th, October 4th and 11th. The church family was only able to meet outside on September 27th.

Mike Fendley reported that the Safety Team would like to meet with the elders to discuss actions we should take to better secure our building and our church family. The Safety Team is working on a rapid response plan in case of fire, tornado and an active shooter situation.

Mike Fendley is working with Ian Fink and Dan Mobley along with some other members of the safety team to set a date to discuss the following:

- ◇ Add bullet proof films to the outside glass doors
- ◇ Cover the inside and outside of our building and church property with cameras (excluding the bathrooms) and a monitor mounted in the church office
- ◇ Purchase three police quality radios for communication by the security team throughout the building during services and programs

These proposals will be discussed by the elders and considered after the Safety Team meets with the elders. It is probable that these purchases would need to have the vote of the church family if the costs exceed \$5,000 as set forth in our Church Constitution.

Elders approved the purchase of a second AED that is the same model as the one we own. This new AED will be mounted inside the kitchen door. This will allow parts sharing if needed

The Elders approved the purchase of drum equipment to allow Gage Pedersen to take home his equipment that he has loaned the church for a number of years. Chuck Gipson gave the elders a quote and the elders the amount of \$1180 for the drum equipment replacement.

The elders discussed whether to keep supporting Pine Lake Camp with our finances and for our campers to continue to attend there. The elders asked Pastor Ed to call Mary Jo Litwiller who is the camp director/program director. Pastor Ed had a conversation with Mary Jo and shared the conversation highlights with the elders. The elders decided to support Pine Lake Camp for the duration of the six-month budget that was approved on September 27th. It was noted that the church did not financially support Pine Lake Camp from April 1st until October 1st, 2020. The elders will get more information and review the church's financial support and attendance early in 2021 as the 2021-2022 budget is prepared.

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WORSHIP TEAM NEWS!



Well it has been quite the year, hasn't it? Just when we thought everything was starting to get back to normal, something else unexpected happens. I'm so thankful that God is in control. He is sovereign.

Our monthly worship nights or "house sessions" as we like to call them have had great turnouts online, but just a reminder: you can come to them in-person if you would like! Our next night of worship will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 22nd) at 6:30 pm and we will celebrate with praise & thanksgiving!

The worship team is also looking for new (or old but maybe it's been a while) members! If you have a musical talent (singing, drums, piano, guitar, bass, trumpet, cello, or really anything but tambourine... kidding...mostly) and you would like to be a part of leading the congregation in worship through music, please see me (Austin) or send me a text at (563)-505-7513 and we can see if you would be a good fit on the team!

We began planning for our advent/Christmas services a few weeks ago and we are very excited for this year! We plan to have special music each week of advent. ***If you are interested in doing some sort of music for the Christmas season (solo, duet, group, instrumental) please let me (Austin) know!*** My phone number is in the paragraph above. We will also introduce several new songs during Christmas time and I am very excited for us to worship together with these songs.

It has been most refreshing for me to be able to lift high the name of Jesus with you all in person rather than online. Hearing the voices of believers sing out the praises of God together in unison is such a beautiful thing. I'm so blessed to be able to lead our church family in worship each week.

To the Glory of God Alone,

Austin Fink



These last few months have been very eventful for Chaos Youth Group! We've been able to enjoy the last few weeks of nice weather to be able to play games outside. Jon Kendall has done a great job of selecting and organizing the group games. From dodgeball to throwing cereal at each other trying to get it to stick on the whipped cream covered face of our partner, the students have been having a blast with the games! We also have been adding to the "hang out time" activities with retro video games and snacks provided by the Kendall's, Von Thun's, and Meyer's. Helmut Welke came and taught the students about God's design in creation and how adaptation and natural selection do not equal evolution.

We just finished our short "Questions" series, taking some time to answer some very important question about our faith and some current issues based on what Scripture says. We will finish our study through the book of Romans over the coming weeks. The students will take turns reading through each chapter, I'll give a breakdown of the text in a manner that is understandable, and we will finish with group discussion. Once we are finished with Romans, we'll do the same format with the book of James.

Along with the lessons I have planned, I would like to have several extra events over the next few months as well. I am beginning to plan a Thanksgiving or "Friendsgiving" feast for the Wednesday following Thanksgiving week. We will also have a Christmas party with a White Elephant gift exchange and a gingerbread house competition. For New Year's Eve we will have a sort of "mini lock-in" with the time TBD.

With all the craziness that has been going on this year, I'm glad that the students of Chaos are able to come to a safe place to be with friends, enjoy fun games and good food, learn more about the true living God of the Bible, and just feel like life is normal again.

Austin Fink



ELDER REPORTS CONT.

(continued from page 2)

The elders had a discussion about repurposing the library to better utilize it for ministry in the future. No action taken but lots of ideas were collected for a future discussion.

The elders discussed the office of a deacon as it pertains to our church family for leadership and shepherding. We reviewed the purpose of the deacons in the Constitution. It was decided to keep their responsibilities the same and encourage the Finance Team, Missions Team, and other ministry teams convene to refocus in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Finance Team met and these are the items shared with the elders:

- ◇ They recommend putting \$20,000 of our \$43,000 from savings in the Cornerstone Fund CD. This will be a ladder investment where the moneys are put in at varying maturity periods.
- ◇ Will conduct an internal audit of our finances.
- ◇ Celebrate Recovery was missed with the new Budget. We will plan for \$500 over the next 6 months and it will come out of the Elders' discretionary fund until it gets added to the budget.

Pastor Ed shared that we did not have our semi-annual Ministry Team Leaders meeting this past summer. Pastor Ed has scheduled a Ministry Team Leaders meeting for Saturday – October 31st at 9:00 am–10:30 am. The focus will be on prayer with a short time of discussion on how we are doing with our COVID-19 guidelines and any other topics that need to be discussed.

The tree that was damaged by the Derecho on the east side of the church property will need to be looked at by an arborist or a tree cutting company to determine if the tree is worth salvaging or should come down. This will be looked at in the spring of 2021.

The elders are developing guidelines for holding funerals during COVID-19. They are working on protocols for visitation and for the family luncheon. This policy will be given to any family requesting to hold a visitation or funeral at PVBC.

The elders revised the guidelines for church and the building usage for ministry. The updated guidelines are available by contacting the church office. The elders have determined that the worship services and programming will not be cancelled due to positive COVID-19 cases in our congregation. We will continue to hold regular weekly programs and Sunday morning services following the CDC and IDH recommendations. The church family will be informed of any known positive cases among our congregants. It will then be up to each member or family to decide for themselves whether or not to attend services in person or online.

October giving is down significantly. The elders are watching the finances and are suggesting only necessary purchases be made.

Pastor Ed discussed creative ideas the church staff is thinking about to reflect joy and thankfulness in our church through the months of November and December. There will be special emphases in the church worship services and throughout the weeks to make this season an encouragement to our church family in the midst of these difficult and uncertain times.

Submitted by Pastor Ed Hedding



2020 FINANCIALS

(Amounts are for the General Fund for start of fiscal year thru October 31)

Giving: \$153,283

Total Expenses: \$150,401

Savings: \$48,659

(GF Checking plus Cornerstone Savings)

Church Office Closed
Thurs. & Fri. 11/26-11/27

Save the Date



Thanksgiving Service &
Pie Social

Sunday, November 22 ♦ 6 PM



advent

Hope
Peace
Joy
Love

BEGINS Sunday, November 29



SINGERS
AND
MUSICIANS
NEEDED

Special Christmas Singing Group singers needed! We will sing Sunday, December 13 during worship. See Pastor Ed if interested! First run through practice will be Thursday, November 12 at 7:00pm at church.

If you are interested in doing some sort of special music for the Christmas season (solo, duet, group, instrumental) please let Austin Fink (563-505-7513) know so he can try and schedule you in December.



Carols
& Cookies

Sunday, December 6 ♦ 6 PM



THE SALVATION ARMY

Bell Ringing

Watch the weekly Sunday program for the December date and times for this volunteer opportunity!



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 • 5 PM



Happy
Holidays