

JANUARY 2026

FIRSTNEWS



Seeking God to Make the Most in the New Year!



Happy New Year! We are so grateful for God's favor and His blessings on our church and in our lives. We are excited to see what God has planned for us in this new year. I would like to offer five thoughts of encouragement and challenge as we begin a new year in 2026.

First, we need wisdom for us to make 2026 count for God. Moses tells us in Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." We need wisdom from God in able to make every day count for Him in this new year.

Second, during these changing times, it is comforting to know that God never changes. We see the changing winds in politics, society, and culture. It is easy to see that people often change, political parties' changes, and countries change, but God never changes. As Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Put your trust in the God that does not change!

Third, we all have a past that is both positive and negative, but our focus needs to be on going forward in the new year. Some of you have difficulty moving forward because of your past sins and failures. We need to remember God's grace and press forward in the new year. Others of you feel proud about your achievements. Thank God for them, but you too need to focus on the future. As the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:13b-14, "13 But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Fourth, we need to remember in the new year that we reap what we sow. The law of sowing and reaping applies to us when we act out sinfully or when we submit to God and live by the Spirit. The Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:7-8 states, "7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

Fifth, make a commitment to focus on bringing glory to God in all things by reading His word, praying, being faithful in your church attendance, in tithing to God with financial stewardship, and by witnessing to the lost. As I Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Sorina and I love you and wish each of you a Happy New Year!
Pastor Kenny

BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 CAROL SMALL
- 2 PAUL HILL
- 3 RON GOENS
- 3 JOANNE HOFFMAN
- 5 ROGER FISHER
- 6 SONDRA SPRADLIN
- 11 BOB CHAPMAN
- 13 PAT GOENS
- 14 NANCY BEST
- 15 MASON DALLAIRE
- 16 ELAINE COON
- 19 DEBBIE HARMON
- 19 PHYLLIS COY
- 23 ART SMALL
- 27 HUNTER HARRIS
- 27 ANDREW STEVENS
- 30 BOB BROWN
- 31 GARY ZAMZOW

ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3 BARRY & TAMMY ANTHIS
- 6 FRED & LINDA MERTZ
- 7 LARRY & GERI RABON
- 14 RICHARD & JEWELL PARSONS
- 29 THOMAS & ROSE W.

JANUARY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is welcome to help un-decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, January 3rd at 8am. We will have breakfast and a devotion as well. Sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

January 4th at 3:00pm: BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

Come join a Ladies Bible study called “The Patriarchs,” by Beth Moore. This is an 11-week study. It starts on January 13th, Tuesday from 10-11:30am in the sanctuary OR January 14th, Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30pm in room 9. Please sign-up to let us know which session you will be attending and if you need the book. This Bible study will be led by Doris Cox, Shay Greenfield, and Sondra Spradlin.

On Saturday, January 17th from 5-7pm, come join the youth, children, and their families for a game night in the fellowship hall. We will have a pot-luck meal, followed by a Bible study, and games. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

The church will provide TACOS!

January 25th at 3:00pm: KAREN PECK & NEW RIVER



We would like to give thanks to the veterans of our congregation! We will be updating our military board in the lobby. If you would like to be included, please give a photo with your name and branch of service to Tami.

Thank you for your service!

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