

PFBC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2024

MISSION FOCUS

Pregnancy Resource Clinic



To ring in the New Year, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 21st! PFBC will be hearing one of PRC's staff speak that Sunday and participating in their Baby Bottle Campaign. Details to follow. Until then, below is an update from PRC:

December 2023

Dear Friends of PRC,

“The Word became flesh and and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

This year has been full of God's glory and representations of his Abundant Life:

- Two mothers have chosen adoption for their babies (the most we have had make this decision in any given year!)
- So far, 42 babies have been born to our client families this year!
- A \$20,000 gift was provided to purchase EveryLife Diapers for both of our sites; our storehouses are full with anticipation of even more babies to be born in the coming year!
- Our new site in Lock Haven is nearly finished, with all the large construction projects almost ready for inspection and finer details to be completed in early 2024.
- Spiritual conversations, Gospel presentations, and/or prayer have been shared with over 300 people.
- We were blessed with two new ultrasound machines to serve our clients with excellent care - one at each site. The one in State College was donated by the Heinz Family Foundation and the one in Lock Haven was donated by the Knights of Columbus Council #4678 of State College.

Each client story we have had the privilege to be part of is unique, and we were so blessed by the opportunity to see beautiful and redemptive stories unfold right before our eyes. The privilege to serve our community on your behalf is truly humbling. Thank you for supporting the mission of PRC in 2023.

INVITATION: Will you consider giving a one-time gift and becoming a monthly supporter?

- I anticipate hiring at least 3 new staff members for our Lock Haven site. We currently have \$7,300 per month coming in from Clinton County supporters. We need at least \$25,000 monthly to cover operating and employee expenses.
- Our client load, operating expenses, and marketing needs have all increased. We are upgrading our website and signage and will be doing some rebranding this coming year.
- We have upgrades that need to be made to our 423 site in State College. The upstairs is currently under renovation and will need to be furnished, and the downstairs needs some upgrades, too.
- As we catapult into our 40th Year of serving our communities, will you join us with a one-time gift or monthly donation?

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY

We also encourage you to see if your employer offers a matching program to double your giving impact! Some employers will even match the gifts that you have already made throughout 2023. If your employer does match gifts through a third-party service using using a pre-established recipient list, please search for us under our legal name: "A Woman's Concern Pregnancy Resource Clinic."

RECEIPTS: If you have given **\$250 or above** this past year, you can expect your giving receipt by the end of January 2024, but don't hesitate to contact us if you need one sooner. (You can still request a receipt for any gift given.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Our annual Fundraising Banquet is planned for Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at the Bryce Jordan Center. We hope you can join us!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we pray for you, we ask you to keep us in your prayers as well. We can't wait to see what 2024 holds!

Because you matter,

Jenny M. Summers
Executive Director

PASTOR'S NOTES

Pastor Jeremy

A Call to Radical Discipleship...

A young man in his 30's trying to find his way back to God, a married couple that proclaimed faith for 40 years walks away from Jesus, a history of young people who grew up in church that all but left Christianity after they graduated high school and stories of pastors renouncing their faith in Christ.

These are all true stories that have come across my life recently. It feels a bit like watching a life shattered by alcohol and drugs, only here in the realm of faith. Maybe you've seen some stories like this too.

What are we observing?

According to researchers who work with Barna and other outfits, we are in the midst of the greatest 'de-churching' in American history. The Tim Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics informs us that in recent years:

- there have been 40 million people who have stopped regularly attending church.
- 15 million of those are people who identify as evangelicals.

This shift is happening faster and is greater in size than the 1st and 2nd Great Awakening in American History and the Billy Graham Crusades combined. Though not all the news is bad news. God is at work, and we can continue to praise him.

In the last few years, one place God has been working is among Gen Z and Millennials. They are the largest growing group that is fully embracing a life of following Christ and digging deep into life in the body of Christ.

If what happened at Asbury last year and among other college campuses is any indication of what God may be doing in this generation of young people, studies among Gen Z are showing that once young people find Christ they are 'all-in' with a whole-hearted pursuit for him.

They are expressing a strong desire for serious discipleship, authenticity in church community, and a move away from the 'attractional' style of worship that was once largely embraced by modern evangelicals to a simpler style of worship that humbly pursues Jesus and feels real as opposed to all the previous years of lights and smoke.

This is what is showing up in the research. So what does it mean for us?

I would suggest that we take a look again at Jesus words in the gospel of Mark 8:34-35,

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and the gospel will save it.'"



How might we sum up what Jesus is saying to all who say they want to follow him?

Radical Discipleship

Jesus words are an all-in, never look back, fully devoted, heart committed life of following him in radical discipleship.

Here's what I think this means and doesn't mean. Let me start with the latter. I don't think Jesus was just calling us to 'DO MORE'. To be busier in our serving, to fiercely hold fast to and defend traditions of the church that make us feel comfortable, or to wake up each morning and just 'try harder' at being good.

I believe what Jesus meant was for us to see him for who he is and to fully surrender our hearts and lives to him in full obedience to all he said, believing that he is Lord and he fully loves us. This means we learn to 'day by day' walk in a relationship with Him. Trusting Him by faith. Obeying where he says to obey. Set our lives to seek first the kingdom of God and not the kingdom of this world.

I wonder, if much of the de-churching that is going on and people who are 'walking away' from Christ, is because people built their faith around traditions, or act of doing, but missed the heart of God. My heart breaks to see so many like sheep without a shepherd, living confused or disillusioned as to who Jesus is.

Jesus call in Mark 8, is not just a heartless staunch obedience, but to a joy-filled life of walking with the one who loves you the most. To often, it feels as if part of our struggle is that we try to grab on to part of Jesus, while also still trying to hold on to other parts of our life and 'save our life'. I wonder, if for many, Jesus is more like our relationship to our family physician. We know they know what's best for our health, but we just can't let go of our old habits. Maybe we follow some of their advice. When we are really sick, we need them right away, but when things seem more or less to be going along just fine, we are content to just do life our own way, with underlying issues that we are yet unwilling to address.

The older I get, spiritually speaking, it feels like there are more and more 'underlying issues' that so many people choose to live with, that keep them truly knowing Christ and following Him. The only way to truly know him and avoid a collapse of faith in our lives, is to follow his call to radical discipleship. We must, with faith, be all in with Jesus our Lord and our Savior. Like the song says, 'No turning back, no turning back.'

How is Jesus calling you today to radical discipleship?

In your heart, will you decide that he is worthy and greater than everything else?

What will you do to know him and follow him?

How can we foster a community of radical discipleship at PFBC in 2024?

I encourage you to pray about these things. Pray so that your heart will hold fast to Christ and never be tempted to walk away. Pray so that your love for him will grow deeper. Your worship will be greater. Pray so that Jesus will be glorified in this world and the world will see him as he truly is, the way, the truth, and the life. And that includes you and me.

One pauper leading another to Jesus...
Pastor Jeremy



PFBC KIDS

Babette Manning

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is 2024 and I am looking forward to another exciting year in Children's Ministry. We have some fun family activities planned throughout the year. We will also have a great time studying God's word in Children's church and The Club.

January 2nd
Indoor Park starts

January 3rd
The Club starts

January 12th
Family Movie Night

Children's Easter Drama March 2024

Family Event coming in April - stay tuned for more details

We are going to take several months to read through the book of Proverbs. Proverbs has great wisdom for us, it has short instructions for how we are to live our lives effectively here on earth as children of Christ.

Week 1

Proverbs 1 & 2

Week 2

Proverbs 3 & 4

Week 3

Proverbs 5 & 6

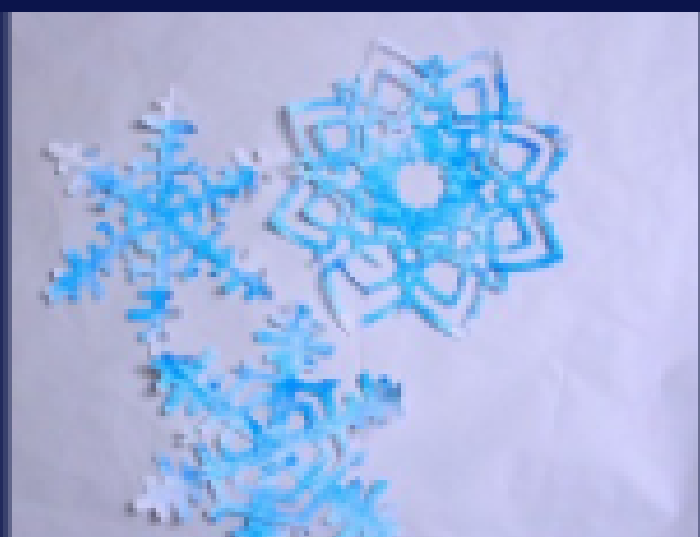
Week 4

Proverbs 7 & 8

Week 5

Proverbs 9 & 10

January Craft idea:
Painted Snowflakes



Supplies:

white paper, acrylic and/or watercolor paint

Directions:

paint a sheet of paper with the paints of your choice. Let the paint dry and then cut into a snowflake. Hang it in a window or wherever you would like to hang a snowflake.

Jenna's *Jokes*



1.) WHAT DO YOU TELL SOMEONE YOU DIDN'T SEE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

2.) WHAT NEW YEAR'S EVE RESOLUTION SHOULD A BASEBALL PLAYER NEVER MAKE?

3.) WHAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO READ MORE?

Answers: 1) I haven't seen you since last year!
2) To travel more
3) Watch TV with subtitles!

YAM Young Adult Ministry

Last month, it was fun to have so many young adults worshipping in the Christmas choir again this year.

Christmas was also celebrated with a party!

We enjoyed fellowshiping over tacos, a white elephant gift exchange, competed in Kahoot (including trivia on Christmas, PA, Michael W. Smith albums, and PFBC of course!), along with a few other games.



YAM Christmas Party 2023

As we transition into the New Year, it's a great time to commit to growing in community with other believers through a small group, if you haven't already.

Looking at scripture, the disciples clearly lived in community with each other. It wasn't always pretty, they didn't always get along, they weren't even necessarily each other's first choices. But they were committed to one another because they were committed to following Jesus and making His name known. The encouragement and growth they gained through living in community often happened because the challenges taught them how to live and love in a Christlike manner.

While today looks much different than the world Peter, John, and others experienced, what a gift to know that God still calls us to live and love like Christ in our own communities!

The YAM small group meets Monday nights, the Broyles, Fields, and Crooms each have one, along with Caleb and Hannah Frantz starting one in January (details to come).

Contact the office or small group leaders with questions!

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Breakfast:

Saturday January 6th at 8 AM.

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, juice, and coffee.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Hilary Field

2024 is upon us and I still remember entering 2000! The thoughts of what happens when we end 1999 and enter 2000. As we close out another year, our mind thinks about what might happen in the coming year...

We can confidently say that as sisters in the Lord,

God is in control.

This new year brings many unknown situations, but we can fully trust in the Lord to be with us every step of the year and give him our cares.

I was listening to a brief devotional this morning and the speaker shared Isaiah 64:8, which says

**“Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the word of your hand.”**

May we remember this in 2024! Let's look to our Father, the potter, to shape and mold us into making us more like Jesus. As we do this, our trust in Him strengthens.



THIS MONTH

Retreat Meeting

Tuesday, January 16
6:30 PM at the church

If interested in helping plan our spring retreat,
please attend, or see Hilary.

Mom's Lifegroup Gathering

Saturday, January 20 - 1 PM
(during 5-12th grade girls & boys events)

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study

Starting again February 1
Studying Hebrews

SAVE THE DATE

Game Night, January 2024

Ladies Spring Retreat at Camp Hebron

April 5 - 7, 2024

Retreat brochures will be out early 2024. Stay tuned for more details.



RIOT Report

Pastor Jon

What a year it has been!

As I look back on the year we've had, I can see the impact that RIOT Youth Ministry is having on our teens. We have seen teens understand the importance of serving, and have seen and heard the responses of the people and neighbors that we have served. We had teens step out of their comfort spaces and share devotional thoughts with the group. Teens that didn't get along, are now friends. The relationships between our teens and our leaders are growing, which will allow for greater impact this year.

As we look forward to this coming year, we are looking for ways that we can increase our impact.

We will continue to seek God's guidance for lessons, events, and activities.

We are looking to increase and expand the relationship between the youth ministry and the other ministries here.

Please be praying for us:

As we head into a new year of impact. To build upon Something on Saturdays (monthly girls events). To start up Dude Days (monthly guys events). That our teens would catch the vision of impact, and would start to live out their faith in great ways, that it impacts those around them, that lives would be saved because of the lives we live.

Toys for Tots Recap

Thank you so much to everyone who prayed, donated, and volunteered for this year's Toys for Tots Campaign.

The gratitude was evident on many faces as we loaded toys into their cars.

Tots by the Numbers

Children Served: 1424
Families Served: 428
Rolls of Wrapping Paper: 350 +
Agencies Served: 16 +
Agency Children Served: 5600 +