



COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Rev. Len McRaney
12298 Shorecrest Rd.
Biloxi, MS 39532*



January 2026 Newsletter



From the Pen of Bro. Len:

How to Have a Happy New Year Ephesians 5:14-20

As we make personal and spiritual preparations to enter the New Year, I want to invite you to think of the New Year as a “gate or doorway.” Let me see if I can give some meaning to the title by sharing some “trivia” with you. January is named after the Roman god, Janus. Janus was called and considered the “god of beginnings, endings, transitions, doorway and passages.” He is depicted in carved relief and stone as having two faces looking in opposite directions (Past & Future)(Out & Inward) He was invoked by the Romans at the start of a new endeavor or a new stage of life—birth, marriage, death. He was nearly always invoked at the start of a “New Year.” The month, January, is named after this “god of beginnings.”

Before any Roman started a journey, he held a promise in his heart. Every Roman knew that as he traveled the roadways of the Empire and traveled between cities, he was promised safety and guaranteed protection if he could make it to the Gate of any Roman city. Because he was a Roman citizen, the Empire promised him that he would be given provisions and protection as he traveled the

roadways of the Empire. If some type of trouble occurred along the way, he had only to make it to the gate of the city where he would be taken in and given protection. So, Janus looked out of the city and watched over travelers and once in the city, Janus watched over them inside the city. Here is the only provision demanded of the traveler. Because the traveler had been protected along the roadways and because he is given provisions while in the city, he is expected to “act like a Roman” while a guest within the city. Because he is being cared for, he is to demonstrate his gratitude to Janus through his actions and activities within the city.

Paul, being a Roman citizen, understood his culture and understood the reciprocal relationship between the Roman citizen and the cities he would visit. This relationship of behavior and duty is intertwined by Paul in the relationship between the Citizen of Heaven and his journeys upon the roadways of life. The citizen of Heaven has a relationship with God thru the sacrifice of Jesus. Since Jesus provides and protects the child of heaven while making this earthly journey, what and how should the citizen of Heaven manifest and demonstrate his appreciation and gratitude to Christ for the benefits he has, is and will receive?

For the Roman citizen, he knows should he enter the gate, he will be safe, saved and protected. For the citizen of heaven, the question is Should God allow me to enter the “New Year,” what should I do to demonstrate my appreciation to him or his blessings and benefits?

1 Be Careful vs 15..Be careful, then, how you live- not as unwise but as wise making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. I would suggest Paul is telling us to “be careful” as to how we spend our TIME

(Temporary Investment of My Eternity). Everyone has the same allotted time—60 seconds in a minute—60 minutes in an hour—24 hours in a day. Be careful in HOW we live. Be careful in the way you live. Be wise. If we are not properly focused in life, we will suffer for it. A delivery person saw a handwritten note on the entrance to an alley the man needed to drive his truck through. It read: “Blocked! Do NOT pass! Very difficult to turn back.” The delivery man said: Well, I read the note, but I wasn’t about to carry all the packages down the alley to the business by a hand truck. So, I pulled into the alley and found it was blocked. It took a lot of time to back the truck up because it was so narrow. As I neared the entrance to the roadway, I saw another handwritten note hanging on the side of the pole just before I got to the main road. It read: “Told you so!” Oh my brothers and sisters, God has told us many times not to do some thing or the other and we didn’t listen only to suffer because of it. We keep doing the same things and keep getting the same results and if we would look carefully, we might also see a sign written by God which says---“Told you so!!”

2 Be Thoughtful vs 18 “Do not be drunk on wine which leads to sin. Instead, be filled with

the Spirit.” 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Gal 5:13...You, my brothers and sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather serve one another. Gal 6:2...Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the debt you owe Jesus. Be Spirit filled, Spirit directed, Spirit Minded.

3. Be Thankful. Speak to one another in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. Always giving thanks to God, the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be thankful to God. Live a grateful life. Ps 103: Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not His benefits... **For what might I be thankful??? Prayers answered, Acceptance, Strength, Grace, Mercy, Love, Forgiveness of sins, Hope, Help, Health, Healing, Protection, Provisions, Peace, Purpose, Power, Presence, Long suffering.**

Phone #s: (228) 392 – 5970 (office)
(601) 938 – 7967 (Bro. Len)

Office Hours: Tues. – Thur., 8 AM – 12 PM

Email: coalvilleumc@outlook.com

Web: www.coalvilleumc.org

The Gulf Pines District newsletter email
gulfpines@mississippi-umc.org

The Circuit Rider newsletter website Mississippi
news@mississippi-umc.org



CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone. Welcome to January and the year 2026! We wish tons of blessings for you all. We would like to thank all those that helped and donated to our birthday party for Jesus. We were able to raise over \$1,000 and 2 van loads of items for Seashore Mission. We couldn't do any of this without your help. During the month of January, we will be taking orders for cakes and soups for our annual fundraiser. Watch your bulletins for order forms or contact any Cornerstone member to place your order. Food will be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 1st. Funds this year will go to support our events that are free to the community. We also want you to know that Cornerstone has enjoyed being a part of the blended service, but we certainly don't have a monopoly on the music. If any soloist or group wants to sing at church on Sunday mornings, just let Phyllis know. We will be glad to put you on the schedule!

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" Isaiah 43:18-19

FROM THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER:

Community says Thank You to Saucier UMC & Coalville UMC for serving homeless students in Harrison County!

In early December, the Harrison County School District recognized community partners for their ongoing support of students, including 713 known homeless students in the district. Saucier & Coalville UMCs were among 39 nonprofits, churches, businesses, and individuals recognized for providing clothing, food, and support to students across the district's schools. Thank you for "*Living Out the Power of We*" in the mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus!



Brothers and Sisters

Welcome Brothers and Sisters to a new beginning for our daily living. This year what will we do with the most expensive, essential, ever-lasting gift we received in our life? It is very special to receive gifts at Christmas and throughout the year for different occasions. They are expressions of our love.

How can we experience God's gift of love through Jesus everyday of our life.

January 4th - 10th: Praise God for His gift, Jesus. 2 Cor. 9:15

January 11th - 17th : Submit to God because we believe and trust His gift for all things. Prov. 3:5-6

January 18th - 24:th: His transforming love helps us to serve Him in return. . Gal. 2:20

January 25th - 31st: Delight yourself with more 'joy' and 'peace' through the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13

We are to share Jesus everyday, all year, all the time with 'everyone'.

JAM/YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

JAM, Youth and the Young Adults all had a busy December and ended it by celebrating with Christmas parties. Santa even showed up to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Children's Church this month did an advent calendar telling the birth of Jesus. They had to hunt puzzle pieces each week and match each piece with a bible verse. They completed it and had a great time with this hands on advent activity.

Shoebox Ministry



We received this e-mail from Operation Christmas Child packing center..

I just wanted to share with you a photo of your shoebox moving along the process. I came across your box while volunteering at the Atlanta packing center. The 116,570 boxes we worked with tonight (including yours) are headed to Burkina Faso in West Africa.

Evan Wilkins

Prov 3:5-6

NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

I would like to thank the PPRC and Bro Len for putting their trust in me as the new church secretary. I will do my best to live up to Kathie's standards! After leaving my career 25 years ago to take care of my babies, it feels good to be back at a different kind of work. Please be patient with me and feel free to reach out with any questions or notes for me. THANK YOU Phyllis Trochesset 228-596-1049/228-392-5970

New Year's Word Search

U	T	M	J	F	A	V	A	B	W	E
N	J	G	R	I	H	B	E	V	E	O
H	A	T	D	R	J	A	N	A	R	E
A	N	X	F	S	I	Q	S	D	T	I
Y	U	V	H	T	B	P	A	R	B	U
E	A	K	P	A	R	T	Y	K	A	C
R	R	L	G	L	I	M	O	Y	L	D
W	Y	E	A	R	U	Q	C	G	L	K
N	E	Q	Z	P	N	E	W	A	J	I



January
First
New
Year

Eve
Hat
Party
Ball

Anniversaries

Birthday

Monthly Events

Scheduled Meetings

Weekly Events

CLC – Christian Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary

CW – Contemporary Worship

TW – Traditional Worship

AB – Administrative Board

BG – BUNCO Group

CB – Cornerstone Band

CC – Cemetery Committee

DT – Daisy Troop

FISH – Young Adults

JAM – Children's Ministry

MT – Mission Team

SL – Senior Luncheon

UMYF - Youth

January 2026						
◀ December						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Backpack 4 th – 11 th – 18 th – 25 th –	Blessings Small cereal Chicken noodle soup Oatmeal/grits Beanie Weanies		1 Emily Dyer, BD Maggie Byrd, BD New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 Treva Cobar, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	3 Hunter Foote, BD
4 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	5 Karen Gardner, BD Regina Ludlow, BD	6 11:30 AM, SL 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	7 Ann Harrison, BD Michael Ren Nalley, BD	8 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH	9 Patricia Taylor, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	10
11 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	12 Claire Vereker, BD 6 PM, AB, FH	13 Jordan Byrd, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	14 Kim Arnold-Childers, BD Wyatt Ray, BD	15 Sally Peterson, BD	16 7 PM, AA, FH	17 Shelli Weston, BD
18 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Jennifer Chambless, BD Melissa Vereker, BD 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	19	20 Jada Cooper, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	21 Monica Mason, BD	22 Patty McRaney, BD	23 Charlotte Yearous, BD Richard & Michelle Winsor 7 PM, AA, FH	24 Sejay McGrew, BD
25 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	26 Sherry Jo Dees, BD	27 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	28	29 Bruce & Jan Garner	30 Eric Chambless, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	31 Ezekiel Rouse, BD