



God is love and love lives here!

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Sunday, November 24, 2024

Romans 12:2

2 Do not be conformed to this world,[a] but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.[b]

## Moving The Needle

Every sales job I've had has used this phrase; How do we move the needle? What they are asking is how do we grow sales as a company and take it to the next level. I didn't realize how much that would translate into ministry as I exited that career. I left one job only to find churches asking the same question; how do we move the needle? Both were really asking the same questions. How do we get more people interested in what we have to offer? You see, sales and church require the same thing to function. They both require people to reach their maximum potential. If you don't have the people, you can't reach your goals and develop the organization. People are a requirement to success!

What keeps businesses and churches from moving the needle? The answer becomes really simple when you look at it from the outside looking in and it boils down to three truths; 1. Lack of Perspective, 2. Refusal to Change, and 3. the loss of innovation. That's really all it is. Whether it's business or church, I have found in all situations these three challenges create boundaries that are extremely difficult to penetrate. Over the next three weeks, I want to talk about each of these so that we can, as they say, "move the needle". Let's start with Challenge number 1: Lack of Perspective.

Everyone has a perspective, but our perspectives are influenced by history, experiences, and personal preferences. Over time our perspective becomes more focused on that last little part, our personal preferences. This is completely natural! Everyone does it but it can often be a hindrance to our personal growth. We know what we know and that's enough. But what if something needs to change? Our natural tendency is to resist because we have our own perspectives and personal preferences. What most businesses and churches need is to have someone come in as a consultant to offer a new perspective. It's not that ours is wrong or that we are bad. Actually, we are really good and have a lot to offer; we just might not be offering our gifts in a way that appeals to the people we need. Someone offering a new and fresh perspective can not only accentuate the positive but also help an organization see where the areas of growth are necessary and what needs to change.

That last word is what complicates the whole bunch and why organizations don't seek out perspective. When you start to see the cracks in the foundation, you're now responsible for what happens. When it's hidden it's ok but once the challenges are exposed change is necessary to growth. Growing up we remodeled houses. What kind of a contractor would we be if we didn't fix the problems? Would it have been ethical or just to see a floor about to collapse and say, "Looks good to me", "we installed this system 20 years ago, no need to change it now", or "Maybe you should move instead of dealing with the issue". We would all agree our business model would be flawed if this was the way we operated.

Changing perspective is necessary and extremely Biblical. Romans 12: 2 tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. It literally means to change our perspective and see our world through God's eyes and not our own. He's the best consultant we can hire, the most ethical contractor, and sees all the cracks from a place of love and encouragement. It's not just necessary to change perspective but a commission from a place of love for the church. God's desire isn't for any church to stay exactly where they are but to make disciples of all nations and to transform the world for His Kingdom. When we change our perspective and see ourselves as God sees us then we can truly move the needle.

Keep the Faith, Pastor Tommy

### Scripture and Sermon:

Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

"Big Questions:  
Do Pets go to Heaven?"



### New Concerns

Brad & Gretchen Brechin

### Continue Prayers for:

Logan and Penny Ray

Gloria Nelson

Susan Mobley

Elizabeth Reidl

Bill Reedy

Family of Tom Gamble

Family of Charles Houston

Mark Stacy

Jeff Carpenter

Family of Martha Lee Jones

Lamar Outz

Paul Smith

Phil & Betty Bailey

Dianne Harrington

Mac McCullough

Kathy Blanchard

Betty Bowen

Michael & Jennie Walston

Betty Byrd

Mary Prater

Jim & Mary Leary

Virginia Eadie

Bill Reedy

Our Country, Leaders, Military and  
First Responders

### Finance Report for

11-17-24

Operating Budget..... \$7,525.00

A/C Fund..... 3500.00

Family Promise..... 50.00

Food Pantry..... 2,131.14

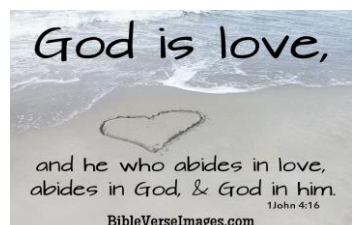
Total..... \$13,206.14

### Worship Attendance

141

### Sunday School

49




Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- ◇ In memory of Leon Hudson by Keith & Betsy Phillips, Bennie & Joyce Wyatt, Elaine Shierling
- ◇ In memory of Tom Gamble by James & Joan Pullen, Keith & Betsy Phillips, Bennie & Joyce Wyatt, Lynn Mayfield, Elaine Shierling, J.O. & Lynn Miller
- ◇ In memory of Charles Houston by Keith & Betsy Phillips
- ◇ In memory of All the Saints by Nancy Brechin
- ◇ In honor of Cheri Cox and all the dedicated women that provide bereavement meals by Nancy Hudson



- ✓ 11-24-24 Hanging of the Greens 11:30a
- ✓ 11-27/28-24 Office Closed- Thanksgiving
- ✓ 12-07-24 Christmas Festival 4p
- ✓ 12-08-24 Blessing of the Bears 10:30a
- ✓ 12-08-24 Parsonage Open House 5p-7p
- ✓ 12-09-24 Finance Meeting 6p
- ✓ 12-24-24 Christmas Eve Service 6p
- ✓ 12-25-24 through 01-02-25 Office Closed- Christmas



24  
James Avant  
26  
Kelly A Evans  
28  
Paul Smith

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of November 24 <sup>th</sup> :	
Sunday.....	1 Peter 1
Monday.....	1 Peter 2
Tuesday....	1 Peter 3
Wednesday-.....	1 Peter 4
Thursday.....	1 Peter 5
Friday.....	2 Peter 1
Saturday.....	2 Peter 2

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry will be November 27, 10a-1p, and **volunteers are still needed**, even with the change of operation. Please see Cheri to help with this ministry. You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- The Clothes Closet is open November 27, the Clothes Closet will follow the same schedule as the Food Pantry. We will open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for shoppers and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for processing donations. Donations now can be left in the black box trailer in front of the Outreach Center. Our new hours will be 8:45am until 1:15pm.
- The Clothes Closet will resume our **regular schedule in January**.
- The Clothes Closet will host a Community Yard Sale January 31-February 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Yard Sale donations are being accepted at the Clothes Closet and stored in the Yak Shack until the sale. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of these two missions. God is good all the time! Brenda
- November 27: Sherry Armour, Cynthia Boutwell, Barbara Bruschke  
November 27: Nancy Brechin, Sherrill Pinckney, Annette Cipra

Christmas Festival

~ Our Christmas Festival this year is Saturday, December 7, 3p-6:30p. It will be different than in years past as it is being restructured to be more family-oriented and bring the community together and to also coincide with the Centerville Lighted Christmas Parade that starts at 7p. During the afternoon there will be bouncy houses, corn hole, church vendors in the Fellowship Hall and a couple of choirs. During the evening we'll be serving hot chocolate. So, come on out and join us for fun, fellowship and the parade! Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

~ Our 2024 **Toy Giveaway** will take place in the Fellowship Hall near Santa **December 7th** during the Christmas Festival beginning at 3p-6:30p. The Toy Giveaway is a collaborative effort with us and the Youth/Children at the Well. We are asking for **toy donations to be left in the Donations trailer during November**. If you find any toys there, please bring them into the closet where they can be temporarily stored as space allows. We might need to move them to the Yak Shack. Anyone willing to help with the giveaway on the 7th, please let me know. Thank you so much, Brenda

~ **The Sweet Shoppe** will be open at the Christmas Festival on December 7th from 3-6:30! We are in need of lots of items to sell such as: Homemade cakes (slices or whole), cookies, cupcakes, pies, brownies, muffins, snack mixes, candies, jellies, etc. Items should be wrapped and labeled to sell, please. There are lots of ideas for easy holiday treats online! Please bring items to the Social Hall by noon on Saturday, 12/7, so that they can be priced. We can use lots of help, as all proceeds go directly to the Church. Cake plates for iced cakes are first come, first served, in the church office. Thanks for your support!!

Friendship Circle

- The Friendship Circle will again be sponsoring a collection of bears (or other small, clean stuffed animals to delight a child) to be given to the Centerville Fire and Police Departments. We will need the help of our congregation to make this successful. A collection box will be placed near the Church office entrance. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in spreading love and happiness to children in need! Blessing of the Bears will be December 8. Many thanks, Marilyn Outz
- The Friendship Circle will be assembling some 1gallon plastic blessing bags for the homeless before Christmas. If you should have any items to donate such as small water bottles, small Kleenex packs, warm socks and gloves for men and women, packs of crackers, even \$5 bills or small gift cards to fast food restaurants - no more than \$5. Each member will carry these bags in our vehicles and distribute to those who are in need. Any supplies can be left in the Issues and Answers classroom. Thanks!!

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- November 24

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Lynn Mayfield  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell, Roy Carter  
9:15a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship  
11:30a Hanging of the Greens

Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

Communion Servers

Gary & Kathy Rutke  
Harry Siemen, Susan Howdeshell

Prayer Teams

Nancy Hudson, Amber Gamble  
Thomas & Joy Fleming

Finance Stewards

Mel Smeltz, J.O. Miller, Gary Rutke

Assisting with Children

Sunday- November 24  
Nursery- Lauren Wilson, Rosalyn Ande  
Children- Brenda Craw, Sherry Armour  
Sunday- December 1  
Nursery- Brittany Ross, Sarah Blackburn  
Children- Nancy Hudson, Kelly Evans

Monday- November 25

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- November 26

8a-1p Pick up your hams!  
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Partners in Prayer  
10:00a Yoga  
6:00p Life Group III "LG3"

Wednesday- November 27

Office Closed- Thanksgiving

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
8:45a-1:15p Clothes Closet  
10a-1p Food Pantry  
5:15p Handbells  
6:00p Youth  
6:30p Choir Practice  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- November 28

Office Closed- Thanksgiving

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Yoga  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- November 29

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- November 30

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Women  
at the  
Well



Men  
at the  
Well



Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers  
Issues & Answers  
New Beginnings  
Christian Fellowship

Studies

What Happens Next  
Luke  
Be Alert  
1 Timothy

Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
Joy Fleming  
Nancy Hudson  
Luis Morales



### Family Promise

If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

### Young at Heart

**Save the Date!** Heart at Heart will have their Christmas Party on December 13. Elvis will arrive and entertain us! Gloria



# Men at the Well Thanksgiving Hams \$40

Pick up is **Tuesday,**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>, 8a-1p**  
See any "Man" or call the office  
to get yours...  
They freeze well, too!



Purchase a

*Poinsettia*

### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

Poinsettias are now available for ordering to be delivered and placed in the church November 29 and taken home after Christmas Eve Service. We will be ordering 24 poinsettias, so be sure to order yours, get one for yourself, in honor of someone or in memory of someone. Cost is \$12.50. Call or email the church to place your order.