

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Coming into a new year, people make all kinds of resolutions for the next year. From trying to be healthier, better time management, life and work goals, and a host of other changes people look to have in their lives. Spiritually you may be wanting to spend more time with God or to serve God's kingdom through the life of the church or to volunteer with charity groups that help people. John Wesley had a Covenant Prayer that he would pray for the new year as a commitment to being open to growing spiritually for God and the Kingdom of God. Wesleyan's Covenant Prayer goes like this:

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

Wesley's prayer is a reminder of the Covenant relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ saving grace. He starts by acknowledging humbly that we belong to God and that God will connect us where we need to be in life. God will put us to doing things for his Kingdom and that sometimes those tasks in life might be hard. At times God might not use us for certain ministries but that we should discern through the Holy Spirit where we can serve in ministries and where we can use our Spiritual Gifts to serve God and others. There is a humbling tone to Wesley's Covenant Prayer that we might have all things and nothing at times in our lives but that we would know God's joy in all circumstances of life. In all things in life to yield to God and to glorify God in all aspects of life. I encourage you to pray Wesley's covenant prayer throughout this new year and be open to seeing where God uses you in ministry or simply calls you to be in relationship with the Lord humbly praising him in the business of life and in the stillness of life this new year.

Pastor Paul



Dear Church Family,

January 2025



I want to thank you for your support of the children and their telling of the Christmas Story on December 8th. Your attendance, applause and kind words were very much appreciated by all the children and adults involved.



Our Children's ministry has grown significantly over the past few years since the Pandemic and I want to take this opportunity to thank the adults and parents that have made this possible. We had 37 children in our program this year!



We have 4 main programs that provide education and activities for our young children at PUMC. We have **Children's Church** each Sunday morning. **Upwards** is a coed basketball league that takes place every Saturday from January through March. We have **Kids Klub** on Wednesdays that has two sessions a year in the Fall and in the Winter. And finally, we have **VBS** each Summer. Each program is unique, but each offer an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with our children. Many of our volunteers and families move from one activity to the next.



I believe that the young families and their children are the future of our church. Please take the time to get to know these young families. Consider volunteering for one of our Children's Ministries. You won't be sorry.



-Consider donating snacks for **CC**:



(Mini Oreos, Goldfish, Fruit Snacks, Rice Krispie Treats, & Mini Vanilla Wafers are the favorites!)



-Consider making a dessert for **KK** or supporting the **Fundraisers** that keep this program free!



-**Upwards** is always looking for referees or people to offer half-time devotions.



-**VBS needs volunteers** & collects donations every Summer.

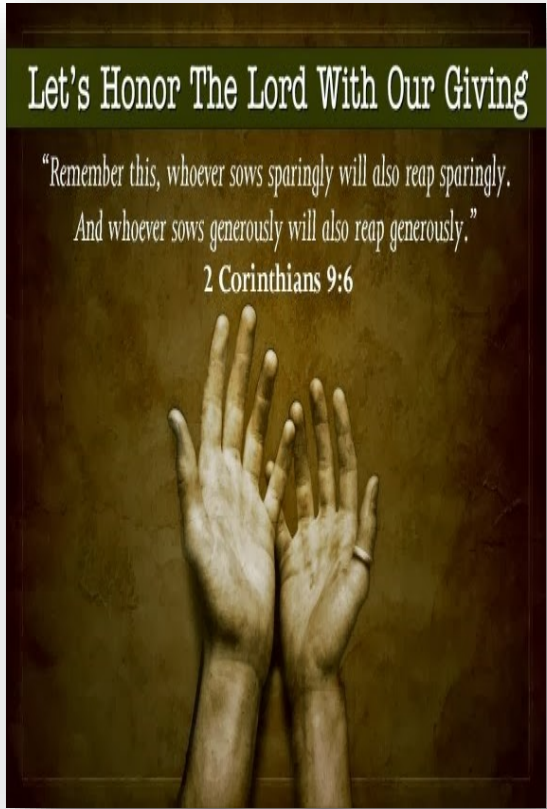
In His Name, Patti Prentiss (Christian Education Dir)



GLANCE AT FINANCE

	<u>NOV</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Monthly physical contributions	\$16,458.00	\$197,880.00
Monthly on-line contributions	\$ 3,029.00	\$ 33,210.00
Other revenues	\$ 1,716.00	\$ 18,870.00
Reimbursements	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 13,563.00
Less monthly expenses	<u>\$ 23,886.00</u>	<u>\$ 248,131.00</u>
Net impact to Budget	\$ (1,583.00)	\$ 15,392.00

Thank you to each one who continues to support PUMC!



"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35
 Poland UMC | 1940 Boardman Poland Rd., Poland, OH 44514 | polandumc.org
TUES JAN 28 - 6-7PM OR WED JAN 29 - 9-10AM

TAKE OUT CHICKEN DINNER

Poland UMC'S
 Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner

Thur, Feb 6

3:30PM til Sold Out

\$10 ea

1940 Boardman Poland Rd., Poland OH 44514
 To support our UM outreach and Missions

KIDS KLUB 2025

We want to thank everyone for supporting Kids Klub Kandies; your kindness allows us to have a quality program with no fees.

Our next fundraiser will be our annual sub sale on SuperBowl Sunday February 9; so if you need yummy 12" subs for your football day; keep us in mind. We will have more details later this month.

The next session of Kids Klub begins January 22 and runs through March 26th. Registration information will be available soon in the narthex. We are excited for another fun session with old & new friends.



Thank
you!

A BIG THANK YOU to all that helped with the Turkey luncheon on Dec 8th and to all the wonderful cookie bakers. What a blessed day we had! Wonderful children's program & wonderful food! Our next fellowship luncheon will be in late February; more details coming soon!

BOOK REVIEW CLUB **AT BOARDMAN UMC'S LIBRARY**

**NO BOOK CLUB IN
JANUARY
OR
FEBRUARY.
SEE YOU MARCH 4TH!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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News from last month:

*We are still accepting enrollments for our Fall Term---you can reach us at the child care office (330-757-9747) or email: pbccc@polandumc.org.

Merry Christmas from all of us a PBCCC!



polandboardmanchildcarecenter.com