

God is A Good Listener

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Charles Collinworth
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Have you ever found yourself talking to a brick wall? How does it feel to communicate with someone who can't keep eye contact? Do you feel heard or valued when that person fails to demonstrate any meaningful response to your words? Of course not! Regrettably, I frequently find myself as the one who nods his head while oblivious to the words being spoken.

How often do people feel as if God was a brick wall? He offers no verbal or nonverbal feedback as we expect from one another. Are we discouraged when the "Amen" of prayers is followed by lingering silence? How can I have confidence that God is listening to me?

Recall the suffering people of Israel when they had multiplied to nation-sized proportions.

Exodus 2:23–25.

[23] During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. [24] And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. [25] God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. (ESV)

God's people groaned for decades! Did God hear them? Absolutely, and he remembered the promise of hope they held dear. Faithful to his promise, the Lord delivered them in one of the most treasured liberation stories of history.

Compare the story of the Israelites with Paul's writing in Romans 8. Read through verses 18-30 yourself and identify the themes of groaning and hope. Suffering is the experience of all creation; no one knows this better than the people of God. As the Israelites did, we groan inwardly! We're ready for something better than what we have now. Does God hear our cry? Yes, and more. God is such a good listener that he understands the groaning of our hearts when we come to him at a loss for words. He listens to us better than we can listen to ourselves.

Is God a good listener? History proves it. God hears his people; God remembers his promise to us; God sees us; and God knows. He is in the silence (1 Kings 19); he is not slow (2 Peter 3:9); and he is working for our good (Romans 8:28).

1 John 5:14

[14] And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Caleb Boggs

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Judy Bryan, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe and Teresa Freund, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Millie Lyons, Monwell Magee, Cheryl Neilans, Mebyl Privett, Andy Rasbury, Baelyn Rasbury, Rylee Schroeder, Edith Toney, Janell VanSlyke, Miles Wogamott.

- Eldon Morgan, Vicki Sanders and Pam McMahan are still in the hospital and need our prayers.
- Wayne Deffenbaugh, John's uncle, is having some serious health issues at this time.
- Some of our number are home recovering from Covid or quarantined because of it. Please remember them in your prayers.

We want to express our sympathy to **Susan Phillips** on the death of her brother, David Pearson, on Sunday.

 **Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a family that has taken on the care of a special needs relative. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts will be at 7:00 every Tuesday morning in the activities center. Begin your day with praise to God and bring a friend. 

If you are not able to be at church, visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Men's Breakfast will be Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's. Join your brothers there for the first men's fellowship of the new year.

 **This Sunday's Sermons:**

A.M. *Love Just like Jesus*
(John 13:34-35, Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Does God Love Everyone?*
(1 Tim. 2:3-7, Danny Boggs)

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, January 10

AM Opening Prayer: Todd Tyler
Communion Prayers: Charles Phillips
AM Closing Prayer: Pete Babb

PM Opening Prayer: Morgan Bryan
PM Closing Prayer: Sam Collinsworth

Wednesday, January 13

Opening Prayer: Trace Wilsion
Closing Prayer: Todd Murraty

Thursday morning **ladies' Bible class** will begin a study, "The Book of Mark: Follow Me," at 10:00 this week. We would love for you to join us! If you can't get out, tune in via Facebook Live on our Hillcrest Members Board page.

Taylor and Victoria Keith are expecting a baby in February. There is a table in the foyer where you may leave a gift. Any baby essentials will be appreciated.

Ladies Seminar is scheduled for March 12 and 13. There will be a short meeting after evening services in the fellowship room to consider possible topics or anyone who would like to attend.

There will be a **Bible Bowl** practice after evening services on January 17. Stay tuned for more details!

Thanks to everyone who treated our family so special during the holidays. We look forward to serving the Lord with you in the new year with everything he gives us.

Danny & Jessica Boggs

To My Family at Hillcrest Church of Christ, Nine years ago, my life changed forever, and I became a child of God. May ya'll have the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year. I thank all of you for your continual encouragement in my Christian walk.

Love, David and Kristen Drvin

I want to thank all of you for the Christmas treats and cards and the birthday cards. Thank you especially to the youth group for the treats they brought. I heard they spent time at their Christmas party to make a special treat for those older people in the congregation. Thank you all for your kindness.

Pat Risley

We really enjoyed the Christmas treats the young people put together for us older people! The throw really came in handy to keep us warm. We want to thank all those who worked to put it together. Thank you very much! Sam, Morgan, Eli, Kinley, Emma, Grace, Brylee, Hannah, Amelia, Jane, Conner, Brian, and Caleb! Also thanks to Bill and Kathleen for delivering the Christmas treats!

*Christian Love,
The Douthitts*

Thank you for your generous support of our Dream Big, Pray Bigger campaign! With your help, we exceeded our goal of raising \$15,000 to complete some much needed building improvements. Please continue to pray for NCS as we begin our second semester. Your giving hearts and prayers are so appreciated!

Neesho Christian School

RECORDS	1-3-21	1-5-20
Bible Study	105	170
AM Worship	137	183
PM Worship	103	187
Wednesday	snow	149
Contribution	\$7,437.20	\$9,732.19
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37