PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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Missing People

For over half a century, it was considered one of the great unsolved mysteries in South America. On April 3, 1961 a professional soccer team had just finished a match and was flying back home to Santiago. The team was split up between two aircrafts; one made it back, the other went missing. For weeks the rescue teams searched, but there was no sign of the plane. The aircraft just vanished. Thirty-four people were presumed dead, including eight soccer players, the coach, several of the team's staff, and friends. Finally, after 54 years, several Chilean mountaineers found the wreckage. The plane, unsurprisingly, was not anywhere near where people thought it would be. The mystery had finally been solved.

There is no telling how much grief the victim's families went through. Their sorrow was likely compounded by the unknown factor. In situations like these, the imagination tends to run wild. Perhaps some clung to hope that there would be survivors, but no one could know for sure until now. The victim's families can, at long last, have proper closure.

Few things are more tragic than a missing person. For this reason, "AMBER Alerts" and other similar programs are invaluable. Any effort to recover the missing is priceless.

Unfortunately, there is a place in our world where many missing people are simply overlooked. Sometimes these missing people even go without notice. The place this occurs is within the church.

It is incredible just how many people fall away from the church without notice. I wonder how many people in the Lord's Church fell away over the last year? I wonder how many of these people were contacted and sought after? I wonder how many members of these congregations noticed their absence?

In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables about the importance of finding the missing people among us. He speaks of the lost sheep, the great lengths the shepherd goes to find the sheep, and in application, the tremendous rejoicing that takes place in heaven when someone comes to repentance (1-7). Next, Christ tells of a woman who loses a coin, tirelessly searches for it, and rejoices when she finds it. Once again, we are told that heaven also rejoices when a sinner repents (8-10). Finally, Jesus tells the famous parable of the prodigal son. Here we see a father longing for his son to come home. When he finally does, the father rejoices, welcomes his son back with open arms, and throws a banquet (11-32).

No one should be able to leave the church unnoticed. We need some serious search and rescue teams in the church and it is every Christian's responsibility to join the search.

Brett Pretrillo

October 11, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Dan Logan
Closing Prayer Dylan Gary

Scripture Reading Eldon Alexander

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Adam Morgan
Closing Prayer Bo Eubanks

Remember in prayer:

Rick Davison, Amanda Fletcher, Don Duncan, Chris Travis, Joan and Steve Henry, Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Justin Glaze will preach tonight.

Brother's Keeper Group One will meet after services tonight. **Group Two** will meet next Sunday night.

Our **Fall Festival** will be November 7th at the residence of Justin and Meghan Glaze. Time and food list will be announced later.

Record for the week of October 4, 2026:

10 am	11 am	1 pm	Wed	Contribution
101	93	65	77	$3413.00

Lessons From a Puppy

There is a new dog in my household. In a moment of weakness in desperate need of cat food, my wife and I went into PetSmart on a Saturday. We walked out with a new puppy named Oakley. As you can probably imagine, this turned my life upside down. Now I have a dog bouncing off the walls that cannot keep her mouth free of something forbidden for more than 10 seconds. It got me thinking of those (somewhat cheesy) Hallmark cards that have lessons from animals. So here are my (very cheesy) spiritual lessons from a puppy.

Be curious and excited. Puppies are eager to experience the world fresh and new. I believe most Christians have felt this way at one point or another in their walk. Sometimes, however, we seem to lose our excitement. We need to be like the author of Psalm 119 and be excited about God's word and how it impacts our lives.

Give 100%. If you have seen any new puppy, you know they are either all gas or all brake. Everything Oakley does requires her full attention and effort. Likewise, God wants our entire heart. Matthew 22:37b "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Have fun! If you have never had a puppy, you are missing out on something extremely fun. They are hard work and sometimes a hassle, but they know how to have fun. Christianity is sometimes hard work and a headache. We like to talk about and think about how miserable we are on behalf of Christ. Sometimes, however, we need to remember we live the best life. Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Now I know that not everyone is a dog person, but hopefully, you see that this article is not about the dog. God has called us to be people who act a certain way and have a lot to celebrate. Let's always seek to find out what he wants for our lives and be enthusiastic about telling others about our faith.

Brian Ketchem

Elders:
Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons:
Justin Glaze: Technology and Emergency Response
Carter Logan: Fellowship Room/Youth Activities
Adam Morgan: Song Leading/Safety and Security
Jerry Reaves: Worship Assignments/Building and Grounds

Minister: Hugh Glaze
Song Leader: Adam Morgan