



Messenger of Hope

February 2025

I blinked because I couldn't quite believe what I read – but there it was, plain as day on my phone! The headline read: “Bible Sales are Booming, Despite the Decline in Religiosity.” The article featured a young woman named Briana who had just recently bought a Bible for the first time in her life. She was inspired by watching “Duck Dynasty” star Phil Robertson, who, at one point, pulled out his Bible. “You could tell he'd had it for decades and decades. It was just held together with duct tape,” Briana said. She then began to think about how wonderful it would be to have a Bible like that which she could pass down to her own children who could “read and see how the Lord spoke to me through it.”

The article then went on to give some statistics – such as the fact that Bible sales were up 22% from January – October 2024. Similarly, while print Bible sales hit an all-time low of just under 8.9 million in 2020, sales rose to 13.7 million in the first 10 months of 2024! And all of this is happening in the midst of a decline in religious interest; a full 28% of American adults are religiously unaffiliated. So, fewer people are going to church than before, but more people are buying and (hopefully) reading the Bible for the first time. Perhaps – just perhaps – the lack of an objective moral anchor is leading people to search for something to fill that void in their lives.

This leads me to conclude that this is an incredible opportunity for us as believers today. Don't forget that the first and more important Great End of the Church is the Proclamation of the Gospel! Our first and greatest purpose as the followers of Jesus Christ is to fulfill Christ's Great Commission – to go into all the world and make disciples (see Matthew 28 in your own Bible). And now, for so many more people, it seems, we have a point of connection – in Scripture! There is a growing hunger for the Word of God, and we have it to offer, my friends! We have it in spades!

But... we can only offer what we ourselves know and love. As a friend of mine is fond of saying: we only commend what we cherish – that is, we can only pass along to others what we are passionate about ourselves. So, if we do not know and love the Scriptures ourselves, then we cannot seize this opportunity God has served up to us on a silver platter. All that to say – if you are not reading and studying the Scriptures each day, if you are not in Sunday School or Bible Study or some other teaching opportunity, then now is the time to start! Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Friends, there are so many people in our community today who are simply lost. They are cut adrift from God's truth, following the whims of the world. They are making major life decisions – even ones with eternal consequences for themselves and their families – based simply on their impressions or feelings, which as we all know, can be so changeable and untrustworthy. This month, let us all pray for God to send us to at least one person we can talk to about Jesus, about His Word, and about why we believe it. Let's pray for God to give us opportunities to help those who are indeed seeking for that anchor for their lives that they are missing. For Jesus Christ has given us something wonderful that the world needs – the Good News of the Gospel as found in Scripture! Let's not keep that to ourselves, especially as we see such a hunger for it in our world today! Let's shine like a city on a hill, so that many may find that Good News for themselves and give praise to our Lord Jesus Christ!

~Pastor Ben

HPC Information

HPC Attendance			
Date	In Person	Online	Total
1/26/25	35	6	41
1/19/25	29	6	35
1/12/25	35	9	44
1/5/25	34	11	45
12/29/24	35	8	43
12/24/24	59	8	67
12/22/24	34	8	42
12/15/24	32	11	43
12/8/24	32	6	38
12/5/24	107	21	128
12/1/24	37	6	43



Above: HPC Service Attendance Average: January 42, December 42.

Right: Income was lower than expenses in December.

3 Month Financial Report			
	October, 2024	November, 2024	December, 2024
General Fund	\$32,739.70	\$48,570.98	\$45,502.93
Income	\$11,742.00	\$25,405.00	\$8,615.00
Expense	\$10,133.17	\$9,577.08	\$12,391.59
Net	\$1,608.83	\$15,827.92	(\$3,776.59)



Left: Quilt made by Lois Williams at the Heritage Assisted Living Center in Marysville.



January Session Minutes

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property – Andy Forsythe – church insurance company will be changed and recertify fire extinguishers.

Mission/Outreach – Betty Jane Davis.

Finance/Personnel – John Tuttle.

Fellowship – TBD.

Worship – Tony Ganson – investigating on operating manuals and Presbytery policies.

Christian Education – Betsy Shoffstall – investigating VBS.

Next session meeting February 18, 2025 7:00 PM.

We are grateful for these blessings:

- Praise for Lennie's recovery. He is at the Indian Lake Rehabilitation Center room 114.
- Praise for Mason's successful dental surgery.
- Praise for the progress Leonard has made so far.

Lord, hear our prayers for these trials we face:

- Prayers for Leonard who is still hospitalized.
- Prayers for Coffman family on the passing of Bob.
- Prayers for Mason who will have dental surgery.
- Prayers for the Coffman Family on Bob's passing.
- Prayers for Ben's upcoming oral surgery.
- Prayers for Kim B after a fire destroyed her barn.
- Prayers for Donna S as she faces two more shoulder surgeries.
- Prayers for Matt Z's mom.
- Praise for Mason getting safely settled in Rome.
- Prayers for Leonard as he recovers at Indian Lake Rehabilitation Center.
- Prayers for our home bound members -Bernie G. at home, Betty H. at the Homestead, Lois W. at The Gables (Marysville), Lenny Y. at home.

Lois Williams (Room 304)
Heritage Senior Living
1565 London Ave
Marysville, OH 43040

Bernie Ganson
4423 County Road 222
Huntsville, OH 43324

Lennie Young
120 Poplar Court
Lakeview, OH 43331

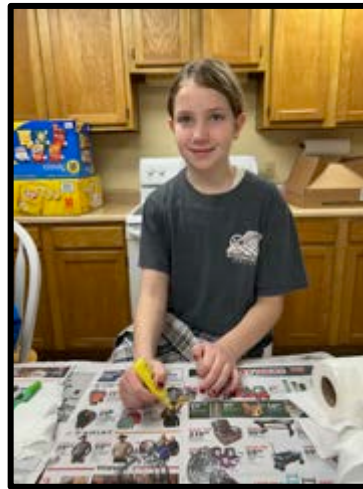
Betty Hemphill (Room 106)
Logan Acres Senior Community
2745 County Road 91
Bellefontaine, OH 43311



Above: Betty H at Logan Acres.

They would love to receive cards from us!

FACES WE LOVE



Above Left: Coach Lori & the ILHS swim teams on Chalk Talk. **Above:** Carolyn & Harley at children's church. **Right:** Cambria serving hot chocolate at ILHS. **Left:** Myles Tuttle, son of Brianna & Jaylon Tuttle, grandson of Brian & Ramona Fry and Greg & Michelle Tuttle, great grandson of Jerry Fry and John & Dottie Tuttle.



Above: Aryn, Carolyn & JD enjoying the snow. **Right:** Dave celebrating his birthday with his two grandchildren.




Above: January potluck enjoyed by many. **Right:** JD & Carolyn sledding. **Far Right:** Kirk & Coach Tucci with the ILMS 8th grade basketball team.





HPC HAPPENINGS February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Austin Parker Ethan Parker Keith Stoner
2 10 am Worship	3	4	5 Dottie Tuttle Jerry Fry Ron Martz	6	7	8
9 10 am Worship	10	11	12 Brooke Zarnosky Ian Hanson 6 pm Winter Potluck	13	14 Valentines' Day	15 Kevin Allison Tanner Hurley
16 10 am Worship	17	18 7pm Session mtg	19	20 Sharon Ganson	21	22
23 10 am Worship	24 Scott & Deborah Risner	25	26	27 Curt Uebele	28 Wayne & June Wickerham (2/29)	

Thanks to those who serve us well!

Helping with Worship in January:

Lay Readers: Betsy Shoffstall, Bev Martz,
Tony Ganson

Pianist / Organist: Aryn Forsythe

Greeters/Ushers: Brown family



Left: HPC Choir with special guest Beau Young. Above: Our acolytes, Carolyn & Harley.



*Worshipping God,
Loving Our Neighbors*

Huntsville Presbyterian Church
6490 Fruit Street
P.O. Box 254
Huntsville, Ohio 43324
Ph. (937) 686-2131

Huntsvillepres@gmail.com
HPCSecretary@gmail.com

Visit our website at
www.huntsvillepresbyterianchurch.com

Check us out on Facebook under
"Huntsville Presbyterian Church"

*God Bless
You!*