

# THE WITNESS

## Circleville First Church

436 East Ohio Street  
Circleville, Ohio 43113  
(740) 474-2250 [circlevillefirstchurch.com](http://circlevillefirstchurch.com)



January 2021

Issue 254

Jay Neff, Senior Pastor 740/804-1482  
Jim Daft, Evangelism & Seniors Ministries 740/474-7353  
Andrew Byerly, Music/Worship Ministries 740/601-7405

Kiera Yaniga, Director of Children Ministries 614/371-6366  
Lisa Burroughs, Director of Youth Ministries 740/412-4149  
Seth George, Director-Second Chance Ministries 740/475-9351

## Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction



January 30

6 pm

Ferguson/Clark Hal



**Needed:** crock pots of their best chili for the competition and cakes donated for the cake auction. The chili categories are mild, spicy, and specialty.

Dinner is \$5 per person which includes chili, baked potato (if you want) and drink.

Proceeds benefit the missions department and future mission trips. If you have questions, see **Joy Atwood**.

**\*\*\*Please note:** this event is subject to change due to Covid, watch the church bulletin or email for updated information.

## God on the Mountains

An Exploration of The Mountains in Scripture

The course, taught by Dr. Blake J. Neff, Lecturer and Bible Teacher, is available via live stream each Tuesday at 10:00 AM January through March, 2021, by connecting to:

<http://www.avonparkcamp.com/>  
and clicking on livestream on the left menu

For information or to request printed study guides contact Dr. Neff at: [blakejneff@gmail.com](mailto:blakejneff@gmail.com).

## The good ole days

The carefree days of childhood can become wonderful memories as we journey through life. Take a look back. As a child, what was a favorite toy or pastime you enjoyed?

**Dan Namowicz** remembers his transistor radio. **Venita Daft**



stated, "I played with dolls and played house most of the time." It was "playing video games" for **Jason Seat**. "I got an organ for Christmas and I played it," shared **Dee Brown**. **Harry Brown** quickly shared memories of playing marbles. **Pastor Jay Neff** had a little teddy bear

named **Scrawny** that he enjoyed having with him as a child. **Becky Neuhauser** looks back happily on her dolls, art supplies and piano. "I liked to play with baby dolls," **Valerie Moore** said. A favorite



toy of **Frances Curry** was "a tall, walking doll I got for Christmas." **Tim Tener** smiled proudly as he stated, "I had a set of Lone Ranger pearl handle pistols and holster."

We can make our hearts smile when we visit the good ole days and who knows, it may just make us feel a little younger too.



submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

Beginning January 10, Sunday evening service will resume

Beginning January 13, Wednesday evening service will resume



# God on the Mountains

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## The God of the Mountains

**January 5 The Mountains of Israel & Mountains of God**  
Based upon Psalm 121:1-2; Mark 11:23; I Kings 19:9. 13. 15

### January 12 The Mount of Beginning

This session will examine the role of Mount Hermon in the creation narrative and before, seeking to understand what made Hermon a strategic spot for Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ." The study is based upon Ezekiel 28:12-17; Revelation 12:3-9; Matthew 16: 13-20; Genesis 1:1-2; Isaiah 14:12-15.

### January 19 The Mount of Beginning Again

Genesis 6,7,8 demonstrates the important role of Mount Ararat in the life of Noah and in the life of all of humanity.

### January 26 The Mount of Obedience

Abraham's climb up Mount Moriah in Genesis 22:1-19 for the purpose of sacrificing Isaac reveals several lessons on the nature of obedience.

### February 2 Avon Park Holiness Camp Meeting

### February 9 The Mount of God's Call

After eighty years of preparation Moses became a mountain climber when he met God on Mount Horeb: The Mountain of God's Vocational Call (Exodus 3 and 4:1-18). That encounter led to a later trek up Mount Sinai: The Mount of God's Holiness Call (Exodus 19, 20).

### February 16 The Mount of Disappointment

At the Rephidim High Place (Exodus 17:8-16) Moses failed to trust God completely resulting in the greatest disappointment of his life on Mount Nebo (Deuteronomy 34:1-4; Numbers 20:2-11).

The story does not end until Moses' disappointment is alleviated on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13).

### February 23 The Mount of Decision

On Mount Carmel Elijah challenged Israel saying, "How long will you go limping between two different Opinions? The same decision must be made by every individual today?"

### March 2 The Mount of Temptation

On Mount Quarantania, the traditional site of the temptation of Jesus, He just said "no," to Satan, and demonstrated several undeniable spiritual realities in the process.

### March 9 The Mount of Spiritual Discipline

In Matthew 14:22-23 Jesus demonstrated four spiritual disciplines that remain vital to the development of his followers.

### March 16 The Mount of Transfiguration

Four supernatural events took place on Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the transfiguration. Where and Why the event took place is also revealing.

### March 23 The Mount of Redemption

No reference to a mountain called Calvary appears anywhere in Scripture, but all four gospels report the crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27: 32-50; Mark 15:21-37; Luke 23: 26-46; John 19:17-30) by recalling the words that He spoke from the cross.

### March 30 The Divided Mountain

The Mount of Olives has been/will be the site of four key events in the life of Jesus. From here he taught (Matthew 24), prayed (Matthew 26: 36-46), ascended (Acts 1:3-11), and will return (Zechariah 14:3-9).

### For Discussion or Contemplation

1. Which of the mountains to be explored in this study most intrigues you? Why?
2. Elijah's personal place was on Mount Carmel, while on Sinai he was out of his element. Do you have a personal place? Why is it special?
3. Dr. Neff suggested it is possible to be "in grace" but in the wrong place. Do you agree or disagree? What evidence have you seen?

Thank you for serving: **Sean Baldwin, James Benner, Brandon Burroughs, Bob Byerly, Travis Cotton, Elijah Garrison, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mozingo, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson.** Please pray for these serving our country and their families.



## EDGE team ministry

Are you interested in being part of one of the EDGE Teams?

The mission of the EDGE team is to recognize, welcome and encourage new visitors as well as provide continual care of those in the church family by extending God's love to them. As we strive to be an example of Jesus Christ, we will allow God to use our individual spiritual gifts to Evangelize, Disciple, Grow and Equip.

As lay workers, extend God's love to visitors and regular attendees who comes to the church. Simply smile, shake hands, and welcome them. (Due to Covid-19, we are not shaking hands at this time).

The Edge Team Ministry is made up of four teams. The Seekers is headed by **Darline Gose & Angie Holbrook**; the Crusaders is led by **Mike & Pam Paul** while the Ambassadors is captained by **Venita Daft & Dan Namowicz** and **Eric Atwood** heads up the Disciplers.

**The EDGE Team Ministry needs greeters for the second Sunday of the month and baked goods are also needed.**



If you would be interested in being a part of EDGE Teams or baking bread/cookies, please contact **Carl or Vickie Moore, (740) 954-3003** for more information.



submitted by **Vickie Moore**

## Comfy corner creations

### Pineapple Cheese Dip

2 8 ounce packages cream cheese, softened  
20 ounce can of crushed pineapple, well drained  
1/4 cup green pepper chopped finely  
2 Tablespoon onion chopped finely  
1 teaspoon seasoned salt (Lawry's)  
1 cup pecans (optional)

Place all the ingredients in a medium size bowl. Use mixer and blend completely. Keep refrigerated until ready to use. Serve with Ritz crackers or snack crackers.



submitted by **Sharon Harper**

## Jokes of the month

### Word of wisdom

Today's tall oak tree is yesterday's nut that held its ground.

### Blooper

The popular Dunk Tank at Elmhurst's Fall Festival will be sponsored by Waste Management



A woman took pride in her homemade freezer meals which she labeled clearly: Meatloaf, Pot Roast, Pork & Vegetables, Chicken & Dumplings or Beef Pot Pie.

Whenever she asked her husband what he wanted for dinner, he never requested any of those choices. So, she decided to relabel the entrees according to his requests.

Open the freezer now and you'll see: Whatever, Anything, I Don't Know, I Don't Care, Something Good or Food.



It was the first day of school for the first grader. After everyone was settled in their seats, the teacher asked the class to stand, put their right hand over their heart and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scanning the room as the recitation began, the teacher noticed one boy with his hand on the right side of his bottom.

"Johnny, please put your hand over your heart."

"It is over my heart."

"What makes you think that's your heart?" the teacher asked.

"Because every time my grandma comes to visit, she picks me up, pats me here and says, 'Bless your little heart.'"

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Place your tithes and offerings in one of the boxes located on the back-sanctuary wall

Men's Prayer Meetings on Saturdays at 8 am will resume on January 16



# The story behind the song

## *Oceans*

by Hillsong United



Recently, *Oceans* by Hillsong United has been running through my mind, specifically the line “Spirit

lead me where my trust is without borders.” As I looked into the story behind the song and the scripture that inspired it (Matthew 14:22-26, Peter walking on the water) and thought what it really means to be led where my trust is without borders.

But what even is trust? How is it built? How is it broken? What characterizes it? According to Google, trust is defined as “firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of someone or something”. Ok, so it involves a firm belief. That firm belief had to come from somewhere, whether the belief has been tested or has come from a source you trust. There is something tangible and known about trust.

Now what about those situations where there is no firm belief but there still is trust. Maybe that’s where faith comes in. When you don’t have the trust, but you must trust anyway. In that way, faith is like trust that can’t be explained in a purely logical fashion. It’s the sense that a person can do the job even though you have no proof of that.



Next in the song, is the idea of borders. In some ways it almost seems counter intuitive to have borders on trust. The very idea of

trust begs to be constantly changing as life progresses through our experiences. I hope that the more I experience life, the more resilient and more trusting I’ll become, but sometimes my trust is built up and other times I am let down by people or things. I’ve built trust to a certain point so there is a literal border that trust doesn’t exist outside of. But once again, there is something striking about trust without borders. And in my mind, faith is what fills the gap between my borders and trust without borders. What does it look like to live “where my trust is without borders”? To stick with the song, my answer is... “Spirit lead me.” When you invite the Holy Spirit to lead you, there is endless trust because your trust is not dependent on where you are being led or what you are being led to do.

To wrap this up, reflecting on the past year it seems like a lot of people were or are still going through rough situations and that *Oceans* should be our theme for our present lives in these times. It’s pointed out that with most of us crying out the lyrics “Spirit

lead me where my trust is without borders”, of course we should expect ourselves to end up in places where trust is necessary.

### *Oceans (Where My Feet May Fail)*

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand

I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise my soul will rest in your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

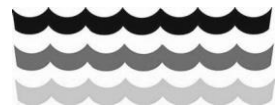
Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You’ve never failed and you won’t start now

So I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior

I will call upon Your Name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

submitted by **Mark Agin**



## Second Chance Ministry

January 15

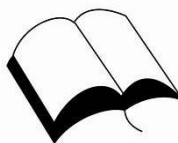
7 pm

Watch the service live stream on youtube at  
circlevillefirstchurch on Sunday mornings at 10:45



## Verse of the month

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." Matthew 24:4-8



submitted by **Mike Paul**

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Sunday morning worship service is available on DVD. If you are interested in receiving a DVD of the service, please contact the church office at 740/474-2250.

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## CFC kids

The new year is upon us and it's a great time to start a new family tradition. If you don't already, find time to do a daily family devotion, pray together and build your relationship with God together.



### Children's Ministry needs:

Due to Covid, we are still serving individually packaged items. We are always in need of individually packaged snacks and juices.

submitted by **Kiera Yaniga**

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It doesn't matter who is President, Jesus is King

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

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## Chili cook-off/cake auction

Saturday, January 30

6 pm

Ferguson/Clark Hall



**\*\*Please note:** Due to Covid-event is subject to change, watch the church bulletin for more information.

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## JOY (just older youth)

Hopefully by now, all or most of our JOY members are well or at least on the mend. We are praying that 2021 will be a great year and we are glad that 2020 is over. Jim and I had Covid, he felt badly for only 2-3 days, but I was a different case. I have never been so sick; I don't ever want to get Covid again!! I am still battling different things left to me by Covid. I was in for 5 weeks, I was able to get out during week 4 to see the doctor and once in week 5 for again, a doctor's appointment. I stayed home because I felt so badly but also to keep others safe.

It is difficult to schedule activities/events for JOY Ministry at this time, just waiting to see how things go in 2021. Watch your church bulletins and newsletters for information. As of now, a date will not be set for the Valentine's Dinner, we are unsure if we can have it. There is a possibility of eating out instead of carrying-in. As for the king, queen, prince and princess, we will work out something if at all possible. The committee will be meeting and deciding on the activities/events for the year. We want to keep everyone safe but it is very depressing since we cannot get together for the fellowship and fun like we have for all those years.

In the past years, we have attended the Kingdom Heirs Concert in Princeton, West Virginia. We leave on Friday morning and return on Saturday evening (staying over Friday night). The concert is always great and we have so much fun being together and doing different things. Last year, we went to New River Gorge before returning home. It was a beautiful day; we also found some nice restaurants in Princeton owned and operated by Christian people. Talk to those who have gone on this trip in the past for their opinion, in 2019 we stopped at Hillbilly Hot Dog on the way home. You just never know what we will find.

The date for this year's **Kingdom Heirs Concert in Princeton, West Virginia** is **Friday, February 19** at the Maranatha Baptist Church. I will plan a trip again this year if all is well; we might have to take separate personal vehicles due to Covid, to keep everyone safe. PLEASE let me know if you are interested. I purchase the tickets in advance to ensure our seats. Watch the church bulletin for motel prices and more information later this month.



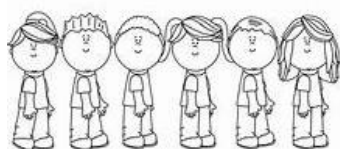
Missing all of you and love you. Keep praying, God is in control.

**Venita**

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## Sunday school section



We are looking for substitute teachers for Sunday School, this is for when teachers are out sick or on vacation for all ages. If interested have them contact me.

Please come help show love to God's children and the future leaders of our Church.

**Kim Buchanan, Sunday School Superintendent**



1 – 1 **Happy New Year!!**  
**Church office-closed**

- 1 – 10 **Sunday Evening Service** resumes 6 pm
- 1 – 13 **Wednesday Evening Service** resumes 7 pm
- 1 – 15 **Second Chance Ministry** 7 pm
- 1 – 16 **Men's Prayer Meeting** resumes 8 am
- 1 – 18 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 1 – 30 **Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction** 6 pm



## Five steps to a healthy diet

The Federal Drug and Food Administration is planning to issue a guide for proper eating that advises you to:

- A. List your ten favorite foods.
- B. List your five favorite beverages.
- C. List all green vegetables that look like marsh grass, fur balls, or little trees.
- D. List water.
- E. Avoid A & B; eat only C; drink only D.



## Shampoo

I always used my shampoo to wash the rest of my body while in the shower. It was just easier to lather up my hair and use the extra suds on my body instead of soap.

Then I saw the words printed on my shampoo bottle "for extra volume and fullness." No wonder why I can't lose weight!

Now I'm using my dish soap in the shower. It's guaranteed to remove fat and other unwanted deposits that other soaps leave behind!



## Dieting Buddies

Mary announced that she was going to start a diet to lose some pounds she had put on recently.

"Great," Sue exclaimed. "I'm ready to start a diet too. We can be dieting buddies and help each other out. And when I feel the urge to drive out and get a burger and fries, I'll call you first."

"Wonderful," Mary replied. "I'll go with you."

submitted by **Jerry Parish**

## Prayer chain

What is the prayer chain? A chain (or list) of people willing to pray for the needs of others as they arise.

If you would like to be placed on the prayer chain list to pray for others **or** if you have a need and would like prayer for that need, please contact Tammy at 740/497-0776 or email her at [prayer@circlevillefirstchurch.com](mailto:prayer@circlevillefirstchurch.com)

