

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

AUGUST 2024

I've been thinking about the reaction I've seen from Christians over the Olympic opening ceremony debacle and the old video arcade game of Pac Man. The display this past Friday is not the first-time unbelievers have mocked God or His followers and I doubt it will be the last. When iconic imagery of our faith is defiled and mocked, we should rightly be offended and upset. But how should we publicly react? Let's look to Pac Man and see what we can learn.

In the old video game Pac Man, the object of the game is for Pac Man to eat all the dots in a maze while avoiding the evil "Ghosts". Confronting the Ghost and chasing them or attacking them ends badly. In fairness to those who have played Pac Man, you can eat a power pellet that temporarily turns the Ghosts blue, and they can be eaten for bonus points, but they always return.

In 2 Timothy 2:22 Paul instructs Timothy to "Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace". Paul continues in the next verse and tells Timothy to not have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments because they lead to quarreling. He continues by saying that opponents must be gently instructed in the hope that God will lead them to repentance.

That doesn't mean when we are offended and mocked, we shouldn't speak out. It does mean we need to be mindful of how we speak. It also means we allow God to do what only God can do. Changing hearts and minds is God's domain even when we think we've swallowed a Holy Spirit Power Pellet.

Blessings

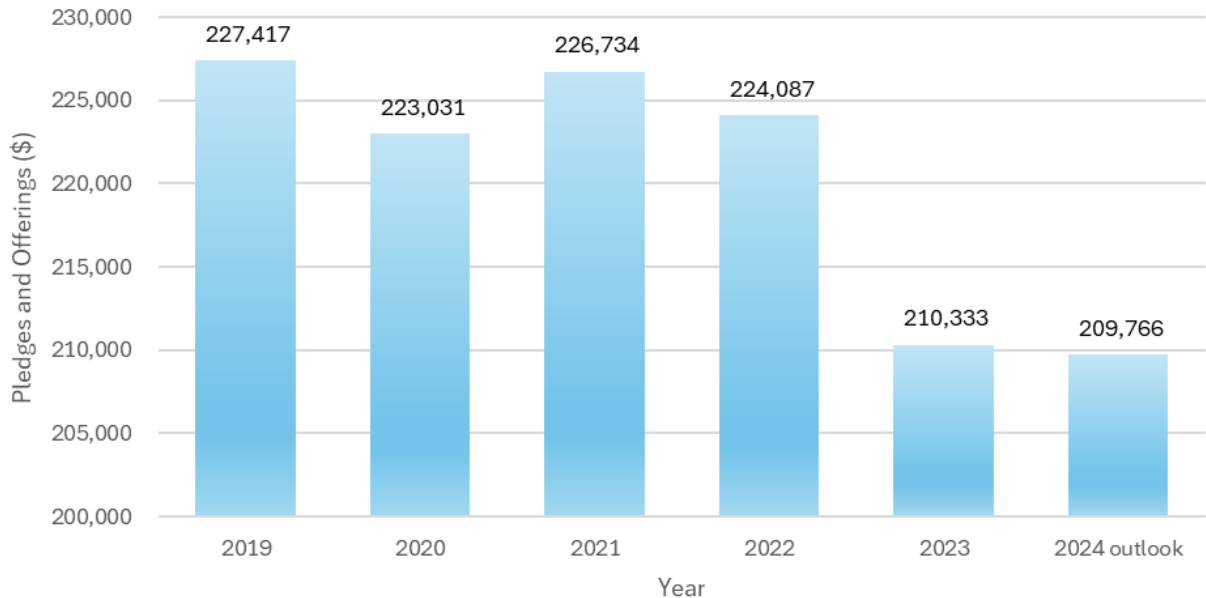
Bro. Cecil

MILK AND HONEY COOKING SCHOOL

Fabulous! Awesome! Wonderful! Brenda deserves a medal! These are a few of the comments shared by those attending the Cooking School. All expressed how much time and effort was given by Brenda & Cecil to present this event. Thanks for the time and effort! Thanks to our youth for assisting.



Centenary Methodist Church 2019 - 2024 Pledges and Offerings



Centenary is a vibrant church with members that generously volunteer their time and freely give tithes and offerings that support our financial needs. Twice over the course of the past ten years, church expenses have exceeded the collected offering. This results in pulling funds from the church savings account to "pay the bills." 2023 was one of those years with a \$19,000 shortfall due to the disaffiliation fee along with a drop in family giving. Fortunately, Centenary is in a financial position to cover those few times when there is a negative cash flow.

The outlook for 2024 is shaping up to be like 2023 with a similar giving level. Also, significant increases in the facility insurance, the pastor's health insurance premiums, and several needed repair projects have pushed the spending outlook well above the \$208,300 budget. The shortfall could be as much as \$14,000.

The church staff and administrative council will be looking at options to reduce expenses and align spending with the tithes and offerings.

UPCOMING MISSION ACTIVITIES

Sunday, August 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Hamburger/ice cream supper in the Fellowship Hall. Activities will include a gourmet hamburger contest, bingo, and a silent auction. The funds raised will benefit local missions.

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Chicken barbecue dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold. The proceeds go to the Kenyan Uniform Drive and Youth Camps.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY

Beginning, Sunday, August 4, 2024 a new Sunday School Class will begin for the older elementary children. The teachers are Cynthia McCormick, Jamie Matise, Jake McCormick and Lenora Frazier.

PRESIDING ELDER-JONATHON BECK

You are invited to Pearl River Methodist Church on August 18th, at 3:00 p.m. to meet our presiding elder with the Global Methodist Church. Jonathon Beck will present information, answer questions, and most importantly get to meet members.

GREENLEAVES

In July, attendees enjoyed hamburgers prepared by Brother Cecil. He then presented a devotion prior to games of Bingo. Join us on August 20th at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, August 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. The group will be viewing The Chosen-Season 4.

JULY ATTENDANCE

July 7	SS	34	Worship Service	79
July 14	SS	46	Worship Service	76
July 21	SS	41	Worship Service	99
July 28	SS	43	Worship Service	76

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 11

Students, Teachers, and Support Staff come worship with us on August 11th. Bring your backpacks and briefcases and receive a blessing for a safe and productive school year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/1 Lana Branch	8/16 Michael Walker
8/1 Debbie Burris	8/17 Abby McCormick
8/3 Max Schilling	8/18 Laurie Duncan
8/5 Laina Asprion	8/18 Jim Cody
8/7 Kelvin McCain	8/21 Allie McCain
8/9 Lenora Frazier	8/24 Mary E. Richardson
8/10 Brian Ridgedell	8/24 Clay Richardson
8/13 Chance Broadway	8/27 David James
8/13 Jake McCormick	8/28 Meg Norwood
8/16 Rick Brocato	8/31 Meadow Smith





PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Alston, Steve Bush, Lynn Borgoyne, Edsel Brock, Fredrick Brumfield, Bob Burris, Addie Coxen, James Crabtree, Patrick Dier, Leslie Dobie, Amy Dudley, Margie Dunnington, Linda Durden, Glen Graves, Barrett Green, Alexia Grogan, Troy Ingram, Von Jarrell, David James, Carmen Jones, Jerry King, Marguerite Lipani Betty Logan, Ed Lyles, Cynthia McCormick, Ila Martin, Mike Mobley, Leighann Morel, Terry Morgan, Darlene Warren Murphy, Pam Penny, Christie Pierce, Gayle Rester, Tanda Schilling, Dianne Smith, Bonnie Stokes, Dean Thomas, Gabriel Woolman.

Families of: Jan Hughes, Ouida Minark, Carley Stokes, Ann Stokes, Elliot Trahan, Dorothy Gill.

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Amelia Jane Schaubhut-Parents: Jenna Beber & Aaron Schaubhut, Centenary Great Grandparents: Don & Sarah Tregre, Great-great grandmother, and Uncle: Margie & Jeffrey Dunnington.

Baby Boy Hester-Parents: Emily and Chris Hester, Brother Hayden, Sister Avery, Centenary Grandparents: Jimmy and Debbie Burris

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Megan McCain, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield, Dillon Mitchell, Mason Knudson.

CONTACT US

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Pastor: Cecil Locke
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

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