

YOUTH RE+MIND

Dear Lord,

Thank you for another year, for everything you've done in the life of our church and through our teenage students. Lord, may every person you've put in our path, every need we've had the blessing to meet, lead their hearts closer to you. We praise you for your presence with us, the highest highs and the lowest lows, please use it all from this past year to grow us in more likeness with your Son.

As we turn our attention to the coming year, we pray you set our hearts to desire you above all else. Father, we know this year will bring joy, sorrow, hardship, and gladness. Ultimately, let this year be filled with your grace. This world offers many things that take our time and attention. But Lord because of who you are, we know anything this world can give us cannot compare to you. So please let your presence be felt this year in a fresh new way in each of our lives. Thank you for the honor of being your children.

Amen

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy New Year to our faithful church family!!! Our AWANA kids finished the year with their competition food drive. It was a close one this year but the girls pulled it off for the second year in a row. Fun was had by everyone and families are blessed because of their giving.

Our Sunday School classes are being taught by loving leaders. Thank you to April Moses, Cindy Hite, Kim Flinn, Jacqueline Powers & Margaret Hughston.

We are looking for someone to help Cindy with our 3 & 4 year old class from January through March. Please contact Joyce Roach @ 512-431-2773 if you can help!!!

We are still in need of an additional paid nursery worker!!! Thank you for your prayers & support!!!
The Children's Ministry Team

January Events

January 1

January 2

January 3

January 4

January 6

January 9

January 10

January 11

January 14

January 15

January 16

January 17

January 18

January 23

January 24

January 25

January 30

January 31

Happy New Year!

Workday to take down & put away the Hanging of the Green decorations, 9:30 AM

Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM

Prayer Mtg., Youth, **NO AWANA**

Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:30 PM

Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

WMU, 10:00 AM

Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM

Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM

Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM

Prayer Mtg., Youth, AWANA (BARF night)

Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:30 PM

Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

Building & Grounds Committee, 12N

Budget & Finance Committee, 4:00 PM

Deacons Meeting, 6:00 PM

Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM

Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM

Prayer Mtg., Youth, AWANA (Snowman night)

Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:30 PM

Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM

Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM

Prayer Mtg., Youth, AWANA (Inside Out night)

Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:30 PM

Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM

Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM

Mid-week activities: 6:00-7:30 PM

Prayer Mtg., Youth, AWANA (Zoo night)

Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM

Choir Practice, 7:30 PM

CHRISTIAN CALLER

January 2024

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MISSION STATEMENT:

***WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD BY
LEADING PEOPLE TO
BECOMING FULLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.***



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

With a new year ahead of us and some rather challenging and shockingly unexpected ones behind us, one has to wonder what a new year will look like, what this next year and the future will bring us. We know some big things are surely going to take place in the coming year that could very well shape and define our nation... in fact some things that could well be predictive of whether or not our nation survives according to some. There will be a big presidential and national election that could prove to be highly controversial and divisive. We've already begun to see the tidal wave of a culture and society that has literally become the definition of insanity, and trends seem to indicate that wave is growing with overwhelming intensity. The instability of our world with dictator regimes running amuck and threatening instability in all sectors of the globe, terrorist organizations now being supported by our own government, our porous borders now being flooded daily with those coming across illegally with sinister intents for our country, even terrorist coming in unhindered. All of this without even mentioning the instability now flooding our religious institutions and churches. The poison of progressivism, liberalism, and even universalism has paralyzed the church today where we see a flat-out renunciation of God Word and orthodox Christian doctrine and practice. Our churches are dying if not a numerical death certainly a dry rot death from within.

Not to put too fine a point on it... sounds pretty negative and grim doesn't it? I'm not generally a negative perspective, glum kind of guy that sees things through a rather hopeless lens. And I don't think things are hopeless at all. I really don't! But I bring up this "dirty laundry" list of what the world... our world looks like to say what the new year looks like... what we have ahead of us is a lot of "uncertainty," a lot of "unknowns," a lot of "unpredictables," a lot of shaky stuff. Right?

I think we all try to look at the dawning of a new year with bright hope for better days, life changes for the good, we are going to do better in the New Year, life is going to be better, I'm going to lose weight, get in shape, get that new job, find my love life, make more money, and better friends, and finally get out of debt. We look, perhaps with rose colored glasses, at the new year with great optimism... at least we want to. But folks let's face it, we live in a fallen world filled with brokenness, and hurt, pain and suffering, and much uncertainty. I think that's why we need to approach each new year, certainly with eager hope, but with a Biblical purely Christian worldview and perspective that sees the world with a realism and truth. Life will surely be uncertain, challenging, hard in some ways,

with joys and bright moments sprinkled in among some heavy stuff... and full of hope at each turn. That's way healthier and way more spiritually enlightened, and much more prone to keep us focused on our Lord Jesus Christ, our Hope!

In the Apostle Paul's farewell address to the Ephesians Paul wrote what some may read as a bleak and rather pessimistic view of the future for himself. Paul's word in Acts 20:22-24 were these, "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

You get it! What does the future hold for you... the new year... what's ahead? Our focus isn't to be on a life of ease, or trouble-free existence, where everything is always sunshine and rainbows and a Barbie and Ken dream-life. This new year for you, Christian, will be a race to run, at times grueling, and hard, maybe painful and challenging, uphill, and slow-going. At other times perhaps with a bit more easy going, down-hill gliding, and cooling breezes at you back. But whatever the new year holds for you, Christian, it will be a race laid out for you by the Author and Finisher of your faith, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's keep our focus on Him in this new year, not on some "pie-in-the-sky" resolutions that will be broken before setting of the January sky. The writer of Hebrews said it just like that in Hebrews 12:1-3, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

That, Christian, is what the New Year holds for you if you hope to do it well... right! ***Happy New Year & All My Love in it, Bro. Buddy***



MUSIC NOTES

Happy New Year everyone!! I am so excited to see what 2024 has in store for our church and for each of us. I can't wait to see all the new people that are going to join our church in the new year as well as those that will make Jesus their Lord and Savior. How very exciting!

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone and God Bless!
In His Name, Nancy

WMU

Thank you church family for your generous donations to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering again this year. The total contributions received were **\$5,715**, and our goal was \$3,500. God IS Good!

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"