



# Perry Church of the Nazarene

news

January 2019



## The Voice of the Shepherd

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. - Jhn 10:14-15 NIV*

A few years ago, there was a video produced on YouTube that perfectly illustrated this passage of Scripture. A group of children were challenged to call out to a flock of about 50 sheep grazing in a field. Several children called out to the sheep but the sheep paid absolutely no attention to their voices. The sheep kept grazing. Then a shepherd stepped up and called out to the sheep. Immediately, you saw a few sheep lift their heads up and turn toward the shepherd. As the call continued, the other sheep stopped grazing and looked toward the shepherd. A few seconds later, several began running toward the shepherd. Before long, the whole flock surrounded the shepherd and followed him as he walked along. It would be hard to imagine a better scene to meditate upon to nourish our soul.

Jesus invites us into a relationship of deep connection. We often try to use human relationships as analogies to explain the deep connection God wants for us — a husband and wife; a child and parent; two friends. Perhaps these are the best we can do, but Jesus goes further, teaching, "...as the Father knows me and I know the Father..." so Jesus will know you and you will know Jesus. Knowing and being known are desires that form the foundation of our most intimate relationships. Our best relationships reveal a knowledge of one another that has grown a

mutual self-giving love. The Father and Son knew one another and experienced this deep unity — a mystery that has defied explanation for 2000 years. Usually, the more we try to explain it, the more confused we get. It cannot be explained but only believed in faith and then experienced.

*"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." - Eph 3:17-19 NIV*

How do we experience deep connection and unity with Jesus? Like sheep, we listen for his voice. Someone has said, "What gets my attention, gets me." Not only do we listen for his voice but we also learn not to listen to other voices. Like the school children in the YouTube video, there are other voices calling us but we must not turn to those voices. We must learn to turn away from the voices that criticize or condemn; the voices that attempt to control or constrict us. We listen for and turn to the voice of the one who laid down his life for us. His love is true. And he invites us into his flock.

*Pastor Tim*



connect

The Apostle Paul describes the church as the Body of Christ, with Christ as the head. Just as the human body is connected and shares important information with its parts, so also the church must be connected and share with one another. It is only as we are united with each other that we truly begin to grasp the fullness of God's love. To help us toward this goal, we are utilizing a new software called PCNConnect that functions much like our previous printed

church directories. Profiles of individuals in our church are created and those individuals receive IDs and passwords from the church office to login and control their information and privacy settings. In addition to sharing directory information, PCNConnect also has other useful features that improve communication and better organizes ministries.

You can access PCNConnect from our church website ([www.perrynazarene.com](http://www.perrynazarene.com)) by clicking the link "Member Site Login." If you haven't logged into PCNConnect yet, please contact Stacy in the church office for instructions and more information.

## Adult Sunday School Classes this Winter Sundays . 10:00am . Fellowship Hall

We have three adult Sunday School classes that meet in the fellowship hall at 10am. These classes are open to everyone and you may join at any time.

- LOGOS meets in room 207 and will spend the winter looking at Jesus, the greatest communicator of all time, as seen through the Gospel of Luke.
- MMIT (Mountain Movers in Training) meets in room 206 and will spend the winter reading and discussing Rick Warren's book "God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions."
- MissioLife meets in room 202/203 and will spend the winter looking at how God leads godly leaders as we study Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

## Women's Wednesday Bible Study Wednesdays . 7:00pm (Begins Jan 9)

According to the apostle Paul, the pattern of Jesus' life—death followed by resurrection—should also be the pattern of our lives. Following a study from Paul Miller and SeeJesus, we'll spend time in Philippians 3 to recognize this "J-curve" pattern first in the life of the apostle and then in our own lives. The study will bring truths like justification by faith and union with Christ to life—inspiring worship, emboldening hope, and empowering love.

## Men's Bible Study Wednesdays . 6:15am or 7:00pm (Begins Jan 9)

In this world where too many men behave badly, our world desperately needs better men. This winter, we are continuing our study of the 33 series teach what it means to live a life that models the life of Jesus.

## Financial Peace University Thursdays . 7:00pm (Begins Jan 17)

Financial Peace University is a nine-lesson, money-management class taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey in which you learn the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more. The class will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Contact the church office for more information.

## Marriage Class Sundays . 4:00pm (Begins Jan 27)

A nine week marriage study and small group will begin January 27th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Kent and Karen Strachan, this study will utilize Dr. Emerson Eggerichs Love and Respect Building Blocks small group DVD study. The class will explore key principles that create "Ah Ha" moments and bring fresh insight into your marriage. Everyone is welcome. Call the church office at (517) 625-3400 to register.

## Real Life Student Ministries

### Right at Home Wednesdays . 6:30pm

Every Wednesday night at 6:30 in the lower level, students in 7th-12th grade come together for youth group. We join with our youth group family for fun and fellowship as we worship and learn together, seeking to become fearless disciples of Christ.

### Right at Home January 5 from 7-10pm

Right at Home is at the Cloutier's home (124 W.Polly, Perry) on Saturday, January 5th from 7-10pm. Let's start the new year off right with celebration: invite a friend, bring a snack and join us for a night of fun, games, and fellowship! We hope to see you there!

### District Celebrate Life

Please pray for our teens as they go off to Kuyper College in Grand Rapids to develop the gifts God has given them! Pray they will be inspired to be more passionate than ever about using everything they have for His glory! We will be gone Friday night and Saturday, January 25th-26th.

## Inside Out Children's Ministries

### Inside Out Worship Sundays . 11:00am . Lower Level

Our children's worship for kids in 1st-6th grade, meets Sundays at 11:00am in the lower level. The hour is an opportunity for children to have their lives transformed through amazing worship, engaging Bible stories, life-applying small groups and prayer for each other. Let's be turned inside out as we worship and grow together.

### Preschool Worship Sundays . 9:00am or 11:00am

Our youngest kids (2years—kindergarten) have two worship options at 9am or 11am with age appropriate lessons and activities.

### Children's Sunday School Sundays . 10:00am

We offer Sunday School classes for kids 2 years—6th grade. With age appropriate lessons and activities, children learn more about God and what it means to follow Jesus

### Children's Caravan & Benson Buddies Wednesdays . 7:00pm

Caravan is a character building program for kids in 1st-6th grade. Kids earn badges in the categories of mental, physical, spiritual and social development. Benson Buddies for children ages 2-kindergarten will discover God's story travelling through both Old and New Testaments. These amazing stories will live in the hearts and minds of our little ones as they begin their faith with our God.