

Those serving	Today	Next Sunday
Announcements	TBA	Britt Whitacre
Song Leader	Dennis Mount	Bob Mount
Opening Prayer	TBA	Dennis Mount
Lord's Supper (Prayer)	Bob Mount	Paul Carpenter
Helper	TBA	TBA
Helper	TBA	TBA
Helper	TBA	TBA
Closing Prayer	TBA	Britt Whitacre
Greeters	Dennis & Colleen	Paul & Angela
Prayer Room	TBA	Dennis Mount
Communion Preparation for December	Brittney & Angel	

# Pearl Street church of Christ

330 Pearl Street, P.O. Box 380  
Lynchburg, OH 45142

[www.pearlstchurchofchrist.com](http://www.pearlstchurchofchrist.com)

## Birthdays in December

Wyatt Dean 12/04	Greg Ewing 12/19
Misty Rice 12/05	Angel Balon 12/26
Joann Whitacre 12/07	Faith Carpenter 12/28
Eric Balon 12/17	

## Anniversaries in December

## Re-Birthdays in December

Eric Balon 12/17/2012  
Toni Mount 12/19/1971

## Attendance Record

Attendance last Sunday ..... 17

Weekly Budget ..... \$1,100.00

## Sunday Services

Bible class ..... 9:30 AM  
AM Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
PM Worship and Class ..... 6:00 PM

## Wednesday Service

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

Minister .... Paul Carpenter

December 20, 2015

Guest Speaker: Drew Gibson  
The Empty Gift  
Romans 10:8-10

## Welcome

We wish to welcome you to services at the Pearl Street church of Christ. If you are a visitor with us today, know that you are an honored guest. We invite you to join us each time we meet together for worship and Bible study.

### Just Some Thoughts

“Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.” - George F. McDougall

“How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts O! 'tis easier to keep Holidays than Commandments.” - Benjamin Franklin

“God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame.” - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

### Bible Quiz Time

According to Jacob's blessing of his sons, from whom will the scepter not depart?

### Today's Bible Reading

Romans 10:8-10, English Standard Version.

“<sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

### Paul's Portion

This past week there was a big fuss made on social media and other sources over a picture of presents that a mother had purchased for her three children and piled up around the Christmas tree. The tree was mostly obscured by the pile of presents. The story is that the woman spent \$2,000 on Christmas presents for her 3 children. As one might imagine, the photograph and accompanying story caused a flurry of reactions across the air waves and internet. As with just about every story there were those on both sides of the issue. Many people were appalled at what they viewed as outlandish extravagance. (Perhaps with many of them the real issue was envy that they were unable to spend that kind of money on their children.) The argument made by many was that the children were being spoiled. Connected with this was the thought that the children would not even appreciate that many gifts. The thinking is that after the first few gifts it would be less about gratitude for what they were receiving and more about just seeing what the next gift would be. On the other side of the argument are those who say that it is just a mother trying to give her children a great Christmas. If she wants to spoil her kids this time of year it is her business and no one else's. When it comes right down to it, don't most parents have the attitude of no price is too high for our children's happiness. There is one Father who spent a much higher price than \$2,000 for His children's happiness. God looked down at humanity as they wallowed in their sin and misery and declared that He would pay the price for their rescue. So, He sent His Son to rescue us, to purchase us, to give us the opportunity for eternal happiness, 1 Peter 1:17-19. God doesn't stop there. Once we accept the price paid and become His children God continues to give gifts to us. As James 1:17 states, “<sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” We can also look at Jesus' words in Matthew 7:11, “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” People may say that the woman went too far on her kids, but compared with God's gracious gifts there is no comparison. This season may we all focus on God's giving.

### Take Note

We will not hold our fellowship meal and devotional for the month of December. Our next pot-luck will be January. The sign up sheet for Communion preparation volunteers has been posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. There will be a Christmas eve celebration at the 1st Church of Christ in Lynchburg this Thursday evening at 6:30. Ohio Winter Lectures at Fishinger and Kenney church of Christ in Columbus will be January 29-30, 2016. Robin Tholen is planning a mission trip to Panama. All those interested should speak with Robin.

### Traveling

Glenn & Mary Brose are in Florida.  
The Carpenters are traveling this weekend.  
Josh, Rachel, Kailyn, Isaac, & Evan Steed are coming into town this week.  
Eric, Nicole, Reese & Chloe Mount will also be coming into town this week.  
Shane & Jenna Mount are coming around Christmas.

### Address for notes.

Betty Whitacre: 12850 Gargonia Road, Mt Orab, Oh. 45154  
Elma Jean Glass: 119 Mapleridge, Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154.

### Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

Week Fifty-One: Joshua 22-24, Nehemiah; Luke 19-21.

### Just For Fun

Question: Why did the wise men follow the star?  
Answer: Because GPS hadn't been invented yet.

Quiz Answer: Judah, Genesis 49:10.

### Illness and Prayer Concerns

The Covering Orphanage in Sierra Leone.  
Elma Jean Glass, tumor on spine.  
Bob Mount, rehab for irregular heart rhythm.  
Greg Tholen, recovering from recent bout of ill health.  
Dennis Mount, back pain from accident, sinus relapse.  
Josh Balon, recovering from surgery on his knee.  
Dorothy Pfister, Judy Mason's mother,  
Bob Tholen, shingles as well as recovering from fall.  
Junior Banks, severe blockage in his arteries.  
Mary Banks, recovering from rotator cup surgery.  
Helen Pierson, Glenn Brose's cousin, cancer.  
Randy Kuntz, Colleen's brother-in-law, Virus.  
Denise Scruggs, herniated disc.  
Christopher Banach, recovery from knee surgery.  
Sharon Spagel, back surgery.  
Cheryl Irwin, various health concerns.  
Amber Knight-Borgemanke, requests prayer.  
Keith Howard, Angela's friend, stroke.  
Steve Jordan, cirrhosis of the liver.  
Clyde Wood, depression and health issues.  
Earl Carpenter, spinal stenosis, Parkinsons.  
Ben Back, kidney problems.  
Hillary Yost, healthy pregnancy.  
General poor health: Charlie Balon, Charlie Kessinger,  
Ava Lee Turner, Carol Tyler  
Life Issues: Banach family, Nathan Brady, Steve Jordan,  
Carol Tyler, Zach Slack, Robin's co-worker's daughter.  
Cancer: Don Cook, Goebel Craft, Hayden Cummings,  
Dottie Dysen, Regina Feltner, Julie Hall,  
Marilyn Heichelbech, Linda King, Helen Pierson,  
Valerie Powers, John Rellinger, Shirley Thompson,  
Dorothy Trent, Roger Turner, Betty Whitacre.