

# PIONEER

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# CONNECT

DECEMBER 17, 2016



#RxF4Now

THE OGRE BY THE MANGER

# WELCOME

*to Pioneer*

If you've been counting, you know that it is only 8 days until Christmas and here in Berrien Springs, that often means cold temperatures and snow outside. However, all through the church, you will find a warm welcome awaiting you—member, guest, or Holiday traveler.

As a University Church, the Christmas break most affects our attendance, as many faculty, staff and students travel to be with family—so we are a smaller congregation today. However, as you join us in worship through the messages, music, prayers and giving, expect to be blessed, for God has, indeed, promised to be with us!

I am intrigued by Pastor Dwight's sermon title: #RxF4Now—The Ogre by the Manger. The dictionaries I consulted defined an "ogre" as a hideous, cruel man or a person who is felt to be particularly brutish or hideous. Stayed "tuned" for the unveiling!

—Sharon Terrell

 <b>PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH</b> 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		<b>PHONE</b> – 269.471.3133 <b>FAX</b> – 269.471.6152
<b>LIVE STREAMING</b> <a href="http://www.newperceptions.tv">www.newperceptions.tv</a> Sabbath 11:45 AM	<b>ONLINE</b> <a href="http://www.pmchurch.org">www.pmchurch.org</a> <a href="http://www.newperceptions.tv">www.newperceptions.tv</a>	<b>RADIO</b> WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
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# CLEOPATRA'S NOSE— PART TWO

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

**H**er nose is hardly the stuff of Christmas, to be sure. But there may be a Noel connection yet. My last blog noted that the French mathematician philosopher, Blaise Pascal, a devout Christian (1623-1662), wrote in his *Pensees* that had Cleopatra's nose "been shorter the whole face of the earth would have been different" (No 413). I.e., such a small but attractive detail (her nose) left Mark Anthony's heart smitten, plunging him into a war for her, forever changing the Roman Empire which changed the world we live in today. Etc. Seemingly small details can have enormous consequences.

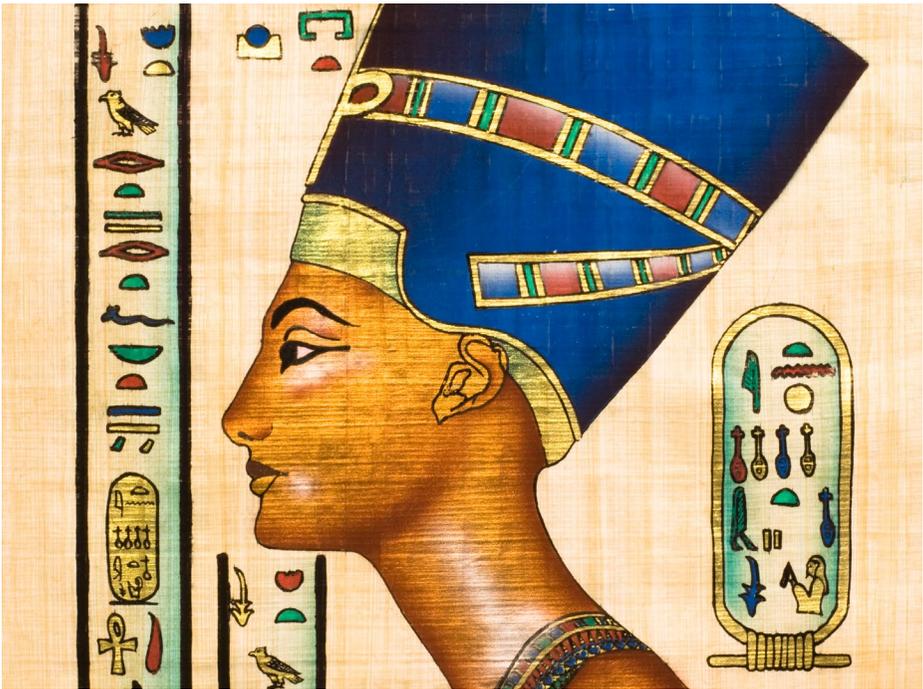
In this season of gift giving and receiving, you may remember the promise of Jesus: "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11)

Jim Moon, a pastor friend of mine, sent me a quotation the other day—came across it during his time of worship and prayer. He's been listening to our #RxF4Now series and in connection with the teaching "2nd Hand Faith" ([www.pmchurch.tv/service/2016/11/05/2nd-hand-faith](http://www.pmchurch.tv/service/2016/11/05/2nd-hand-faith)) he texted the quotation. Throughout the fall season at Pioneer we've been focusing on God's omnipotent word—so omnipotent that when He speaks it, that word immediately creates the reality it describes.

Hence, "Let there be light" in half a nano-second resulted in—no surprise—light! "For He commanded and it stood fast; He spoke and it was" (Psalm 33:6). The astounding omnipotence of the word(s) of God is chronicled throughout Scripture (see also Isaiah 55:11; John 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:16, et al.). When God breathes a word, that very word immediately creates the reality it describes.

But how does it work? Paul declares (2 Corinthians 1:20) that all of God's promises are a mighty "Yes!" in Christ, because Jesus is both the eternal Creator and the very Word of God (John 1:1-3). In Him every promise (or word) God has ever spoken is powerfully ratified with a divine exclamation "Yes!" All we mortals need do is declare "Amen" to Jesus—"... and so through him [Christ] the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 1:20). When you and I declare "Amen" to one of His promises, we are simply adding our "Yes!" to God's "Yes!" and opening ourselves to receiving that promise, that gift.

Now the quotation Jim sent me: For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, *for any gift He has promised*, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received. We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. *The gift is in the promise*, and we may go



about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, *which we already possess*, will be realized when we need it most. (*Education* 258 emphasis supplied)

Ponder those italicized phrases: “any gift He has promised,” “the gift is in the promise,” and “which we already possess.” Take any promise God has made in Scripture—put your finger on it and with childlike faith declare “Amen!” for that promise—believe you have in that moment received that gift—thank God for the gift—and with no further “outward evidence” resume your everyday living—with the assurance that (here’s the astounding part of the quotation) the gift you “already possess” will be “realized” (made evident, made plain, manifested) when you “need it most.” Amen!

“Yes, but I prayed and believed that God would heal me (heal my loved one), and He has not done so.” First of all, God is not through answering your prayer (no matter the circumstances). And secondly,

the same God who answered Jesus’ anguished pleading in Gethsemane—“Take it away from Me, but not what I want, but what You want” (see Mark 14:36)—will just as surely answer your prayer, too—in just the way He answered Jesus’ prayer—at the precise time and through the very circumstances that both maximize His glory and save your life (and the lives of countless others through your radical faith testimony).

Read it again: “We may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized *when we need it most.*”

Such a small word—but what enormous and eternal consequences for your whispered faith in God’s bountiful promises this very Christmas—“Amen!” ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight’s blog at [www.pmchurch.tv/blog](http://www.pmchurch.tv/blog).



# SOUP FOR STUDENTS

BY RODLIE ORTIZ

**T**here's nothing like meeting the needs of people in practical ways.

As we all know, finals week can be extremely stressful for our students. Walking through campus the week before finals it's easy to notice the effect it has on them. That's why I'm really proud of our church. On Tuesday of finals week, we held our eighth Soup for Student event.

Soups were brought in addition to salad, cookies, and peanut butter and jelly.

At 6 PM students started going through the line in the Commons. They enjoyed a variety of homemade soup from minestrone, chili, lentil, potato, and potato cabbage. Those waiting in line were tempted with the smell of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, which disappeared very quickly. Volunteers helped keep the food tables stocked and enjoyed visiting with the students. A number of students came back for seconds and thirds. Take out containers were furnished for those that couldn't stay or wanted to take soup home for a future meal. We heard a lot of "thank you's" and "this is so good."

So why do we do all this?

Why do volunteers faithfully gather to serve in the kitchen? Why do dozens of you choose to bring pots of soup and then spend time cleaning up afterward? As you may remember, a lot of students begin running out of money on their cafeteria accounts toward the end of the year, and this provides a welcome meal where they don't have to stress about money. They can simply come and enjoy the love, fellowship, and ministry from their local church.

It reminds me of this Scripture in Matthew 25:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'" (Matthew 25:34-36).

Thank you for being a part and helping to communicate that their church loves them. By the time these students leave, they might not remember the specifics of all the programs they were a part of, but they will remember the feeling of being loved. ■

*Rodlie Ortiz is the pastor for "This Generation Evangelism" here at PMC.*

## SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate  
"Master Plan - Evangelism"  
on your tithe envelope.

# WE WORSHIP

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## Opening Voluntary

*Sing We Now of Christmas • Wayne Wold*

## Introit

*Glory to God (from Messiah) • George Frideric Handel*

## Call to Worship

Sharon Terrell

Be not afraid because I bring good news of great joy!

**Behold, a great joy will come to all the people!**

Jesus is among us here. Let us seek him.

**Let us come before the child who is born for us.**

## Doxology

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2*

## Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

## Carols of the Season

*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 From the Realms of Glory • st. 1-3 of 119*

## Congregational Prayer

Sharon Terrell

*O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 of 132*

## Worship in Music

*Hallelujah (from Messiah) • George Frideric Handel*

## Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

*Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah) • George Frideric Handel*

## Children's Story

## Scripture

Luke 9:57-58, 61-62 NIV • Carmen & Juan Rivas

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

**Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."**

*(continued on next page)*

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

**Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**

**Hymn of Preparation**

*What Child Is This?* • 141

**Sermon**

#RxF4Now—The Ogre by the Manger  
Dwight K. Nelson

**Connect Card**

**Hymn of Commitment**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* • 126 sung to the tune of 224

**Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

*Sinfonia (from Messiah)* • George Frideric Handel

PRESIDING PASTOR: Don Dronen; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director  
Eric Lofgren, trumpet

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# MUSIC ALIVE

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

In many of the world's countries, music from *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) typifies Christmas perhaps like no other seasonal music. The so-called "Christmas section" of Handel's composition is only about 40% of the whole. Handel continues from choruses and solos about Jesus' birth to meditate musically on the sufferings and death of Christ, and on Jesus' ultimate victory

over the grave, among other topics. But that "Christmas section" is particularly interesting in its heavy reliance on Old Testament passages for telling the Messiah's story. Isaiah 7 (quoted in Matthew 1), 9, 40 and 60, along with Haggai 2 and Malachi 3, all figure in Handel's narrative before the entrance of text from Luke 2. Today in worship we hear excerpts from this piece (organ standing in for orchestra). ■

# WE STUDY

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<b>Song Service</b>	Christina Carroll
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i> • 121
<b>Welcome</b>	Qaisar Ayaz
<b>Scripture &amp; Prayer</b>	Isaiah 53:5 • Lonnie & Sarah Ayaz
<b>Special Feature</b>	"Reaching Children for Christ in Cambodia" • Stephen Erich
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i> • Joan Pinkston
<b>Bible Study</b>	"Job's Redeemer" • Classes
<b>Theme Song</b>	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

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  
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

<b>Benediction</b>	Christina Carroll
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
OFFERTORY: Elizabeth Wilson, mezzo soprano; Joshua Goines, piano

# WE WORSHIP 2

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## As We Begin

*Sing We Now of Christmas* • Wayne Wold  
*Glory to God (from Messiah)* • George Frideric Handel

## Praise

*Joy to the World (Our God Saves)* • *O Come All Ye Faithful* • *Away in a Manger*

## Prayer

Sharon Terrell

## Tithes & Offerings

*Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah)* • George Frideric Handel

## Children's Story

## Bible Reading

Luke 9:57-58, 61-62 NIV

## Worship in Music

*Hallelujah (from Messiah)* • George Frideric Handel

## Sermon

#RxF4Now—The Ogre by the Manger • Dwight K. Nelson

## Connect Card

*In the Bleak Midwinter* • 126 sung to the tune of 224

## As We Depart

*Sinfonia (from Messiah)* • George Frideric Handel

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Joshua Goines; ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Michael Gibson  
VOCALS: Melissa Gibson, Sinegugu Katenga  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director  
Eric Lofgren, trumpet

**SUBMIT** announcements by emailing [bulletin@pmchurch.org](mailto:bulletin@pmchurch.org) or by going to [www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit](http://www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit). Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

**NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING**  
Michigan Advance Partners

**SUNSET TODAY** • 5:15  
**SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY** • 5:18

## PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 24 |

### DWIGHT K. NELSON

*Christmas Breakfast in Church (9 to 10 AM)*  
#RxF4Now—The Christmas Robe:  
A Meditation on the Swaddling Cloths  
(11:45 AM)

| 12 • 31 |

### SHARON TERRELL

Communion

## FINANCIAL FEATURE

### PMC OPERATING BUDGET

The Bible says that the wise men “saw the Child with his mother Mary, they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Have you seen Jesus this year in your life? Please consider following the wise men’s example by bringing a special gift to Jesus this Christmas. Every dollar given to PMC’s operating budget is used to reach the world for Jesus.

### Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

### Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM  
YOUTH CHAPEL

Come and receive a blessing as we praise God at the close of this Sabbath.

### GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at [www.pmchurch.org/grow](http://www.pmchurch.org/grow) so that more can join. Help us grow more hope, community and friends for Christ in 2017! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at [growgroups@pmchurch.org](mailto:growgroups@pmchurch.org) or 269.471.6153.

### Thank You

We are so blessed! A wonderful Lord and a great Church Family! We are so thankful for the calls, visits, food, flowers, love and prayers you have given us. While he went through an unexpected time recently, Andy is home and almost normal again. God bless. —Andy & Judy Snyder

## Pathfinder Apple Pies

Apple pies are still available while supplies last from the Evergreen Pathfinders. Email [evergreen.pathfinders@gmail.com](mailto:evergreen.pathfinders@gmail.com) with your order and they will arrange a pick-up.

## Handel's Messiah Sing-Along

DECEMBER 18 • 4:00 PM  
PMC SANCTUARY

PMC and WAUS are hosting a sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah. Invite your friends and join us for marvelous music and a reception to follow. If you have experience singing Handel's Messiah, please join with the Sanctuary Choir for this festive community experience. For info, contact director, Jeannie Pedersen-Smith ([jean.pedersen.smith@gmail.com](mailto:jean.pedersen.smith@gmail.com)) or 269.277.0488, voice or text).

## Adopt a Family for Christmas

Experience the joy of bringing smiles and feelings of deep appreciation from families who may be struggling to meet basic needs as well as bring some pleasure to their children during the holiday season. In addition to helping some international student families on campus, we would like to include a few non-Adventist families in Berrien Springs, and also assist Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor as they reach out to their immediate neighbors. We are looking for people who would like to adopt a family, give a donation (money, gift cards, food, toys, etc.), or help in other ways. We hope you choose to get involved by bringing cheer and gladness to many families this Christmas. To choose a family, or for more information about how you can help, call Katherine Smith 269.471.1502 or Deby Andvik 269.471.6648.

## AU Mission Trip to Haiti

On March 17, 27 students will be flying to the city of Port-au Prince, Haiti, during spring break. They will be building an addition onto an orphanage, provide a medical clinic, as well as put on a VBS program for the children. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as they go to be Jesus' hands and feet. You can donate by going to [www.andrews.edu/go/give/2cm](http://www.andrews.edu/go/give/2cm) and in the instructions box write, "Students Haiti."

## Ellen G. White Issues Symposium

APRIL 3 • 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM  
SEMINARY CHAPEL

Mark your calendar and join us for this special event sponsored by the Center for Adventist Research, the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office, and the Seminary Church History Department. The purpose of this symposium is to break new ground in understanding Ellen White and issues relating to her life, ministry, and prophetic gift that have current importance. There is no charge for attending the symposium. Speakers this year are Richard Davidson, Jiri Moskala, Merlin Burt, Denis Kaiser, and Iriann Marie Hausted.

## Church Kitchen

Some things are missing from our church kitchen. Please make sure any items you may have borrowed from the kitchen are returned. Thank you!

## More Announcements

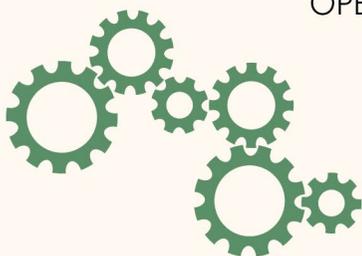
For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at [www.pmchurch.org/announcements](http://www.pmchurch.org/announcements).

pioneer memorial church  
**FAMILY FINANCES**

As of November 30, 2016

Includes November online giving

OPERATING FUND



**LINE 2 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE**

GOAL TO-DATE	615,696
RECEIVED TO-DATE	485,127
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2015	515,956

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**LINE 3 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE**

GOAL TO-DATE	206,592
RECEIVED TO-DATE	156,986
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2015	178,305



MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM



**LINE 5 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE**

GOAL TO-DATE	115,392
RECEIVED TO-DATE	86,211
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2015	87,663

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# *Christmas Breakfast*

IN CHURCH



DECEMBER 24 • 9:00 TO 10:00 AM • PMC COMMONS

Come and share  
our most joy-filled  
holiday tradition—  
a delectable Christmas

## *Breakfast in Church*

Bring your favorite holiday sweet rolls,  
and we'll provide the rest.



If you want to help serve, please call 471.3150