



NEW HEIGHTS NEWS

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*From your staff here at New Heights,
Ryan, Levi, Brenda, Teresa and Jessica*

Uncomfortable

We are already several days into the New Year and our eyes are turned towards the things to come, but let's not forget what God did in 2021. Many great things happened in the life of the church this past year and I just wanted to take some time to reflect and celebrate before turning our attention towards what is to come.

First and foremost, we had a great year in the Bible Engagement Project as we journeyed from 'cover to cover' starting in Genesis and ending with the promise of a new heaven and new earth in Revelation. I hope that you engaged the story of God in a new way and saw the consistent thread of redemption that God has been telling from the beginning of time. It is my hope that you were able to get the overall 'wide angle' view of God's story of salvation in the first year of the project. But there's more to come!

As many of you have already experienced, we are on to Year 2, known as 'Learn.' This year we will be taking a more in-depth look at some of the more core essentials of the faith, or to use a more technical term-doctrine. In 2022 we really want to 'drill down' on some of the central aspects of the faith to understand what we believe and why we believe it. It should be a great experience and I invite you to join us consistently each week for both morning worship and our Bible study time at 9:30am.

2021 also saw New Heights giving generously through many different means and to several great causes. We were able to support new missions and missionaries, including the Alvarez family, connect with ongoing partners, like the Shipley's, and meet needs inside and outside the community, including but not limited to partnering with Cross Pointe Biker Church in disaster relief, as well as our efforts to bless families through our annual Undercover Christmas program and collecting board/card games through our new partnership with the Department of Child Services. New to us this year was 'Operation Christmas Child' which was an amazing success and something that we look forward to for years to come.

Whatever it was that New Heights sought to accomplish in 'making disciples who make disciples' God was faithful to bless and multiply beyond our wildest dreams; we look forward to more of the same this year. We ask that you would pray with us, as the leadership already has in our first meeting of this year, that God would guide us into next steps as we seek to be a church that **builds** and **equips** believers to **win** the lost and **multiply** disciple makers *for the glory of God!* As a wise friend of mine would say, **here we go!**

- *Ryan Phelps*

As we enter this new year, I am reminded of all the New Years goals that I have set for myself in the past. Most of these goals were health and fitness related. And in any fitness or health related goal, there is a challenge involved. I mean, if it were easy and without challenge, I would have attained that goal years ago. There is an element to these goals that will make me uncomfortable. And that is the thing. I like to be comfortable.

I know that I cannot be the only person who likes to be comfortable. I like to be in a comfortable temperature, dressed comfortably. And I don't much like going through hard situations. Can anyone else relate? We, as humans like our creature comforts. And we tend to view things that are painful as bad and things that are comfortable as good.

When we think about following after God, we tend to view Him as the benevolent grandfather in the sky that gives us everything that we could ever want and keeps us away from all harm. However, this is a false view of God. James writes about this concept of trials in James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

James says that we should consider it "pure joy" when we face trials and hard situations. James wrote this to a group of believers that were in the midst of persecution. He says, count it pure joy. Why? Because this testing is building their faith up. As they learn to rely on God in every situation. As they see Him at work in every situation. And as they learn to trust Him in EVERY situation, their faith is growing.

It is not in the times where we are in our comfort zone that we see growth in our faith... it is in the midst of the storm that we grow. Just like those fitness goals I have set for myself. They are never realized on the couch watching tv. They are only reached by hard work and maybe even some pain.

Maybe you are facing some trials right now. Maybe 2022 has already started out rough. Let me encourage you... stand firm. Keep your faith and hope in Christ. Lean into God and He will use these trials to mature your faith. And when you come out on the other side, your faith will be stronger than ever. And remember, He has always promised that He would never leave you. We can truly count it all joy because we know that while these trials may be hard, He walks with us through them all.

- *Levi Monk*



ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

December 19 - 35/84

\$2,029

December 26 - 28/78

\$2,405

January 2 - 28/77

\$3,985

January 9 - 35/66

\$1,928



Please be praying for...

Richard Johnson (Lawrence Johnson's brother) cancer

Steve Smitley (family of Tinch's)

Donna Parrett

Jason & Kendra McCalley (Jones daughter) upcoming surgery on baby when he is delivered

Ashlee Taylor (Gordon's daughter)

Doug Scaggs (Marcia Clark's cousin)

Judy Whipple

Elijah Rader (student of Diane Burks)

Those battling cancer...

Manny Alvarez

Joe Combs

Janet Day

Andrew Phillips

Lanea Thomas

Names are left on the prayer list for only three weeks; but if you wish for a name to remain longer, please let the office know.

****If you would like a copy of the long term prayer list, you can pick one up in the lobby.***



Hope Center

www.hopecenterlife.com

Mahoning Valley Christian Camp

www.mahoningvalley.org

TCM International Institute

www.tcmi.org

Global Impact Missions

Dr. Charles Madinger

CRAM

C.Y. Kim

www.cramworldwide.org

Kontaktmission USA

Derrick and Mikaela Shipley

www.shipleynorway.com

Ball State Christian Student Foundation

www.ballstatecampushouse.org

Hope for Home - Alvarez Family

www.hopeforhome.org



New Heights Family,

Thank you all so much for collecting and donating games to our families in Fayette County! These will doubtlessly help families build memories and enjoy their Holiday Season. We appreciate you!

Moriah & the DCS Team



Consider giving to the HOPE crisis pregnancy center this month by stopping in the foyer and making a cash donation in the large baby bottle or giving online at anytime!