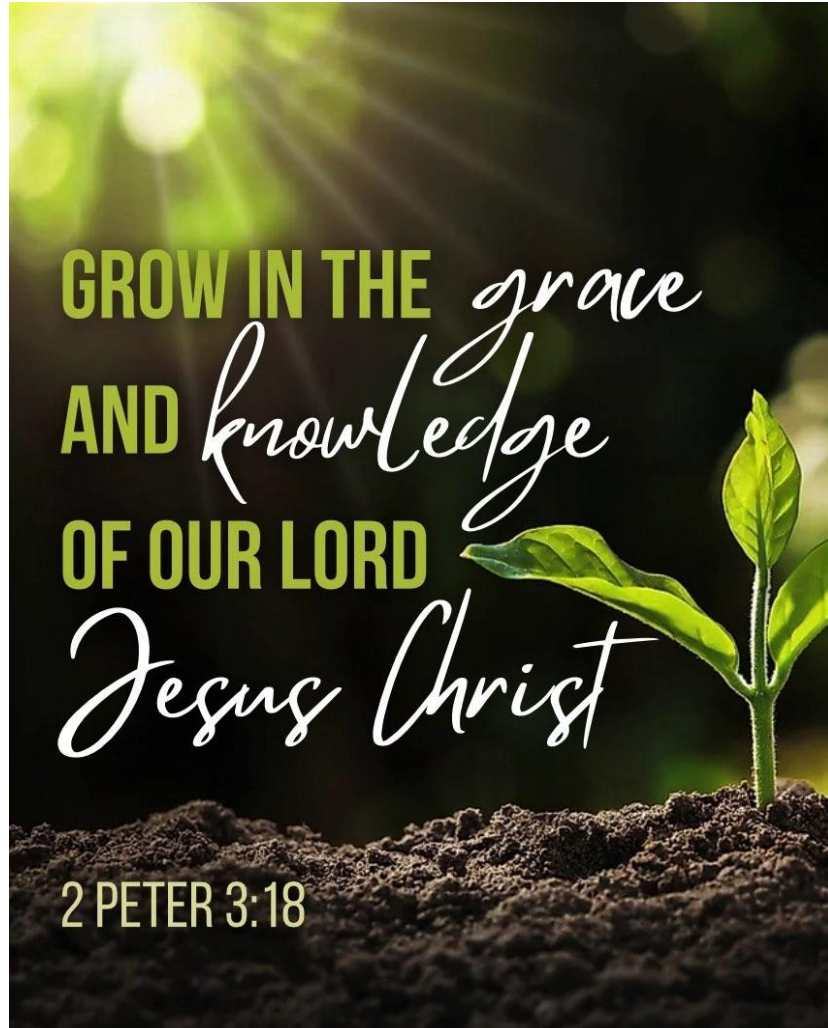


# Harmony Baptist Church

## 2023 Annual Report



**Jeff MacKay, Pastor**

**4103 Ellwood Rd, New Castle, PA 16101**



















## REPORT OF PASTOR cont'd

Throughout the summer months the Outdoor Church ministry continued through its 62nd season. Once again God provided some gifted musicians to lead us in worship each Sunday evening. One of the striking features of this summer was the weather. We had to bring it indoors five of the thirteen evenings. But even in those times God provided a special blessing as those were some of the sweetest times of fellowship in the smaller more personal atmosphere. We continue to pray for God's direction in this ministry as it becomes more difficult to find musical teams within the budget of the ministry.

One of the biggest ministry highlights of the summer was once again MEGA Sports camp. This year God gave us the privilege of ministering to 81 kids through the four days of ministry! We used Basketball, Soccer, Tumbling, Crafts, a special pre-school program, and, of course, snacks to engage the hearts and minds of these children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I had the privilege of leading a team of 33 leaders and helpers who invested many hours to help these children learn that they are VALUABLE because they are made in the image of God and that they can be INFLUENTIAL, BRAVE, and ENCOURAGING as they trust in Jesus Christ for their strength and follow His ways.

This summer's ministry in Clay County, West Virginia, was a little different this year because I was on the work crew who built a tiny home instead of being in charge of the basketball part of the Sports camp ministry that several of our teens were a part of. This turned out to be a wonderful work of God because each of our teens stepped up and played significant roles in sharing the Gospel and ministering to the children in the Sports camp.

I continued to provide overall leadership to the Awana ministry during throughout the year. While I to pray for God to raise up someone else who can lead this ministry, it was once again a joy to serve alongside our gifted and committed team of teachers and leaders as we sought to reach each of the boys and girls (approximately 25 kids a week ) with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

The opportunity to minister alongside of the Deacons was once again one of the joys of my ministry here at HBC. Brian, Charles, and Dennis each brought a unique perspective and heart to our studies and our efforts to care for and shepherd the HBC family. While we were shocked and deeply saddened when God called Dennis and his wife, Elissa, home to heaven in May, I enjoyed the part he played on our team while he was with us. Their funeral was a tremendous testimony to the way they lived their lives to influence others for Jesus Christ. I also thank God for and enjoyed working with our Trustees as they cared for the facilities and physical resources that God has entrusted to our care and with our Deaconesses as they served our church family by organizing dinners, serving shut-ins, and caring for those in need.

So as I look back on 2023, I can thankfully say, by God's grace, I did not just "get older." I thank God for the ways I was able to grow personally and for the ways that He was able to use me to help others grow. I look forward to seeing what He will do in and through me, and all of us here at HBC, as we focus on following Him whole heartedly as His disciples in 2024 and beyond.

In Christ Alone,  
Pastor Jeff

## REPORT OF DEACONS

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Deacons serving for the 2023 year were Brian Pancher, Charles Tillia and a partial year with Dennis Kennedy of whom we mourn as an earthly loss to us and his family but count as a heavenly gain as he and Elissa are still serving the God they devoted their lives to in marriage and in faith. Dennis will be missed greatly here but we look forward to seeing him again. Jim Duff returned to the Deacon Board in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to begin serving a new term.

The church theme for the year was “Grow”, taken from the key verses of 2 Peter 3:18, 1 Peter 2:2, Ephesians 2:21 and Ephesians 4:15-16. It is our desire not only to grow individually but also as a church family by developing a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who grants us the attitude that we should desire to have personally and with one another.

We continue to be blessed to have Pastor Jeff Mackay leading our church congregation. What a blessing he has been to our church family. We continue to look forward to growing closer together and closer to Christ as he leads in 2024.

The Deacons had many items on their “to-do” list for the year but prior to hitting the list we began by committing to spend time at each meeting in prayer with each other, praying for one another and praying for specific individuals and needs in the congregation. We continue to try and meet the physical and spiritual needs of the congregation in any way possible. This comes through a concerted effort to “connect” with each other and determine the needs by making personal connections with the membership and beyond.

Items being worked on include continuing to develop a Relation Commitments Document that we hope to have out in draft format in 2024. The Church participated in a *Treasure Principle* study as well as a *Walk Through The Bible Seminar* during the year as well as Sunday evening bible studies.

Several people were baptized throughout the year and several new members were welcomed into the congregation. We continue to foster the development of our AWANA program and are actively seeking help in other areas of ministry in the church including a youth ministry.

As we contemplate a new theme for Harmony Baptist Church for 2024 we thank God for His many blessings He has bestowed on our little country church. It continues to be a blessing to have so many dedicated members reaching out and helping in our various church programs such as AWANA, Sunday school, VBS and the various other men’s and women’s study groups.

Brian Pancher, Chairman







## AWANA



What do you get when you take 15 adults who passionately want to see boys and girls believe the Gospel of Christ and grow to serve Him and combine them with between 20-30 kids each week? I'm not sure what you get elsewhere, but this past year (as it has been for many years) on Wednesday evenings at Harmony Baptist Church we called it AWANA. AWANA stands for Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed and is based on 2 Timothy 2:15. *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* I praise God for the work He did every Wednesday evening in and through each of the leaders and kids.

Once again this year we were blessed to have a tremendous team of faithful teachers and leaders. Abbie Stewart took care of the registration each week and much of the record keeping duties. Bill Myers organized and supervised the game time and helped plan all of the special outreaches. Shaylee MacKay led the Cubbies ministry along with the help of Beryl McHenry for part of the year. Connie LeRoy, Dawn Cosgrove, Dan Moody, Chuck Workman, and Natalie MacKay led our Sparks ministry. And Becky Rudesill, Michaelle Blakley, and Charles and Judy Tillia led our Truth and Training ministry along with the help of Ruth Moody when things got really hopping. Becky MacKay organized the Awana store and made sure it was stocked with quality items for the clubbers to purchase with their Awana dollars.

Together this wonderful team ministered to between 20 and 30 clubbers each week. Overall, there were about 50 different children involved. Once again our oldest group, Truth and Training (grades 3-6), was consistently our largest group.

Throughout the year we used several events to reach out into the families of the kids as well. Our September "Touch a Truck" was once again a favorite as the kids climbed all over the fire trucks, police car, ambulance, tractors, mowers, and more. In November our Harvest Party gave the kids and their parents the chance to hear the gospel together and then shoot nerf guns, decorate caramel apples, play games, eat hotdogs and even ride a hayride. We enjoyed having Mr Gary Wood, our AWANA missionary, join us and share the Gospel to us for the closing program in April. We pray that God will use these contacts to see whole families come to know Him.



































