



Sunday School 9:00 am  
Worship 10:00 am

## January 2026

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."  
—Ecclesiastes 3:1

January has a way of slowing us down just enough to notice time itself. The rush of Advent and Christmas fades, decorations are packed away, and the calendar turns quietly to a new year. We find ourselves standing between what has been and what is still unfolding.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is lived in seasons—times of planting and harvesting, weeping and laughing, tearing down and building up. These verses are honest about the rhythms of human life. They don't rush us past grief or pretend joy is constant. Instead, they acknowledge that change is inevitable and that each season, even the difficult ones, has its place. Time, in Ecclesiastes, is not something to control or conquer but something to inhabit faithfully.

At the same time, the writer insists that these seasons are held by God. "God has made everything suitable for its time," the passage says, even as we struggle to understand the whole story. We are creatures of the present moment, living inside time, trusting that God sees the larger arc.

That trust becomes clearer when we turn to Revelation 21. Here, we are given not just a season, but a promise. John's vision lifts our eyes beyond the cycles of time to God's ultimate future: "See, I am making all things new." This is not an escape from the world, but a renewal of it. God does not discard creation; God dwells with it. The holy city comes down to earth. Heaven and earth meet.

In this vision, the seasons of pain finally give way to healing. Tears are wiped away. Death, mourning, crying, and pain are no more. This is not wishful thinking—it is a declaration of God's faithfulness. The One who was present in every season of our lives is also the One who brings history toward wholeness.

Together, Ecclesiastes and Revelation offer us a grounding truth for the new year: we live faithfully in the seasons we are given, while holding fast to God's promise of renewal. January is not just about resolutions or fresh starts; it is about hope rooted in God's ongoing work. Some of us enter this year with excitement, others with exhaustion, grief, or uncertainty. Scripture makes room for all of it.

As we begin this year together, may we honor the season we are in—without rushing it or denying it—and may we trust the God who says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." The same God who holds time itself walks with us into this new year, making all things new, including us.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Carrie

## *Prayer Requests*

Pam Barrett  
Randy Boyer  
Paula Davis  
Henry Durbin

Ellen Graham  
Tammye Green  
Ann Irwin  
Nell Kirkpatrick

Annette McGary  
Mary Meilcarek-Clark  
Mary Neitzke  
Robert Neitzke

Kathi Parker  
Keith Reynolds  
Harriett Silvey  
Lucille Thompson

## *Birthdays*

4<sup>th</sup> Harriett Silvey

24<sup>th</sup> Dolly Tate

## *Liturgists & Acolytes*

Doyle Clark  
Sarah Clark  
Josh Waterhouse

Michael Bellamy   Rosie Clark  
Andrew Clark   Annalea Waterhouse

## *From Our Leadership*

### **From Our Board Chair and Lay Leader:**

We are to be the Light of the World

Matthew 5:1-7 (KJV) - Ye are the light of the world. A City that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

These verses from Matthew remind us that our actions have the power to illuminate the lives of others. Just as a city on a hill cannot be hidden, our faith and kindness should stand out, inspiring those around us and pointing them toward something greater. When we choose to let our light shine, we reflect the love of God in practical and meaningful ways.

Every day you have an opportunity to be a light in someone's life. We can often get too busy with our own schedule and our to-do list that we miss these simple opportunities each day. Whether it's at a bus stop with someone in need, a restaurant with a server, or even online when someone mentions they had a bad day, there will never be a shortage of open doors through which we can shine. I realize some of these opportunities may only present themselves once.

You are called to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden, and a lamp placed on a stand to give light to all in the house. The light is not something you generate on your own, but a divine gift received through a deep and intimate relationship with Christ. Without first receiving His light, you cannot effectively share it with others. Jesus, the true Light of the world invites

you to unite yourself to Him so that the Holy light burns brightly within you and radiates outward, dispelling darkness.

To be this light, you must live a life that reflects God's presence, allowing His love and truth to be evident to your actions and words. This means living with a genuine Christ-like attitude, showing compassion and mercy, and hating sin as Jesus does. Your light shines through good works—acts of kindness, love, and service—especially when you go out of your way to help others, even at personal cost. You are called to be a righteous example, not just in words but in conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity.

This calling is not optional; it is an all-or-nothing commitment to let your light shine 24/7, revealing the truth of who Jesus is and leading others to glorify your father in heaven. You are to be a light not just within the church, but in the world, waking the light beyond the walls to where it is dark. As children of light, you are to cast off the works of darkness, walk in the light as God is in the light, and bear the fruit of light. The light you possess comes from God, who sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within believers, making you a reflection of His very presence.

Margaret Fisher, Chairperson and Lay Leader

## *Notes & Thoughts*

### **From the UWF:**

We have had another great year with many things going on this year. At the end of this year, we ended with 23 members after losing two to death, three moved away, three left the church, but we gained three new members joining us and what a blessing.

There are still two circles, the Anne Doris group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall and the Wesley O'Bourne group had moved meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening of each month but with choir now meeting on Mondays, are going back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month with time to be determined. There were three Sunday afternoon and evening meetings held this past year with the Christmas brunch being held on December 6 with Christmas games, fellowship, eating, and pictures followed by packing 11 baskets with goodies provided by all delivered to our homebound, shut ins, and those recuperating from illness or surgery. We had a wonderful time.

Monies raised this past year from our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and the Spring and Fall Festivals helped us to be able to raise money for our 10 local mission projects of Loaves and Fishes, Urban Ministries, Manna Café, FUEL program, Ann's Closet, Helping Hand Fund, SAFE House, Camp Rainbow, Miriam's Promise, and Hope Pregnancy Center and also to send money to our UWF projects of Call to Prayer and Self Denial, World Thank Offering, in memory of, and in honor of, three service pins, and Bethlehem Centers of Nashville along with meeting our pledge for the year and receiving our Five-Star Giving Award, the Gold award of Living the Vision, and Participation in the Reading program. The total budget for our local mission giving and receiving our goals for the 5-star spent was \$2260. The night group painted benches in the preschool and made fleece blankets for the Hope Pregnancy Center also.

The United Women in Faith are still sponsoring our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday BINGO morning fellowship and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday family game nights which are still going strong and have had new persons join us throughout the year for fun, food, and fellowship. Three service pins were presented to Erin Jones, Tiffany Julian, and to Alicia Dawn Siders for their work and dedication this past year.

District events that were attended by members of our unit were the Spiritual Day Apart at Mt. Carmel UMC, Mission u study at Hilldale UMC, Conf. Annual meeting at Gordon Memorial UMC, District Annual meeting at Belle Meade UMC with Bellevue UMC assisting, the Conference Social Action event at McKendree UMC, and Conference Mission u at Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville. We have been busy meeting new friends.

Anyone that would like to be a part of this organization is welcome and we are happy to continue the legacy started so many years ago by our foremothers.

Announcements for the coming year of 2026

We will have the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper again this year of 2026 on Tuesday, February 17 from 4 until 6:30 pm as our first money maker of the year and want to invite everyone to come and bring a friend in through the Preschool door and into Heritage Hall. The cost is \$7 for ages 13 and up and \$5 for children 12 and under. Pancakes, bacon and sausage links, fruit, juices, and coffee.

Our first unit meeting of the year will be the Call to Prayer and Self Denial on Sunday, March 8, from 2 to 4 pm in Heritage Hall with Heather Waterhouse and Karen Keen in charge of the program and the Ann Doris group furnishing refreshments.

The District Spiritual Day Apart will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 9:30 am with the place to be determined.

As of this time our officers are the same as the year of 2025 but may have updates for some coming up later.

## *Special Events*

### FALL FESTIVAL

When: **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

What Time: **4 pm-6:30 pm**

Price: **\$7 for 13 and above; \$5 for 12 and under**

Let's kick-off the Lenten season this year with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner hosted by our Ladies of the UWF.

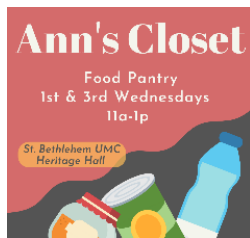
Please join us for pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and all the toppings.



# Upcoming Events

The St. B **Sewing Circle** meets on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 pm at rotating attendee locations. If you have any questions or wish to join the Sewing Circle, please contact Nita Heilman.

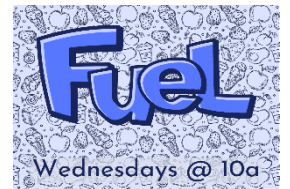
This month they meet: January 12<sup>th</sup> at the home of Nita Heilman



**Ann's Closet** would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to Ann's Closet in 2025. Your support gave us the opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love and mercy to those that don't know Him and those that must choose between food and warm clothes. Please consider picking up an extra can or jar of something while you're at the grocery store. If all of us grab just one extra item each week we could keep our shelves stocked.

Ann's Closet will operate this month on: January 7<sup>th</sup> & January 21<sup>st</sup>

**FUEL** is back for the 2025-26 school year and providing food staples for **72 children** at the St. Bethlehem Early Learning Center. We meet each Wednesday at 10:00 am during the school year. If you'd like to participate, please contact Nita Heilman.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Ann Doris Circle Meeting:** January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am  
**Night Circle Meeting:** TBD

Join us for **BINGO** on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 am.

Our December our BINGO event was cancelled however, we usually meet on the third Thursday morning of each month and after we continue our fellowship and fun with a group lunch. Come join us for BINGO this month for a fun time and white elephant gift exchange.



**Join us Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> for Game Night:**

We have such a good time at Game Night that our numbers keep growing; we'd love to have you join in on the fun as well!

Mark your calendars for upcoming Game Nights:

February 20 <sup>th</sup>	May 15 <sup>th</sup>
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	June 19 <sup>th</sup>
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	July 17 <sup>th</sup>



*And this is what we've been doing...*





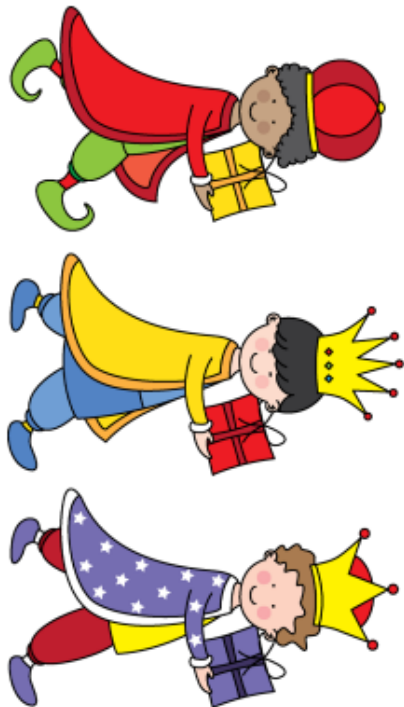


*And here's a blast from the past...*





**DIRECTIONS:**  
Three Kings Day, also known as Epiphany, is celebrated on January 6th of each year. Unscramble the letters to find words associated with this Christian feast day.



# Three Kings Day

HRRMY	_____	ISARHTCIN	_____
SAFIEENNRCN	_____	BTISMAP	_____
LAITYHOD	_____	HTISX	_____
HOEP	_____	VOERAENLIT	_____
ATFSE	_____	CIRAEML	_____
GINSK	_____	ARST	_____
PPHINYAE	_____	IAGM	_____
UYJNRAA	_____	MNWESEI	_____
AAABZHTLR	_____	PRAACS	_____
HODER	_____	OGDL	_____
JSESU	_____	BABY	_____
CLEROIHM	_____	MHEEBTLH	_____

# The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).



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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Office Closed						
10am - Worship 1:30pm - PRAY Program	5pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Choir Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scout	New Year's Eve 7:30pm - N.A.	New Year's Day 7:30pm - N.A.	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6pm - N.A.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship 1:30pm - PRAY Program	5pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Choir Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scout	10am - FUEL 11am - Ann's Closet 6pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	9:30am - TWK Youth 6pm - N.A.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship 1:30pm - PRAY Program	5pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Choir Practice	10:30am - UWF Anne 6:30pm - Cub Scout	10am - FUEL 6pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - N.A.	10:30am - BINGO 7:30pm - N.A.	6pm - Family Game Night 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6pm - N.A.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship 1:30pm - PRAY Program	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed 5pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Choir Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scout	10am - FUEL 11am - Ann's Closet 6pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	4pm - N.A. Business 6pm - N.A.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship 1:30pm - PRAY Program	5pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Choir Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scout	10am - FUEL 6pm - Bible Study 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	5:30pm - Cub Scout Pack 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	10am - Cub Scout Pack 6pm - N.A.

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