

THE CONNECTION

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January 6, 2025

Happy New Year!

2025 is upon us and many of us are probably **stopping** for a bit and **reflecting** on the past year. It is good for us to self-assess and identify areas of our life we would like to do better.

In the past few years, I have searched for a word that would help me to focus throughout the year on how God was speaking to me through that word. This year I have chosen the word restore.

Several scriptures are speaking to me that I would like to share with you:

Isaiah 57:18 *"I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him, and his mourners."* God is a God of new beginnings!

This month I am studying the book of Galatians and Paul is encouraging us to bear one another's burdens in Chapter 6:1 *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."* Dear God, help me to "keep watch on myself, lest I too be tempted.

And then in 1 Peter 5:10. Reading the 4 verses prior to vs 10 speaks of the suffering experienced by many throughout the world. We are to be mindful and watchful of our adversary, resisting him and remaining firm in our faith. Verse 10 says "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

God is a God of new beginnings! Praise His Name. Prayerfully He will renew, restore and guide me in reprioritizing my time and service in the 2025 year. Do you have a word to focus on for 2025 or perhaps a New Year's resolution?

Isaiah 43:19 *"Behold, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

LOOKING AHEAD FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Baptism of our Lord -- Communion Sunday

Following worship – hospitality time!

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Family Life Center

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Liturgist: Deb Pedersen

Song Leader: Pam Ditto

Pianist/Organist: Eileen Hartles

K.I.D.'s Connection: Sally Leidy

Communion Stewards: Rhonda Maginnity
& Jessica Schelb

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalms 29; Acts 8:14-17;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 19, 2025

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Family Life Center

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship

Liturgist: Clarissa Frail

Song Leader: Pam Ditto

Pianist/Organist: Eileen Hartles

K.I.D.'s Connection: Michelle Cole

Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalms 36:5-10;
I Cor. 12:12-31a; John 2:1-11



OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND NEWS

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) appreciates and needs the non-perishable food items our church family shares with them. In addition each month specific items are requested.

Westside has been asked to assist in the month of:

January – Shampoo

UPDATE ON HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

Join in the fellowship immediately following worship this Sunday, January 12, hot cider, coffee, and tea plus any “goodies” you would like to share.

- **Family Promise Needs:** Bus passes, twin mattresses with air pumps, snacks for kiddos, paper products: plates, napkins, paper towels, plastic silverware. Items may be taken to the Family Promise office or left in the narthex.
- Note the needs for C.U.P. (**Church United Pantry**) listed regularly in the newsletter. If you are interested in assisting in the distribution, please contact Kay & Tim Kunkleman.

IN APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE SHARED!

We appreciate all those persons who assisted in and preparation for our morning worship services during this past year.

Pastor Dan who prepares a meaningful message and lesson for us each week and offers concern and prayers for all in need.

The **sound booth:** Mark Triplett, Vanessa Lee, Jonah Lee, Ian Fausnaugh, Emily Sharp, and Pam Ditto. They have created the messages on the screens as well as assist in the sound system during worship!

The **Liturgist** who assist in the worship: Gene Aufderhaar, Pam Ditto, Clarissa Frail, Sally Leidy, Phil Osmon, Deb Pedersen, and Lonnie Pederson.

Usher and Door Monitors: Larry Kirtland, Mike Leidy, Sue Osmon.

Bulletin: Sue Osmon.

Music: Eileen Hartles, Pam Ditto, and Clarissa Frail plus special music from Kathryn Schelb and Kendall Briggs (**Young Kathryn shared with us in Advent which inspired Kendall to also step up and share! Wow what a blessing to see two young persons share their gifts!*)*

Communion Stewards: Rhonda Maginnity and Jessica Schelb, Jacqui Dill and Karen Rader, Michelle Cole and Carol Blass

K.I.D.'s Ministry: Jessica Schelb, Kevin Schelb, Michelle Cole, Sally Leidy, Jacqui Dill, and Carol Blass

Counters: Jane Stevens, Mike Leidy, JoEllen Cook, and Sue Osmon

It takes all of us sharing our gifts to have an inviting, inspiring and worshipful experience each Sunday morning. Are you being called to share in 2025? ***Just step forward and talk with Pastor Dan or any person on the Leadership Team. Your talents and gifts are welcomed!***

Connection ♥ ⇄ ♥ Corner

(Information and opportunities to help others and to help you!)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Connie battling breast cancer
Mid Crawford
Lindsay Frail in New Orleans
Link Family
Dewey & Connie Taylor
Dave & Helen McElderry
Jack & Becky Crabtree
Beverly Shade
Kathy Boop

HOME/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Springview Manor
Dewey Taylor
Bickford of Worthington
Mid Crawford
Home Bound
Beverly Shade
Phyllis Peters
Kesler Estates
Pat Bunn



Birthdays:

Jan. 1 JoEllen Cook
Richard Gaberdiel
2 Sonny Newland
7 Pam Ditto
9 Pastor Dan Lee
11 Jessica Schelb
13 Tom Ditto
23 Jeff Crawford
26 Joe Newland
28 Kay Kunkleman
Sue Osmon

Greeting cards are in the Café for your use.
Help yourself to the one you need.

FUTURE DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

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Upper Room Gathering – Each Wednesday
morning. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Everyone is
welcome.

Worship service each Sunday 10:15 a.m.
with Communion on the Second Sunday of
each month

Jan. 13 7:30 pm **Leadership Team Meeting**
16 5:00 pm **Family Promise Dinner**

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

IN NEED OF A GREETING, GET WELL, BIRTHDAY CARD? CHECK OUT THE CARD
RACK IN THE CONNECTION CAFÉ – “TAKE A CARD – SEND A CARD”

Have a Blessed Week!