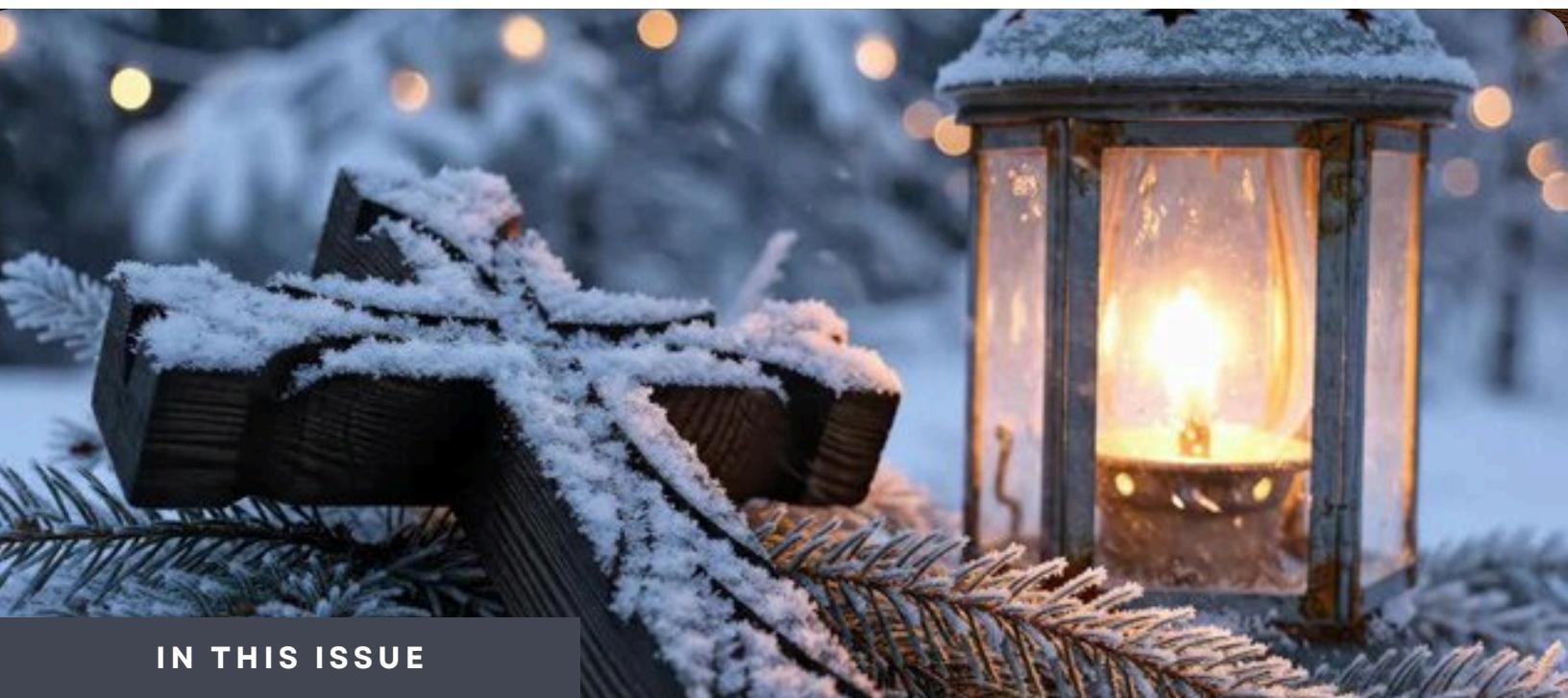




# CHURCH MESSENGER

MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

● Sunday School: 9:30am ● Worship Service: 10:30am ● Wednesday Bible Study: 3:30pm



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## A Brand-New Year~

As we step into January 2026, a brand-new year lies before us—a time filled with fresh beginnings, renewed hope, and opportunities to grow in our faith. While winter may keep us indoors and routines may feel different after the holidays, this season invites us to pause and reflect on God's faithfulness and the plans He has for us in the year ahead. The start of a new year is the perfect moment to realign our hearts with His will and commit ourselves again to walking in His ways. Scripture encourages us in Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV): "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Each day of this new year is a gift from God, offering us grace and mercy to begin again no matter what the past year held.

## Spiritual Growth~

January also reminds us that spiritual growth does not depend on the season but on our willingness to seek God. As routines settle back in, let us use this time to strengthen our connection with the Lord and with one another through prayer, worship, and fellowship. The writer of Hebrews urges us, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together" (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV).



## Embracing the Days Ahead~

As we move forward into 2026, may we embrace this new year with faith and expectation, trusting that God will guide our steps and use us for His glory. Let January be a month of renewed commitment, deeper relationships, and joyful anticipation for all that God will do among us in the days ahead.

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## A Message From Our Pastor

As we step into January and begin a brand-new year, our hearts are filled with hope for what God will do in and through us in the days ahead. The turning of the calendar invites us to pause, reflect on God's faithfulness in the past year, and look forward with trust to the future He is preparing. While the world encourages resolutions based on self-effort, we are reminded that true transformation begins when we seek the Lord and submit our plans to Him.

The new year is a perfect time to pursue biblical wisdom. God invites us to come to Him with open hearts, promising to guide us as we walk in His ways. Scripture assures us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5, NIV). As we face new opportunities, decisions, and challenges, may our first response be prayer, trusting that God will faithfully direct our steps.

This season also calls us to reflect on where we have been and where God is leading us. We may not know what this year holds, but we do know the One who holds it. Proverbs reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV). When we surrender our plans to Him, He shapes our lives according to His perfect purpose.

In Christ, we are given the gift of new beginnings. No matter what the past year looked like—whether filled with joy, struggle, or loss—God's grace meets us right where we are and invites us to move forward. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV). Each day of this new year is an opportunity to grow deeper in faith and closer to our Savior.

As your pastor, my prayer is that this year will be marked by a renewed hunger for God's Word, a stronger commitment to prayer, and a deeper love for one another. Let us encourage each other to walk in wisdom, serve faithfully, and shine the light of Christ in our homes and community. Together, may we become more like Jesus in all we say and do.

I look forward to all that God will accomplish among us in this new year. May we step forward with confidence, knowing that He goes before us and walks beside us every step of the way.

Blessings in Christ,  
Keith

# Reflecting on God's Faithfulness and Embracing Spiritual Renewal



With the onset of a new year, we are given a sacred opportunity to pause, reflect, and renew our hearts before the Lord. The turning of the calendar invites us to look back with gratitude and forward with hope, remembering that God has been faithful in every season of our lives. No matter what the past year held—joys or challenges—we can trust that God was present through it all.

Scripture reminds us, "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks Him" (Lamentations 3:25, NIV). God's faithfulness does not change with circumstances or time. His promises remain true, and His mercies meet us fresh each morning. Reflecting on His goodness strengthens our faith and helps us recognize His hand at work in both the big moments and the quiet ones.

The new year also calls us toward spiritual renewal. Renewal begins when we intentionally seek God—through prayer, Scripture, worship, and fellowship. The Apostle Paul encourages us, "Therefore we do not lose heart... inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16, NIV). Spiritual growth is not about perfection, but about daily surrender and a willingness to be shaped by God's Spirit.

As we move forward, let us release what weighs us down and embrace the hope God offers. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19, NIV). The Lord invites us into a fresh season—one marked by trust, obedience, and renewed purpose.

May this new year be a time of deeper faith, stronger community, and joyful expectation as we reflect on God's faithfulness and commit ourselves anew to following Him. Let us step forward together, confident that the God who carried us through the past will guide us faithfully into the future.

Let us encourage one another in this journey of renewal, lifting each other up in prayer and love. As Hebrews reminds us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV). Together, as a church family, may we grow stronger in faith and unity, shining the light of Christ in our homes, our community, and beyond throughout this new year.

# Let's Strike Up the Bands!

- A Message from Michael Hannon, Director of Bands

Calling All Musicians! Join BSCC Praise and Worship Band!

Do you have a heart for worship and a passion for music? Our church is looking for talented musicians to join our praise band and help lead our congregation in worship each week. If you can read sheet music, follow chord charts, or play by ear, we would love to hear from you! Whether you play guitar, keyboard, lead guitar, bass, or another instrument, your gifts can be used to glorify God and encourage His people.

The Bible reminds us, "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth" (Psalm 96:1, NIV). Music is a powerful way to praise God and draw hearts closer to Him, and we invite you to be part of this meaningful ministry.

If you feel called to serve through music, please reach out to Michael Hannon at 304-532-8285 or 304-532-7615, or via email at: thehannons38@gmail.com, for more information or to express your interest. Come use your talents to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and be a blessing to our church family!

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6, NIV)



## Walking in Obedience in 2026

We are given a fresh opportunity, as we start a new year, to renew our commitment to follow Christ with faithful hearts. A new year invites reflection on where we have been and where God is calling us to go. More than setting goals or resolutions, this is a season to dedicate ourselves to walking in obedience to God's Word, trusting that His ways lead to life, peace, and purpose.

One powerful Bible story that reflects obedience is the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22.

God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac, the child God had promised and through whom Abraham's descendants would come. This was an incredibly difficult command, yet Abraham chose to obey without knowing how God would work it out. Early the next morning, Abraham set out with Isaac for the place God had shown him. When Isaac asked about the sacrifice, Abraham replied in faith, "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (Genesis 22:8, NIV). As Abraham prepared the altar and bound Isaac, he was ready to follow through in obedience. At that moment, the angel of the Lord called

out and stopped him, saying, "Do not lay a hand on the boy... Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son" (Genesis 22:12, NIV). God then provided a ram to be sacrificed instead.

This story shows that obedience often requires deep trust, even when we do not understand God's plans. Abraham's willingness to obey demonstrated his faith in God's promises and character. In the end, God affirmed Abraham's faith and obedience and reaffirmed His covenant blessing. It reminds us that true obedience flows from trusting God completely. When we surrender our will to Him, we discover that He is faithful to provide and that His ways, though sometimes hard to understand, always lead to His good purposes.

Obedience is not merely about rules; it is about relationship. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15, NIV). Our obedience flows out of love for Him and gratitude for His grace. When we choose to follow His teachings in our daily lives—at home, at work, and in our community—we reflect Christ to a world in need of hope.

God promises blessing and direction to those who walk in His ways.

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him" (Psalm 128:1, NIV). Obedience shapes our character, strengthens our faith, and aligns our hearts with God's purposes. Even when the path is difficult, we can trust that His commands are given for our good.

Walking in obedience in 2026 will require listening hearts and willing spirits. That means spending time in Scripture, being faithful in prayer, and remaining open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. James reminds us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22, NIV). God calls us not only to hear His Word but to live it out with courage and consistency.

As a church family, let us encourage one another to take steps of faith this year—serving where God leads, forgiving as we have been forgiven, and loving as Christ has loved us. Together, we can grow stronger as we seek to honor Him in every area of our lives.

May 2026 be a year marked by joyful obedience, deeper faith, and a growing desire to please our Lord. As we walk in His ways, may our lives bring glory to God and point others to the saving grace found in Jesus Christ.



## Spiritual Resolutions for the New Year

A new year is a wonderful opportunity to refresh our hearts and renew our commitment to God. Just as we often set goals for our health or habits, we can also set spiritual resolutions to grow closer to Him.

Consider these spiritual resolutions:

- Daily Prayer: Make time each day to talk with God, sharing your joys, concerns, and gratitude.
- Bible Study: Commit to reading Scripture regularly. Even a few verses a day can transform your perspective and strengthen your faith.
- Acts of Service: Show Christ's love through simple acts of kindness in your community.
- Fellowship: Participate in small groups, Bible studies, or church activities to grow alongside other believers.
- Gratitude Journal: Record daily blessings and answered prayers to remind yourself of God's faithfulness.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." – Matthew 6:33  
 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." – Psalm 119:105

This year, let's make faith our focus. By intentionally seeking God through prayer, Scripture, and service, we can experience spiritual growth, peace, and joy in every season.

## STRENGTH IN THE LORD

As we begin a new year, God is calling for strong and resilient people—those who can be a source of encouragement and strength to others. This is a time to build your faith, deepen your trust in Him, and step boldly into the plans He has for your life.

- **Isaiah 40:31 – Strength renewed by the Lord**
- **Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ**
- **Psalm 46:1 – God is our refuge and strength**
- **2 Corinthians 12:9 – God's grace is sufficient**
- **Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart**
- **Romans 8:28 – All things work together for good**
- **Psalm 28:7 – The Lord is my strength and shield**

## A Journey, Not a January Goal

As a new year begins, many people set goals to improve their health, habits, and lives. While January 1st often feels like a fresh start, Scripture reminds us that growth in Christ is not meant to be a short-lived resolution—it is a lifelong journey of faith and obedience.

God calls us to continual renewal, not seasonal change. Each day is an opportunity to become more like Christ, to let go of what holds us back, and to press forward in faith. Spiritual growth doesn't come from quick bursts of effort, but from steady, faithful steps taken day by day. The apostle Paul encourages us: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." – 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV)

Improving ourselves in God's eyes isn't about self-perfection; it's about surrender. It's choosing prayer over worry, Scripture over distraction, obedience over convenience, and love over indifference. When we stumble—and we will—God's grace meets us and invites us to begin again. True transformation happens as we walk closely with Jesus, allowing His Spirit to shape our hearts and minds. Whether it's January or July, a Monday or a Sunday, today is the right day to take another step toward the person God is calling you to be. Let's encourage one another to pursue growth that lasts—not just for a season, but for a lifetime—trusting that God is faithful to finish the work He has started in us.