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**WANT A GREAT GOAL FOR 2024?**

In a sermon, John Ortberg once reflected on one of the greatest enemies of the human spirit. Though the sermon was delivered years ago, it lays out a worthy goal for 2024. Ortberg writes:

For many years, Max Depree was the CEO of an innovative Fortune 500 company called Herman Miller.. Depree has written classic books on leadership and anchored the board of trustees at Fuller Seminary for 40 years. Max is asked to speak a lot about leadership, and at one session somebody asked him what the most difficult thing was that he personally had to work on. This was Max's response: "It's the interception of entropy."

Entropy is a term from physics that has something to do with the second law of thermodynamics and the availability of energy. It speaks to the fact that the universe is winding down. It's the idea that

everything that is left to itself has a tendency to deteriorate.

Entropy. It's not only one of the great enemies of the universe; it's one of the great enemies of the human spirit. A person becomes apathetic or complacent or settles for the path of least resistance in some area of life. Dreams die and hopes fade. A terrible thing happens: a person learns they can live with mediocrity.

Entropy is a great enemy of the human spirit, so the writers of the Book of Proverbs have a lot to say about it. One thing they say is that the wise person is always on the lookout for early signs that entropy is setting in. Proverbs 27:23-24 shows us the picture of someone who has livestock and how they need to monitor its condition.

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Though the words speak of livestock, they are true in any area of life: **"Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations."** Everyday you have to be on the lookout for entropy. Though things might have been okay yesterday, that doesn't mean they stay okay forever. Put any important area of your life on autopilot, and risk entropy that is both subtle and destructive.

I think about how this particularly applies to our walk with God. What does our relationship with Him come to look like when we neglect to take care in intercepting spiritual entropy? On the other hand, what steps will we take in 2024 to invigorate and deepen our relationship with God? This is a goal very much worth aiming for.

*Happy New Year!*

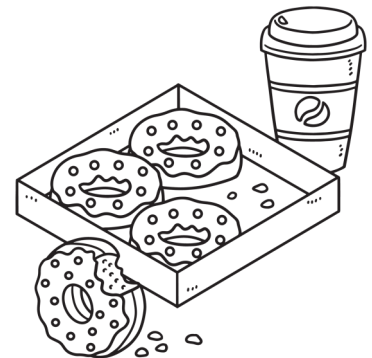
*Pastor Paul*



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## Friendship Table

The Friendship Table is back! Please join us during the Sunday School hour on the **second** and **fourth** Sundays of every month to catch up with friends and get to know folks you're not as familiar with. We look forward to this wonderful time of fellowship together!



## Contact Us

740.369.5956

[office@bellpointchurch.com](mailto:office@bellpointchurch.com)

[bellpointchurch.com](http://bellpointchurch.com)

Pastor Paul McCullough  
[pastor@bellpointchurch.com](mailto:pastor@bellpointchurch.com)

Connect with us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/bellpoint](https://facebook.com/bellpoint)

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

January 17  
Children's Council Meeting  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

January 19  
Worship & Prayer Night  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## Worship Services

Traditional Service - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service - 10:30 a.m.

K-4th graders, come join us in Bible Adventures during second service, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

## Bellpoint Community Church Groups

(all groups meet at church unless otherwise stated)

- **Adult and Youth Sunday School:** Sunday Mornings, 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **Men's Bible Study:** Every other Monday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Current Study: Ten Men of The Bible by Max Lucado. Contact Pastor Paul for additional information.
- **Men's Book Study Group:** Every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Current Book: "A Passion for God" by Greg Laurie.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Current Study: The Book of John.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Every other Sunday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Current Study: Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent. Contact Lori McCullough for additional information.
- **Teen Disciples** (6th - 12th grades): Sundays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (see page 4 for details).
- **Emerging Adults** (high school seniors through early 30s): Second Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Solli home. Contact Kelly Solli at 740-816-9383 for additional information.
- **Young Family:** Biweekly at the Kraick home. Contact Holly Kraick at 317-670-5725 for additional information.
- **The Founders' Speech to a Nation in Crisis by Steven Rabb:** Sunday mornings. Contact Larry Hopper at 614-551-3832 for additional information.

## January Birthdays

Jan 3	Shayla Ellerbrock
Jan 6	Hayden Tiller
Jan 7	Ron Spessard
Jan 8	Vicki Kidd
Jan 9	Holly Jaudzems
Jan 19	Jodeen Miller
Jan 20	Elliott Kidd
Jan 24	Angie Ellerbrock Ryan West
Jan 25	Emily Carpenter Coleman Kraick
Jan 27	Mia Maxim Jordan Kelleher
Jan 30	Gracie Willis
Jan 31	Jody Kelleher

## Children's Council

- ◆ Bible Adventures is off to a great start. Kiddos in K-4, after the opening worship music during second service we head down to our room. Anyone interested in helping in any capacity can see Susan Ritchie for more details. It is not your average Children's Church, it's an Adventure!
- ◆ **Nursery Volunteers** - Thanks to all who have stepped up to play with and minister to our littlest ones! If you are not yet on the list and would like to be, please see Susan to sign up.

## Teen Disciples

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades - Meets Sundays at Church from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**January 7:** Teen Disciples 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**January 14:** Teen Disciples 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**January 21:** Teen Disciples 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**January 26 - 28:** Hocking Hills Retreat

## Worship and Prayer Nights

Come join us on the following Friday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for a guided time of prayer and worship. Participate to the degree you are comfortable with in a cozy space in the presence of the Lord. These worship and prayer nights are open to church members and anyone in the community.

- ◆ January 19th
- ◆ February 23rd
- ◆ March 29th

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## Monday Morning Bible Study

The Monday Morning Bible Study went to visit Georgeanna Mills at Sarah Moore Home. We had a very nice visit with her!



## Prayer Requests

- \* **Mark VanGundy & Family** – Mark’s brother passed away
- \* **Jessica** – serious back pain
- \* **Carol Davis’s Sister** – in OSU hospital and not doing well
- \* **Tom** – diagnosed with Bell’s Palsy
- \* **Juanita** – recovering from a broken hip (Webb)
- \* **Mason** – in the hospital with alcohol poisoning (Kidd)
- \* **Michelle Shelly** – receiving treatment for thyroid cancer
- \* **Buzz** – experiencing health issues and lost his job (Spellman)
- \* **Greg Jaudzems’ Dad** – having seizures
- \* **Trisha** – kidney issues
- \* **Corinne** – she and her husband are experiencing health issues (Webb)
- \* **Janet Artz** – ovarian cancer (Kidd)
- \* **Avah’s Aunt** – colon cancer
- \* **Ron** – recurrence of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- \* **Vicki** – battling lung cancer,
- \* **Lanie** – undergoing radiation
- \* **Russ Ulmer** – cancer treatments



## Prayer Chain

Are you looking for a way to serve Bellpoint Community Church and our community? Prayer is a powerful way to make an important difference in someone’s life. The Prayer Chain is always looking for new members for this vital ministry, so please call the church office if you are interested.

If you hear of a concern or praise there are multiple ways to share the information with our Prayer Chain:

- ◆ Complete a paper prayer request located on the back of each chair and drop in an offering bag or one of the clear boxes in the entrances to the fellowship hall and sanctuary.
- ◆ Contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager, by phone at 740-369-5956 or by email at [office@bellpointchurch.com](mailto:office@bellpointchurch.com).
- ◆ Post to the online prayer wall at [bellpointchurch.com/prayer-wall](http://bellpointchurch.com/prayer-wall).



## Thank You to Our Carolers

A big thank you to **Greg Jaudzems, Phyllis Williams, Jody Miller, Tia and Hayes Rutherford, Vicki Kidd, and Margie West** for taking time out of their busy schedules to spread the Good News by caroling throughout the Bellpoint Community. Not only was it a lot of fun, but it gave us the opportunity to invite local residents to worship with our church family. Please consider joining us next year for this annual outreach within footsteps of our church!



## Sisters in Faith Cookie & Ornament Exchange

The Sisters in Faith Cookie & Ornament Exchange had 22 ladies in attendance who had a good time! We enjoyed the food/cookies and fellowship along with the ornament exchange and singing Christmas carols.



## The Peal

If you do not have access to the internet or email, or simply prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you each month, please contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager at 740-369-5956 or by email at

## Just a Reminder...

Please email all articles, pictures, and content for the February Peal to Rachel Kapraly at [peal@bellpointchurch.com](mailto:peal@bellpointchurch.com) by Friday, January 26th.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

HAPPY  
*New Year*