



# Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

January 2025 Newsletter



## From Our Pastor

## Reverend Parker Benson

Recently I was thinking about our church. I think about our church every day actually. This is what I thought.

Our belief in a church – our faith that someday a church will be built – our hope and assurance that someday we will be inside our church – that we will park in the parking lot – that we will worship there, and not at Heritage High School – is similar to our belief in heaven. Our faith in a future church is a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven. We have faith in two things! Not one temporal and one eternal; but both eternal. The church and heaven are eternal!

We are living our faith. We are watching it being fulfilled little by little. Not only will we worship there (in our new church building), but we will worship there (in heaven). We – meaning you and me. ***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*** (Jer 29:11)

It is now 2025, two thousand and twenty-five years since the birth of Jesus Christ, and the church is still standing. Jesus said, ***“The gates of hell will not prevail against it.”*** And they won’t. A new year has begun for Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church. I am excited about all that may happen and will happen this year.



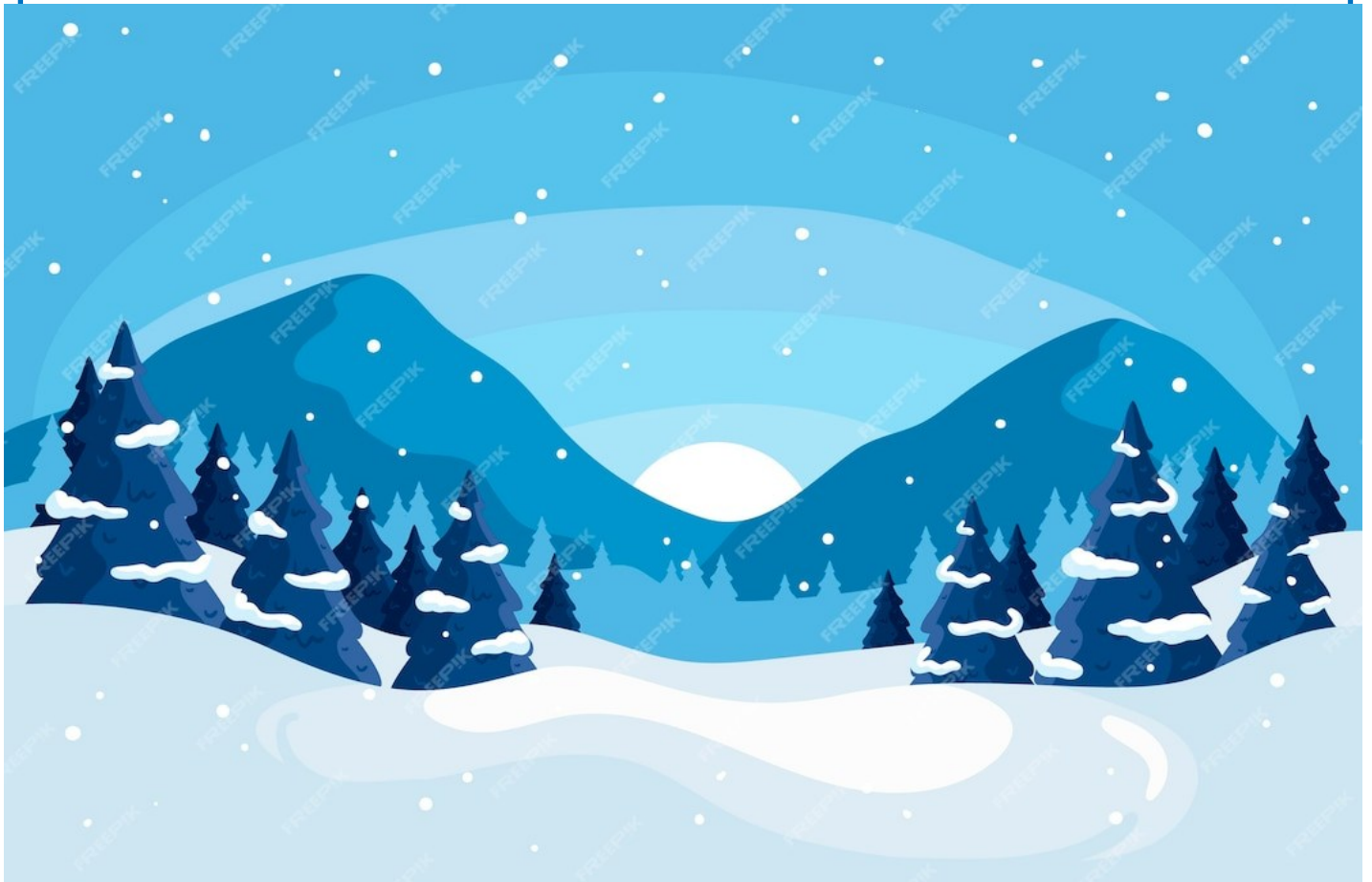
We do not believe in God because we believe in the Church; we believe in the Church because we believe in God! And we will strongly and fearlessly press on. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul:

***“Not that we have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but we press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us. We do not consider ourselves yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing we do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Php 3.12-14)***

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

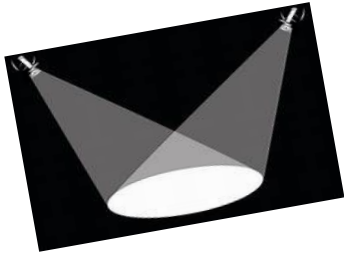
Press on!

Parker

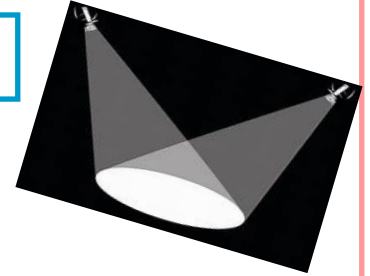


# Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

## MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



### Meet Debbie Cummings

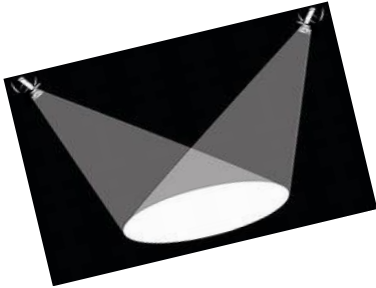


1. Where were you born and raised? *I was born and raised in Clinton, TN*
- 1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? *I left TN in 1977 to attend college and returned home to "God's country" in 2016 after I retired.*
2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. *I sang a solo in Washington, DC in celebration of our country's bicentennial.*
3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? *Traveling, reading and just being out in our beautiful mountains.*
4. What qualities do you admire most in others? *Honesty, integrity, and happiness.*

# Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

## MONTHLY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Alan Cummings



1. Where were you born and raised? *I was born and raised in Atlanta, GA*

1a. How long have you lived in Tennessee? *8 years. I moved to Walland, TN in November, 2016.*

2. Name something unique about you that very few people know. *I spent 4 years living in Alaska around the Fairbanks area.*

3. What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? *Playing golf. Surprise, surprise!*

4. What qualities do you admire most in others? *Sincerity and humor.*





**NEW!!!** Starting **January 5th.**

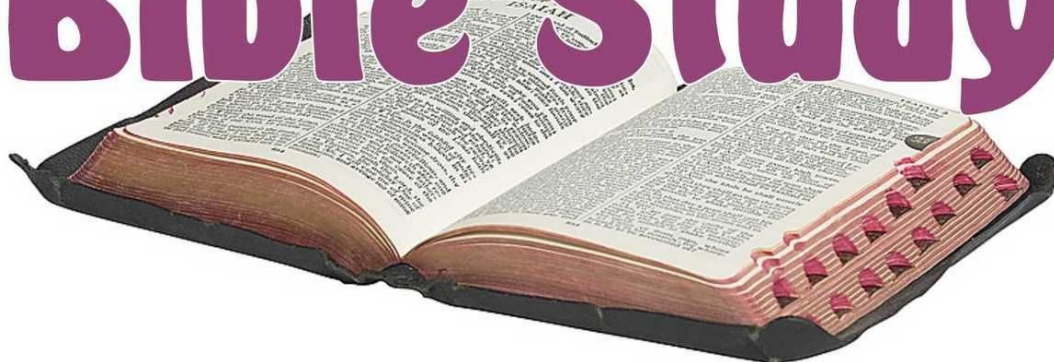
**9:30 AM**

**Classroom 2-102** (located down the hall beside the school office.

Standard Lesson Quarterly: NIV  
Version by David C. Cook Publishers.

See **Kristine Brock** to pick up a student book. One per family please.

# Bible Study



**Bible Study** begins on **Tuesday, January 7th**

at Trinity House (TH) from **10:00-11:30 AM.**

The Reverend Parker Benson will be teaching on

**“The Survey of the Gospel of John”.**

*Everyone is invited!*

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS TO  
ADORN THE ALTAR.**

The Sign-Up Sheet will be at the Welcome Table **each Sunday**  
in the cafeteria. Please sign up! Thank you!!!



**“Christmas should ignite the soul  
with a passion for God.”**



**Our passion for God should overflow  
into a passion for lost souls.**

*John Duncan at Lifeway*



**Excuse me, what's your name again?**

Please locate your name tags and  
start wearing them on your Sunday sweaters!!  
Since we are continuing to grow in membership,  
it is a great help to everyone if we could put a name to a face!  
Repetition works! Thanks!



***Meet  
Gene &  
Marty  
Weber***



**Happy Birthday!!**



**Happy Birthday!!**

*4th Carol Benson*

*8th Wally Werner*

*11th Mark Woelke*

*14th Bob Ivens*

*17th Myron Clarke*

*19th Greg Cooley*

*26th Dan McCoy JR*

*28th Teresa Slater*

*30th Henry Oliver*

*30th Gerald Smith*







**Men's Luncheon will resume on**  
**February 17th**  
**@ 11 am**



## **DEAR GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*



# *Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church*

**Council Meeting December 5, 2024**



## HIGHLIGHTS



### **Changes in Council Membership**

George Lybrand welcomed Marsha McPherson and Randy Trentham as new members of the Council. These individuals will replace John Urban and Gerald Smith, whose terms have expired.

Bonnie VanPelt will remain on the Council as Chair of SPPR.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Benson recently paid a visit to Pathways Church (Sevierville) at the request of Dave and Sandy Tubbs to look over the church's very successful young peoples after school activity center. Rev Benson thinks SMGMC might be able to use this as a model going forward.

Kristine Brock is arranging a Sunday school class beginning in January 2025; it will be available for 6 months and if successful will continue. Kristine indicated it would be beneficial to offer childcare during Sunday school; a motion was made at the Council meeting and unanimously accepted to offer Kora, our current babysitter, another hour on Sundays.

SMGMC has a newly designed website; members are urged to check it out and offer comments to Paulette Bailey.

### **Finance Report**

Operating expenses: Expenses were \$6,600 under budget for November, and \$40,400 under budget for the year. The benevolence committee raised about \$10,000 more than was budgeted for the year.

Tithes and donations: \$28,000 over budget for November, \$110,000 over budget for the year.

Building fund available cash: \$637,000 available (increased by \$36,000 in November)

### **SPPR**

Bonnie VanPelt will follow up with any applicants for Assistant Pastor. The number of new Global Methodist Churches is causing a shortage of ministers; Council members raised the possibility of sponsoring an individual to attend seminary in exchange for a two-year commitment with SMGMC.

### **Items from the Chair**

The Mid-South Conference spent almost \$.25M in disaster relief as a result of the Helene storm damage this year. They are rebuilding homes and staff is onsite to assist those in need.

Survey work has begun on the church project; a report is expected the beginning of January 2025 regarding need to move dirt around, take down trees, address powerlines, soil testing, etc.



## God's Invitation for a Faith-Filled Adventure in 2025

### Remember God's Faithfulness in Your Past!

#### 1) Remember when you first came to Christ.

*"Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ." Hebrews 10:32 NLT*

#### 2) Remember the miracles God has done.

*"Remember the miracles He has done, His wonders, and His decisions." 1 Chronicles 16:12 NCV*

### Remember God's Call on Your Life in the Present!

#### 3) Remember to be gracious.

*"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13 NLT*

#### 4. Remember to be generous.

*"You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" Acts 20:35 NLT*





## Remember God's Promises for Your Future!

### 5. Remember that God will be with you.

*"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2 NLT*

### 6. Remember that God finishes what He starts.

*"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 NIV*

**\*Remembering God's faithfulness in the past**

**helps you trust Him for the future!**

**\*This is the key to courage—**

**there is nothing to fear when you know God is near!**

**\*Where God guides, He provides.**

**And where God leads, He meets your needs.**

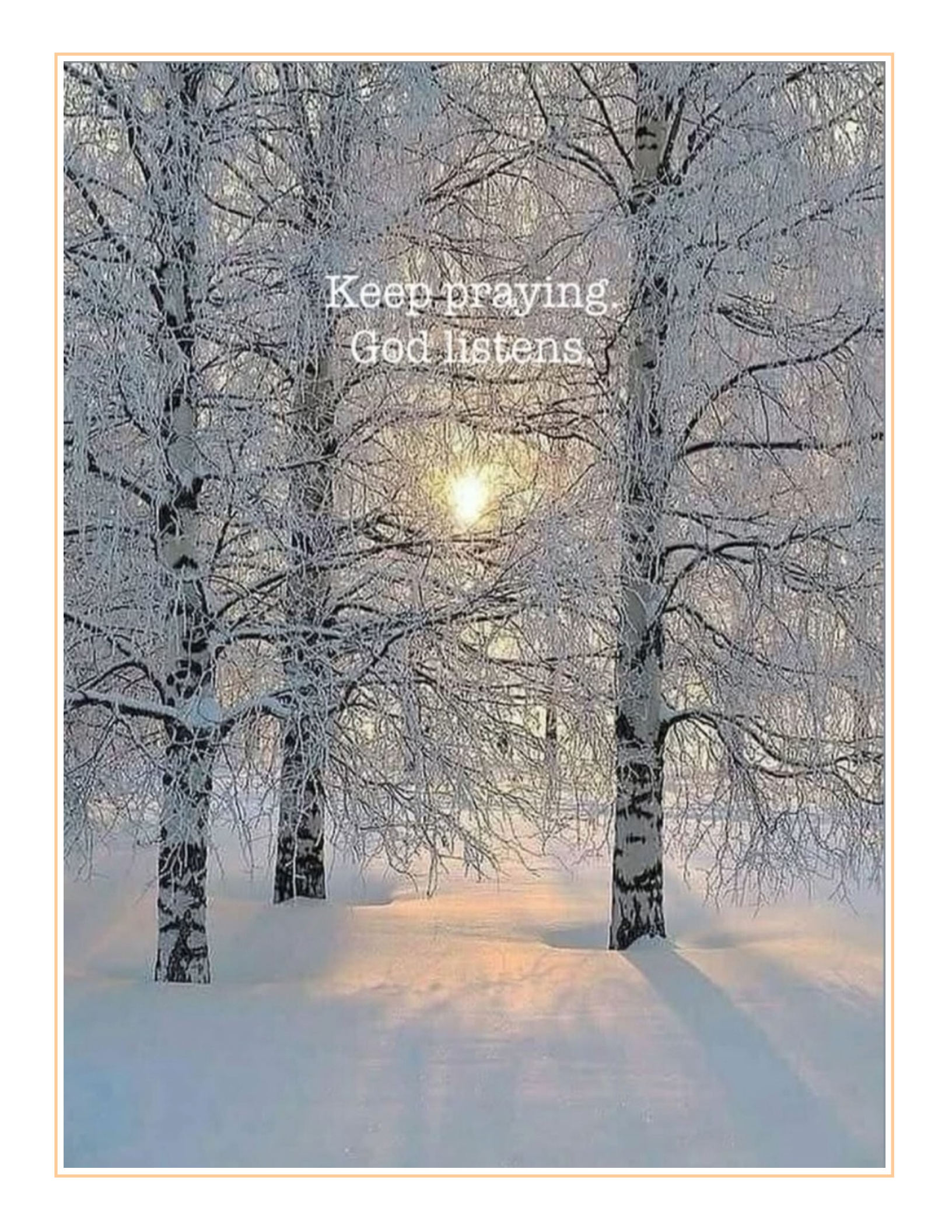
**\*God wants your life to be an amazing adventure of faith.**

**Pastor Rick Warren**

***Pastor Rick's Daily Hopes***





A photograph of a winter landscape. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow. Several trees with bare, snow-laden branches stand in the scene. A bright, warm light source, possibly the sun or a street lamp, is visible through the branches in the center, creating a soft glow and casting long, gentle shadows on the snow. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

Keep praying.  
God listens.