

A Note from the Pastor - January 2026

Happy New Year Church! We made it through the Christmas season! The surprising thing is how quickly Christmas 2026 will come and go.

As I've gotten a little bit older, I've noticed that the days are long and the years are short. The years seem to go by very fast. I encourage you all to slow down this year. Try to slow down and enjoy each day. Find something that brings you joy and really slow down and enjoy it. We know that our eternal hope and joy exist in the Lord Jesus, but it sure doesn't hurt to have a healthy hobby, does it? I've noticed in such a busy world that sometimes I just need to stop for a while and watch a cardinal eat at a bird feeder, or to go on a bike ride with my kids. We all need to slow down a bit.

A big part of slowing down is saying no to things. I often like to say that "no" is one of the most beautiful words in the English language. We can't do everything all the time. Often, the appropriate answer is "no". "No, I'm sorry I cannot do that" or "No, I am sorry I have plans with my family that I cannot break". Get comfortable saying no to things and to people. If you say yes to everything, you are neglecting the right yes somewhere. This may sound selfish and saying no to things can quickly turn into selfishness, so you do have to keep yourself from sinning in this. To avoid sinning, be prayerful as you make your day-to-day decisions. Ask God what He wants you to do and what He wants you to accomplish today. What I have found is that if I say yes to everything and sign up for things that I know I won't bring much joy to, I end up being miserable and making others feel the same. Sometimes it is sinful to say yes to things, especially when you know you are going to bring your grumbling and complaining with you in your pocket.

Philippians 2:14-16 says to do all things without grumbling!

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

This is my advice to you going into the New Year; Be wise in your decision making in 2026. Say yes to the things that will bring honor and glory to God. Say no to the things that are going to cause you to openly grumble and complain, so that you will not openly grumble and complain. This means that you are fighting your sin and this brings honor and glory to your Father in Heaven.

We can call 2026, "The Year of the Holy No" if you all would like. You can even throw me under the bus if you want and tell people that your pastor told you to say no to more things this year.

Busyness is not holiness. Remember that.

Peace be with you!

Tink



Bellevue
BAPTIST CHURCH

6658 Fifth Street
Burlington, KY 41005
www.bellevuebaptist.org