

PIONEER

CONNECT

DECEMBER 23, 2017



**WHO MAKES
THE WIND HIS
MESSENGERS:**

THE CHRISTMAS COMPACT

WELCOME

to Pioneer

Welcome! Do you know what Hurricane Irma, Meghan Markle, iPhone 8, and the French Elections all have in common? Let's throw one more in there: How to make slime? These are the top trending Google searches in 2017.

So what is trending for you personally this year? For me, I've been blessed immensely with the daily practice of coming to my heavenly Father asking for the gift that brings all the treasures of heaven with it (<https://steps-to-personal-revival.info>). If you haven't yet asked for this gift, it is never too late to ask for it! Your Christmas celebration won't be complete without it. We are glad you are here. And yes, we asked the Father to share His Gift with us this morning too!

—José Bourget

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
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"JUST A BABY, VERY WEE"

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

As far as I know, the Lutheran Church in town boasts the only life-size nativity display in our county. At nighttime its scattered spotlights cast a surreal glimmering over the porcelain participants in the birth of the Christ Child. And the recent snowfall with its dollops of white lumped across the scene only adds to its mystique—shepherds, magi, donkey and camel as big as life clustered about the peasant family of man, woman and Infant. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord" declared the Christmas angel (Luke 2:11).

Joseph Cahill reflects: "At its profoundest, our celebration of Christmas, which continues to maintain such an inexplicable hold on our whole culture, is not 'good news' about material acquisitions (as everything from department stores to television commercials proclaims to us): it is rather, a dramatization of the simple triumphs of common humanity, in which joy at a baby's birth can overcome the most grievous official oppressions, and even the pedestrian aggravations, of ordinary life" (*Desire of Everlasting Hills* 100).

That's certainly one way to summarize it. But even Cahill would agree that if the Bethlehem story is reduced to "a dramatization of the simple truths of common humanity," who could blame us for dashing past that crude manger, oblivious to the silver miracle embedded in its straw?

Nearly twenty centuries ago came this first carol of all: "By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory."
(1 Timothy 3:16 NASB)

Nearly fifteen centuries later Martin Luther composed a children's carol for this season:

Our little Lord, we give thee praise
That thou hast deigned to take our ways.
Born of a maid a man to be,
And all the angels sing to thee.

The eternal Father's Son he lay
Cradled in a crib of hay.
The everlasting God appears
In our frail flesh and blood and tears.

What the globe could not enwrap
Nestled lies in Mary's lap.
Just a baby, very wee,
Yet Lord of all the world is he.

Nearly a century ago Ellen White crafted this un-carol depiction of Christmas: "The work of redemption is called a mystery, and it is indeed the mystery by which everlasting righteousness is brought to all who believe. . . . At an infinite cost, and by a process mysterious to angels as well as to men, Christ assumed humanity. Hiding His divinity, laying aside His glory, He was born a babe in Bethlehem" (7BC 915).



The mystery of incarnation, the miracle of "infleshment" summarized by Paul, celebrated by Luther, articulated by White.

For upon that mystery is balanced the only truth left to save humanity from itself. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"Just a baby, very wee, yet Lord of all the world is he."

"O come, let us adore Him." ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.org/blog.

DO WE SQUEAK?

BY RICHARD PARKE

Don't you just hate when things squeak? It's that sound something makes when it's not oiled well—you can tell it hasn't been cared for. What about us—do we squeak? Perhaps that question takes on a negative connotation, but may I suggest that a squeak can be a good thing if it's managed well? How we squeak makes all the difference.

I'm talking about how we share the love of Christ with others. Pioneer has a unique mission in Connect Grow Serve Go. It's the "Go" that I'm most interested in and what I'm most passionate about as a leader. What it means to me is extending beyond our walls and, perhaps, getting out of our comfort zone. We must pop the bubble of safety in order to reach our community. That is what we set out to do through our media ministry here at Pioneer.

We average 50 volunteers who weekly give of their time to support worship inside as well as outside our walls. Many are students who take back to their home churches practical skills related to media ministry they can live out in their own church. We also appreciate the long-term dedication of the community members who volunteer as well. All these volunteers allow Pioneer to connect to the greater community outside our walls.

As we seek to keep up with the ever-changing world of technology, our media ministry continually makes



investments and improvements. Not all these investments are visible, particularly to our local congregation (if you've ever wondered what happens behind the scenes we invite you to tour the Media Department sometime). We're also always excited about new volunteer recruits. We welcome seasoned media professionals, and if you're new to media ministry, we provide the training you'll need.

Using multimedia to share the Gospel isn't without cost. Since early on, Pioneer



support our media ministry (in general) including airtime, you now have that option by indicating "Media Ministry" as you give.

PERHAPS THAT QUESTION TAKES ON A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION, BUT MAY I SUGGEST THAT A SQUEAK CAN BE A GOOD THING IF IT'S MANAGED WELL?

As critical as your financial investment is, perhaps just as important is your prayer partnership. We get stories from people all over the community and world who share how our ministry has blessed them. It reminds us that what we do matters and the need God has tasked us with fulfilling. So please continue to pray for the lives positively impacted by this outreach ministry.

Think about how you can "Go" this holiday season—it's as simple as opening the door for someone, joining the team, sharing an extra financial gift, or reaching out to your neighbor—we all have a part in fulfilling the Gospel commission to the ends of the earth. ■

Richard Parke is the director of Media Ministries here at PMC.

has been using radio and television to reach the Michiana community. Airtime on WHME-TV alone is a big annual investment, and it is by your support that we continue this outreach ministry.

In 2018 we begin an additional way to support our media ministry here at Pioneer. If you've been giving to support our broadcast on WHME-TV, you may still continue to do so by indicating "TV Ministry" on your tithe envelope or via our online giving tools. If, however, you'd like to

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"Media Ministry"
on your tithe envelope.

CHRISTMAS AT PIONEER

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Pioneer Family Life

José Bourget

Opening Voluntary

In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Jubilation) • Hermann Schroeder

Introit

Gloria! in Excelsis! Deo! • Kenneth Logan

Christmas Call

PASTOR: "As it fell upon a night in the winter weather,"
PEOPLE: "Angels bright in starry height began to sing together."
PASTOR: "Shepherds sleeping on the plain woke to see the glory,"
PEOPLE: "All amazed they stood and gazed and heard the angels' story."
PASTOR: "Unto you a child is born in a manger lowly,"
PEOPLE: "Humble, He, yet born to be the King of Love most holy."
PASTOR: "Happy angels from afar, cease your singing never!"
PEOPLE: "In excelsis gloria! Forever and forever."
PASTOR: "O come, let us adore Him!"
PEOPLE: Amen.

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Carols of the Season

We Rejoice in the Light
Good Christians, Now Rejoice • st. 1-2 of 136
There's a Song in the Air • st. 1-2, 4 of 120
O Little Town of Bethlehem • st. 1 & 3 of 135
Angels We Have Heard on High • st. 1-2, 4 of 142

Family Prayer

José, Christine, Sophia, and Jonah Bourget
Lord, Speak to Me • st. 1 of 541

One Family's Story

Marco de Faria Filho, Ingrid dos Reis Faria,
Martin dos Reis Faria, Lauren dos Reis Faria

Infant Dedication Stella Karina presented by Pavel & Rhonda Tomenko
with Dwight K. Nelson
Dedication Carol *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* • *Traditional Polish Carol*

Offering PMC Operating Expense
The Holy Boy (A Carol of the Nativity) • *John Ireland*

Children's Story *Away in a Manger* • 124

Christmas Scripture Luke 2:8-14 NKJV • JoAnn Siagian & Jessica Yoong

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Christmas Music *What Child Is This?* • *Traditional Carol*

Christmas Homily "Who Makes the Wind His Messengers:
The Christmas Compact"
Dwight K. Nelson

Appeal *Do You Have Room?* • *Shawna Edwards*

Benediction

Closing Voluntary *In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Jubilation)* • *Johann Sebastian Bach*

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
DEDICATION CAROL: Pedro Falcon, oboe
CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Ana, Branka, Marina, Nevena, and Vladimir Slavujevic
APPEAL: Karen Nelson, soprano
TRUMPET: Eric Lofgren

WE STUDY

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Song Service

Jimmer Mun

Opening Hymn

What Child Is This? • 141

Scripture

Matthew 12:38-41 • Tommy Panigot

Special Feature

"What About the Sign of Jonah?" • Josip Horonic

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Jubilation) • Johann Gottfried Walther

Bible Study

Classes • "Overcoming Evil With Good"

Theme Song

Make Me a Blessing

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine.
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson

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Benediction

Jimmer Mun

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

| TRANSFERS IN |

ABRIOL, Natanael & Graciela
 ARISTIDE, Talisa
 BUENO, Gabriel & Guilherme
 HOWARD, Justin & Ana
 LACSON, Leomar & Gina
 LANGAT, Fredrick & Valarie
 LEACOCK, Angelina & Julia
 MARCELLINO, Anthony
 NOGUEIRA, Leila
 SINISCARCHIO, Fabio
 UMANA, Maxine
 WHITE, Carlita

| FROM |

Central • Fresno, CA
 Mountain View • Las Vegas, NV
 Primeira Essencia, Brazil
 Jacksonville, NC
 Mountain View • Las Vegas, NV
 The Way • Shoreview, MN
 Mount Zion • Hamden, CT
 Atholton • Columbia MD
 Portuguese • Fall River, MA
 Igreja de Genebra • Onex, Switzerland
 Stevensville, MI
 Lewisville, TX

| TRANSFERS OUT |

METELLUS, Marchenry
 NICOLAO, Isaac
 WATSON, Terry
 WEITHERS-BRUCE, Merillee

| TO |

Rockville, MD
 Ubungo Hill/Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
 First/Tampa, FL
 Kent, WA

| PROFESSION OF FAITH |

MENANI, Mugisha
 SANCHEZ, Luis & Keila

MUSIC ALIVE

GLORIA! IN EXCELSIS! DEO!

At the opening of today's service is a musical interpretation of words from the angels' song, "Gloria to God in the highest . . ." The composition is in three parts, roughly corresponding in the respective musical sections to the title sections divided by exclamation marks. Composers seek to evoke the theme of "glory" in many different ways. Is it streams of glory light, sheer brightness to be

expressed in some way musically? Or is it a hushed, quiet apprehension of the awe of "glory"? Options are many. Today's music explores aspects of this "glory" topic that ultimately fails to be expressible in human musical terms. A composer can feel profoundly like the shepherds at Jesus' birth, encountering the profound "otherness" of an awesome experience. ■

SUBMIT bulletin announcements by visiting our form online at www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received Monday by 5:00 PM for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
Michigan Conference New Office Building

SUNSET TODAY • 5:17
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:22

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 30 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"The Gift of a Good Forgetter:
Your #1 New Year's Promise"

| 01 • 06 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"They Lifted Up Their Voice:
A Cry in the Wind"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING EXPENSE

All year long we have been sharing the budget goals for PMC operating. As you may have noticed, many times we are behind budget. However, this is the time of year when we as church members can go the extra mile to make sure that our church ends the year with the budget met, and maybe even a little surplus. Please give generously to PMC operating expense today.

Your Free Directory Pictures

Those who had their picture taken by LifeTouch for the upcoming photo directory, and did not have their pictures mailed to their home, need to come by the church office during business hours or stop by the lower level welcome center today to pick up their free 8x10 picture.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

Join us for a special program called "The Christmas Story."

Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24 • 5:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

This service is a special time for all ages to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

Adult Sabbath School Quarterly

Adult Sabbath School teachers or group representatives may pick up lesson quarterlies on behalf of their Sabbath on-duty leaders or Sabbath School group from the Welcome Center through December. Sabbath School materials are also available for free at <http://ssnet.org/study-guides>. For questions or to submit Sabbath School information, contact Pastor Sabine or Gracie via gracie.gaytan@pmchurch.org or 471.3133.

PMC Office Closed

The PMC office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, for the Christmas holiday. We will be open at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, December 27, and look forward to serving you.

Happy 95th Birthday!

Stefanie (Bob) Hile, Andre and Vova; Alana and Elvin Gonzalez, Amante and Talisa wish their father and grandfather, Dr. Steven Tarangle, an amazing 95th birthday celebrated December 28! If you would like to send best wishes, please send to: Dr. Steven Tarangle, 9124 George Ave., #40, Berrien Springs, MI. 49103.

Ten Days of Prayer

JANUARY 1-10 • 6:45-8:00 PM
4731 GREENFIELD DR.

Come and join the Youngbergs at their home for the 28th Annual Ten Days of Prayer. Start the New Year right—on your knees! Each night there will be inspiring short presentations on the Father God, our loving Savior, the Holy Spirit, and angelic ministries with personal sharing on what these have meant in incidents in your lives. Bring your prayer lists to share. This small group is for young or old. What happened after the waiting disciples prayed ten days in the Upper Room? Is this the gift that you want above all others? Out-of-state and foreign prayer requests gladly shared and prayed for.

New 2018 Devotional Books

Pick up a flyer from the ABC at the welcome centers to receive the sale prices offered on the new 2018 devotional books.

Grow Groups!

Thinking about leading a GROW Group between February 18 to April 29? Here are just a few ideas for activities or themes to hopefully inspire new ideas: hammocking, paying your student debt, single dads, speaking other languages, learning ASL, random acts of kindness, cooking on a budget, buying your first home, engaged—now what? And many more. To be included in the Spring 2018 semester catalog, sign up your group at www.pmchurch.org/grow and help others GROW new friendships with God and each other. Questions? Contact Pastor Sabine or Gracie Gaytan via growgroups@pmchurch.org.

Madagascar Project

Andrews University's Community and International Development department provides an opportunity for students to attend the Madagascar Study tour each year. The goal every year is to implement a humanitarian & development project. Dr. Joel Raveloharimisy, director of the CID program, has coordinated and sponsored many projects such as Mantasoa Youth Center, Orphanage Hanitry ny Ala, and Orphanage Mampitasoa, and this year's project funds a Seventh-day Adventist school, "La Chretienne" College. Students who attend this school are in need of books, computers, and resources to make their education more successful. Your tax-deductible donations can be made as one-time gifts or through several donations over time. Please visit <https://vault.andrews.edu/vault/app/pages/advance-ment/login/development> select "Madagascar Study Tour Projects." In the text box titled "My Instructions" type in "Smart Future" and this will allow you to donate to La Chretienne College.

"Adopt" an Andrews Student in 2018!

Are you a Pioneer member, family, or GROW Group with a burden to help transform this generation and make disciples? Are you willing to offer spiritual support, encouragement, occasional care packages, and the feeling of home to a University student starting next semester? An instructional packet on your "adoptee" will be made available on Sabbath January 13, 2018. For more information, contact Pastor Sabine (vatel@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153).

B4B Collection Bins

Did you know that there are K-12 students here in our own community who struggle to have enough food each weekend? You can help! Throughout December, PMC is serving as the primary collection point for Backpacks for Berrien's food donation program. Simply find one of the two B4B collection bins here in the church, take a photo on your phone of the posted list of non-perishable items needed, then pick up a few extra things (individual serving sizes, please) the next time you're at the grocery store or Costco/Sam's Club. We only have the bins here for a few more Sabbaths so don't put it off, and thanks for your care and generosity!

Get Our E-Letter!

Receive PMC's e-Letter, Pioneer Mid-week, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at www.pmchurch.org/newsletter.

Volunteers Needed for Winter Camp for the Blind

FEBRUARY 4-9, 2018
CAMP AU SABLE

Volunteers are needed for the Michigan Winter Camp for the Blind. If you are able to help, please contact Larry Hubbell at 248.459.3165 or 248.634.4379. If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to help—you can make a donation. Make your check payable to Michigan Conference and put "Blind Camp" on the memo line. Send to MI Conference Blind Camp, 812 Academy Rd., Holly, MI 48442.

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.

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TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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