

# PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

Address Service Requested



«Name»

«Address»

«City» «State» «Zip»

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November 1, 2021

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## FREE FROM FEAR When Times are Uncertain, Remember Who God Is.

Have you been dealing with fear and anxiety during this pandemic and time of civil unrest? Have you been tormented by worry due to financial difficulties, the loss of a job or a conflict with a loved one?

We all experience anxiety, stress and discouragement; yet for many of us, these feelings have been an especially difficult struggle in recent months. The good news is there's a way to overcome them and experience real peace. It starts with trusting God to do *more*—beyond what we think is possible.

We have a choice: We can try to do what we can based on *our* ability, or we can remember who God is and trust Him to do what only *He* can do. It might feel beyond you, but nothing is ever beyond *Him*. Psalm 119:68 declares this of God: "You are good, and do good." In other words, God isn't good because He *does* good. He does good because He *is* good. God isn't all-powerful because He does powerful things. He *does* powerful things because He *is* all-powerful.

**"We have a choice: We can try to do what we can based on *our* ability, or we can remember who God is and trust Him to do what only *He* can do."**

A couple of years ago, I passed out due to critically low blood pressure and had to be airlifted from my home to the hospital. The doctors later discovered I had lost over half my blood, and I had a blood clot the size of a cantaloupe in my abdomen. It was a scary experience as my life hung in the balance, but even as I passed in and out of consciousness while being flown to the hospital, I still had peace. Why? Because I knew that regardless of what was about to happen, God is good and faithful. I knew what I was experiencing wasn't beyond His healing, saving power. Even my wife, Debbie, who couldn't get on the helicopter with me and had to drive by herself to the hospital, chose to trust God and experienced His peace. Why? Because we know who God is. We know God does good because He *is* good. We know nothing is ever beyond His lifesaving power. In the same way, what we're going through in our world today is not beyond God. People being healed from COVID-19 is not beyond Him.

There's a difference between concern and fear. For example, if your child falls and hurts his wrist, you take him to an urgent care center, get X-rays and follow the doctor's orders. You're concerned about your child, but you don't have to fear. It's OK for us to be concerned; however, we cannot be fearful. Whenever we feel fear taking over, we have to stop ourselves and say, "I'm not going to be fearful. I'm going to trust God. I'm going to be concerned and do what the medical experts tell us to do, but I'm not going to be afraid." In times like this, we need to remember that God is always faithful.

The key is to have faith and to believe God's eternal and unchanging Word. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The more we receive the Word of God into our hearts and minds, the more our faith will grow and the more willing we will be to believe and trust the Lord.

One morning not long after COVID-19 began to spread in the United States, I woke up feeling achy and feverish. Fear immediately flooded my mind. And just like I'm telling you, I had to remind myself of God's faithfulness and believe what His Word says. That's when the fear lifted, and peace filled my heart.

Don't let the enemy run away with your mind. When you start to feel afraid or anxious, the best thing you can do is remember who God is and believe what His Word says: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

**"We know God does good because He *is* good. We know nothing is ever beyond His lifesaving power. In the same way, what we're going through in our world today is not beyond God."**

Time and time again, God reminds us in His Word not to fear. The first three times "fear not" or "do not fear" appear in the Bible are in Genesis. From the very beginning, God has been trying to tell us, "Don't fear. Don't be afraid. I've got it all under control. I'm going to take care of it." In fact, "fear not" is the most repeated command in the Bible. It's not a negative command; it's a positive command. God is emphatically but kindly telling us, "Do not fear!" There's actually some form of the phrases "fear not" or "do not fear" 365 times in the Bible—one for every day of the year! In other words, put your trust in God every single day, and don't let your heart be afraid. Relax! God is taking care of this.

Now, think about how knowing and believing this would affect your decisions today. How it would affect the moments you might struggle with insecurity, worry or fear about your health, your job or your finances. In these moments, you can recall the truth of who God is and the promise of 2 Timothy 1:7—"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Remember, it's OK to be concerned, but we cannot be fearful. Believing God is who He says He is and that He is always faithful is a spiritual practice that has the power to transform your life. Develop a habit of reminding yourself of this truth every morning when you wake up, every time you eat and every time you go to bed.

Knowing and continually remembering who God is equips you for every situation life brings and helps you to be free from fear. Because the more you know who He is, the less you will fear and the more you will experience His peace, joy and transformation in your life. ©2021 Robert Morris. *Robert Morris is the senior pastor of Gateway Church, a multicampus church based in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. His television program airs in more than 190 countries, and his radio program airs in over 1,800 radio markets across America. He serves as chancellor of The King's University in Southlake, Texas.*

## GOD'S BLESSINGS OCT.17, 2021

BUDGET NEEDS:	\$7,157.70
BUDGET RECEIPT:	\$5,721.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$341.00
WORSHIP	112

## GOD'S BLESSINGS OCT 24, 2021

BUDGET NEEDS:	\$7,157.70
BUDGET RECEIPT:	\$5,064.00



*On behalf of the Nominating Committee, we still need servants in the following areas: Vacation Bible School Director, Sunday School teachers for our 2, 3, & 4 year old children, and teachers for our 3 & 4 year old children on Wednesday night. Please be in prayer about these positions and contact the Nominating committee with questions: Kevin Calloway, Gala Calloway, Steve Martin, Kari Reeves and Sheila Settle. Thank you!*

## Service Times

### Sunday

- 10:00 am - Children's Sunday School
- 10:00 am - Adult Sunday School
- 11:00 am - Worship Service

### Wednesday

- 7:00 pm - Children Night Class
- 7:00 pm - Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 pm - Youth Bible Study

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INTERIM PASTOR DENNIS BALL 336-262-1740 CELL 336-818-2235

ASSOC/YOUTH PASTOR BRANDON DAVIS 336-374-0298

WIFI: PLEASANT RIDGE, PASSWORD: PLEASANTRIDGE

WIFI IN NURSERY AREA: PRBC, PASSWORD: PLEASANTBAPTIST

Tri-C for November: Toothpaste Donations:

Ark Meal for Nov. 16: Melinda Cockerham

**Operation North State** is a non profit organization whom supports Veterans in many ways. Again this year, they have asked for our help with the NCCARES Christmas Box Project. All throughout NC, they provide Christmas Boxes for shut-in Veterans. From now to December there will be a collection box for items to donate. These men and women deserve our thanks for their service and this is a small way we can honor them. If you know a shut-in Veteran, please contact Operation North State to add them to their list of recipients.

**Mission Trip:** Nov. 4-6 We will be taking Day trips to Sparta, NC to help with Earthquake repairs. Make plans to go help our close neighbors recover and heal. We will leave the church at 7:30am each day. Please sign up in the vestibule. Thank you!!

**Sisters In Christ:** Our SIC group will have a White Bible Ceremony for New Brides on Sun. Nov 7th during the Worship hour.

**Callaway Bridal Shower:** Please join us on Sunday, November 7th for a bridal shower honoring Abby Callaway! The shower will be held in the church fellowship hall from 2-4pm. Abby and Jon are registered at Walmart & Target.

**Thanksgiving in Panther, WV:** Partner with Stone's Throw Christian Ministries and Panther Missionary Baptist Church to provide Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to families in Panther, West Virginia. Boxes may be purchased in honor or memory of someone. **Money will be collected through Monday, Nov. 8th.** Boxes will be packed on Nov. 18th and delivered Nov. 20th.

**Operation Christmas Child:** It's almost Operation Christmas Child season! In the weeks to come we will be announcing details about a Church Wide Packing Party for November 10th at 6:30pm AND opportunities to process shoeboxes in the OCC warehouses. Please stay tuned for more information and see Sam or Alli with questions.

**Hanging of the Greens:** We will have a "Hanging of the Greens" service on Sunday night Nov. 28th at 5:00pm. There will also be a Soup fellowship to follow in the Church Fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to come and join us for this very special service.

## Thanksgiving in Panther, WV

Partner with Stone's Throw Christian Ministries and Panther Missionary Baptist Church to provide Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to families in Panther, West Virginia.

1 Box = \$25

Boxes may be purchased in honor or memory of someone. **Money will be collected through Monday, Nov. 8th.** Boxes will be packed on Nov. 18th and delivered Nov. 20th. More info to come.

Thanks for your support in showing the love of Jesus!

1 Chronicles 29:13

**Thank you Pleasant Ridge for contributing to the Toy Store. You donated \$250 worth of toys and \$813 in money. This will reach families who will get toys for their children but most importantly families will hear about Jesus. Please be praying for the clients who will visit the Toy Store. Thank you again for always being faithful.**