

FAITH METHODIST

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New Year, Same God (And That's Good News!)

Happy New Year, Church Family!

I don't know about you, but I always have a bit of a "love-hate" relationship with January. I love the feeling of a clean slate and a fresh planner, but I usually feel the pressure to suddenly become a superhero by January 2nd. If I haven't hit the gym, mastered a new hobby, and read five books by the end of the week, I feel like I'm already "behind."

But here is the beautiful thing about walking with Jesus: **He isn't looking for a "New You." He's in the business of loving the Real You.**

In Isaiah 43, God tells His people, "*Behold, I am doing a new thing.*"

Notice He doesn't say, "*Once you get your act together, I'll start doing something new.*" He's already at work, right in the middle of our mess, our "wilderness," and our dry seasons.

A Different Way to Look at January

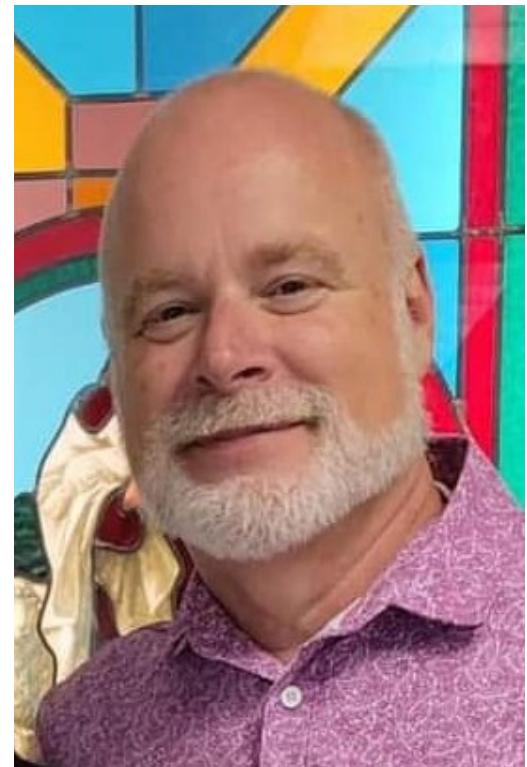
Instead of making a long list of things to change about yourself this month, what if we just focused on one thing? **Staying connected.**

- **Breathe:** When you feel the New Year stress, take a second to remember that God's mercies are new every single morning—not just on January 1st.
- **Show Up:** You don't have to have it all figured out to come to church or join a small group. We're all just walking each other home.
- **Keep it Simple:** Maybe your "resolution" is just to pray for five minutes while the coffee brews. That counts!

Let's stop worrying about being "perfect" this year and just focus on being "present" with the One who loves us most.

May God Bless Us,
Bro Mark

January 2026 Newsletter



Pastor Mark Rogers

faith WOMEN

Hey Y'all!



Shew, I can't believe that we are starting 2026! I feel like I blinked and 2025 was gone! It's about time to prepare for our annual "Souper Bowl Luncheon and Chili Cook Off" again. As you know, Tim Goad won the cook off last year. I swear I was not involved in the voting! We had a wonderful time last year, with great healthy competition, and I cannot wait to award another winner this year! More to come about the festivities as we get closer to time 😊

Be thinking about what chili recipe you are going to use this year!

With that being said....How are you all? How are you feeling now that the holiday season is behind us? For me, the holiday season is always a roller coaster ride of emotions. As I get older, I find that my emotions, good and bad, are stronger and kick into gear quicker. More often than not, I have to stop, pray, and remind myself that the King of the Universe has me in the palm of his hand and that it is all going to be ok. Until this year, for whatever reason,

Christmas had lost its magic for me. Now, I am not sure that I did anything different this year. I can't tell you why the magic returned, but I can tell you that it did, and I was so glad to feel that warmth and joy.

Often, Christmas becomes something that it was a never meant to be. There is a comedian, Nate Bargatze, who has a skit about Christmas. He comes in as the angel Gabriel and talks to Mary and Joseph about how Christmas will be celebrated in the years to come. He shares about how we celebrate the holiday by putting a big tree in our living room and decorating it with shiny glass balls and "trash" that our children made at school. He's asked by Mary and Joseph why this is and he responds, "No one knows". He talks about how Santa brings hope and presents and how the only time we truly celebrate the king is when we attend church for just an hour on Christmas Eve. While all of this is humorous, I believe that the comedian intended for us to also think a little about the holiday season and what the true meaning behind it is. I think back to one of my favorite Christmas movies.....The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. The story tells about a poor family, feared by all the children in the town, who learn the real meaning behind Christmas. How our Savior was born in a manger and lived a humble life instead of living in a palace like kings are supposed to. How Jesus came to live among us and love us. How he died for us so that we could live forever with him. All the

Herdman's were forever changed by the real reason for the season, Jesus Christ.

If you feel a little "lack luster" because Christmas has come and gone, remember that we still have the Herdman's in our midst. Share the real reason for the season. Share it all year long. I can guarantee that you will be blessed. That's my goal this year. To give him all the glory and share Him with others. Whether through story or actions, I want the world to know about my friend, Jesus. And about his amazing, wonderful, relentless love for us all. I love you all! Here's to an amazing 2026!!!!

Love in Christ,
Nicole



Nurture Team NEWS

Happy New Year!!!!

Geeeeee time flies and here we are starting the new year, and the Nurture Team is helping to keep the momentum with more fellowshipping opportunities for 2026!

January 18th – Movie Night at Faith – Bring your lawn chairs and your favorite finger food and we'll watch a movie in the fellowship hall and snack the evening away!!

We'll also have a popcorn popper to make our movie night even more authentic! Arrive at 4:30 with your finger food to share, fill your plates, then our movie will start at 5:00ish. And, of course, more snacking will be permitted throughout the movie :0))

February 8th - Soup-er Bowl & Chili Cook-Off – the Nurture Team is teaming up with Faith Women for their annual Soup-er Bowl event immediately following the Worship Service which will include our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off!! Tim Goad took 1st place last year, so we'll need chili makers to give him a run for the title this year! There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer as we get closer to this fun event.

February 22nd - Faith, Hope and Love Dinner - With February being the month of love, our 2nd Annual Faith, Hope and Love Dinner will begin at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.

April will be the start of our Community/Fund Raising Yard Sale Events. This was such a huge success last summer, that we decided that we need to do it again in 2026. It's a great fundraiser for our groups/committees AND it's a great way to connect with and be part of our community, which is always a goal of Faith Methodist Church.

Thanks to all of you that bring life and love to Faith Methodist Church!

Teresa Rogers :0)

Cooking for Christ

Hello, as we bid farewell to 2025 and embark on a new journey in 2026, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the incredible things God has in store for us here at Faith. With a heart full of gratitude, I would like to share that after much prayer and reflection, I have made the difficult decision to step down from leading the Cooking for Christ group, which has been a labor of love for me. As I seek to prioritize my time and energy, I am eager to dive deeper into our Women's Group, support Nicole, and explore other opportunities to serve and grow within our community. Please know that my passion for cooking remains unwavering, and I look forward to sharing my culinary creations with you in new and exciting ways. I invite you to join us in the Women's Group, where we will share delicious food, laughter, and meaningful connections. Thank you to everyone who has supported me on this journey, and I wish you all a blessed and extraordinary New Year.

With Much Love,
Jennifer



FOOD PANTRY



Thanks to the Goodness of God and so many loving, caring people, the Food Pantry is well-stocked for the next few weeks, but if you would like to contribute this month, we are asking for donations of canned meats in January.

Suggestions include:
Canned chicken breast
Chicken 'n' Dumplings
Beef Stew
Tuna
Spam/Treet
Ravioli
Vienna Sausages

We have been blessed this past month with several large donations which have helped us out tremendously. Hopefully, I won't leave out anyone, but a BIG "thank you" goes to each of the following:

- *United Way (gifted us with \$2500)
- *Mrs. Davis from Verona, KY sent us a monetary donation of \$1000.
- *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church gave us 15 large boxes of food items that they collected during their 28 days of Advent Giving/Caring project.
- *Rockfield UMC brought us their regular 5th Sunday collection of foods.
- *Christ Global Methodist Church donated several boxes of food (as they do each month).
- *Someone from our congregation gifted us with 6 frozen turkeys.
- *Many of you have brought in boxes and bags of food each week, along with many monetary donations.

GOD IS GOOD and YOU are, too!

Thank you,
Sharon Dillard

KEEP IN TOUCH MINISTRY

"Keep in Touch" Ministry volunteers for January are:

Shut-ins - Belinda McGee
Hospital - Paige Hadden
Visit w/ Pastor - JoAnn Neighbors

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

The Faith Youth and Children have been busy during the month of December and throughout the year. We are so Blessed and Thankful at Faith Methodist for the children and youth who come to worship, learn at Faith, participate in events and are helping others. We are so Blessed and Thankful to have a supportive congregation who supports the youth and children's programs. We are so Blessed and Thankful for the Volunteers who work with the Children and Youth.

We are also Thankful for Cindy Shartzer, our Children and Youth Coordinator.
We are Blessed with all she does.

The Children and Youth Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th at 5:30pm.

Happy New Year



Children's Church Volunteers

January 4: Vicki, Jamie, Paige, McKenzie,
(Cindy and Youth in Service)

January 11: Betsy, Mindy, Linda R. Teresa S. Cindy

January 18: Sharon, Jenna, Pam W. Vanessa, Cindy

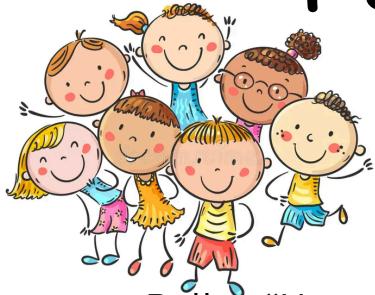
January 25: Nicole, Teresa R. JoAnn, Jessica, Cindy



Youth
Christmas
Wrapping



Faith Kidz Preschool



Kids Say The Funniest Things!

Bella: "Hey guess what? Did you know I'm 7 tall?"

Paisley: "I guess I didn't get the memo!"

Maxwell: "My hairs crusty. Feel it!"

Dim: "Thank you Jesus for our fake food (play food)."

Zompi: "Yes this is Al Roker!"

Russ announces every day, "Hi, I'm Russ!"

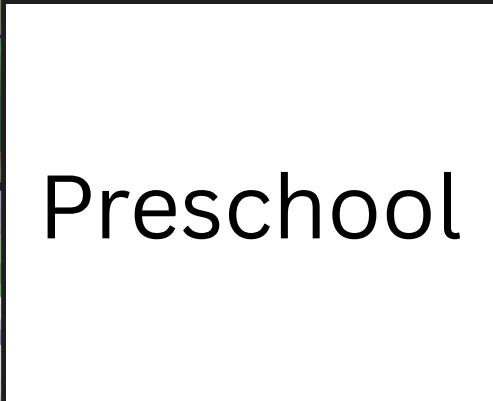
Paisley: "I don't like Santa. He's a fake Santa!"

When Zompi came in his dad was carrying him. Ms. Pam asked, "Are you cold?" He said, "No, I am having foot surgery!" (He isn't. He just didn't want to walk.)

Zompi: "Whew, I'm trying to focus!"

Maxwell: "I'm a huge fan of Viper!"







Merry
Christmas





Shut-In Ministry

Hey everyone!

Please send cards to our shut-ins when you can. It's such a small thing to do to make someone happy and gives them something to look forward to. Here is a list of our shut-ins:

Shirley Farris
Massey Springs
2945 Smallhouse Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
DOB 04/14

Fred and Martha Faulkner
Christian Health Care Center
1800 Westen Street
Bowling Green, KY 42104
M-12/12
F-08/08

Don Gardner
Charter Senior Living Apt 117
445 Middle Bridge Rd. W
Bowling Green, KY 42103
DOB 04/11

Cecelia Patterson
142 Valley Brook Ave.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
DOB 10/25

Johnny Douglas
Signature HealthCARE
550 High Street
Room 188
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Vivian Hand
1736 S. Sunrise Dr.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
DOB 12/04

Juanita Hire
Bowling Green Nursing & Rehab Center
1561 Newton Avenue
Bowling Green, KY 42104
DOB 10/11

Susie Paschal
445 Middle Bridge Rd. W
Apt. 70
Bowling Green, KY 42103

Charles Rogers
Villa 607
2945 Smallhouse Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
DOB 03/20

Jack Stoess
179 Enterprise Ct.
Apt 102
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Chuck and Nancy Vernier
10605 KY HWY 185
Bowling Green, KY 42101-9397



January 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

5
Faith Women 5pm

13
Children Youth Mtg 5:30pm

18
Worship Comm. Mtg *** Movie Night 4:30pm

26
Finance Comm. Mtg 5:30pm



HAPPY Birthday

January
2026

Gary Murphy 01/04
Evelyn Vaughn 01/08
Teresa Sneed 01/10
Lynda Rowley 01/11
Greg Jones 01/18
Sherry Lightfoot 01/27
Kelsey Chaffin 01/28

Early
February

Patsy Wimpee 02/06
Stella Roberts 02/07
Angela Hibbitt 02/15

