



FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH - JANUARY 2017

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017

9:30 am. C.E.
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Thurs., Jan. 5

6:30 pm. Girl Scouts

Sunday, Jan. 8

9:30 am. C.E.
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Monday, Jan. 9

10 am. Monthly Bible
Study

Tuesday, Jan. 10

4 pm. COUNCIL

7 pm. Neighborhood
Mtg.

Thurs., Jan 12

6:30 pm. Girl Scouts

A New Year - It All Starts With God

What is better than a new beginning? A new beginning can mean so much to us: starting clean...tabula rosa...a clean slate; leaving behind pesky baggage from the past; going down a new path; letting go of guilt - the list is endless, isn't it?

The New Year has a way of energizing us with new resolutions (whatever they might be), trying new things or getting better at something.

For Christians, we can begin anew too. C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Case for Christianity*, "The central Christian belief is that Christ's death has somehow put us right with God and given us a fresh start." "The New Year invites us to think of new steps, new hopes and plans, including gaining a fresh start in Christ." (John Duncan)

In Paul's letter to the Colossians 1:13-18, he writes about the church and how a "new beginning" all starts with God.

Referring to the supremacy of Christ:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation... Verse 15

Sunday, Jan. 15

9:30 am. C.E.

classes

10:30 am. Worship

Monday, Jan. 16

10 am. Chatty

Stitchers

Thurs., Jan. 19

6:30 pm. Girl Scouts

Sunday, Jan. 22

9:30 am. C.E.

classes

10:30 am. Worship

Thurs., Jan. 26

6:30 pm. Girl Scouts

Sunday, Jan. 29

9:30 am. C.E.

classes

10:30 am. Worship

ANNUAL MEETING

PULPIT SUPPLY

Jan. 1 - Howard

Hunt

Jan. 8, 15, & 22 -

Rev. Dottie Kaiser

**CHAIR PERSONS
OF COMMITTEES
YOUR ANNUAL
REPORTS ARE
DUE SUNDAY,
JANUARY 15.**

**ANNUAL
MEETING IS
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 29,
2017**

"for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created... Verse 16

"He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Verse 17

"He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything."

Colossians 1:18

Christ is the starting point for a Christian, the Lord's church and the prospects for a New Year.

It All Starts With God: Creation - In Paul's letter, he acknowledges God as the Creator of all things. When you observe a sunrise or a sunset - God created it. When you see an eagle soar above the mountain tops - God created it. When you see dolphins leaping in the ocean - God created them. Touch a baby's soft hand; hear a baby's cry, see someone in distress or grief - God created each person.

It All Starts With God: Your Life

- Paul says: 1. Every living thing starts with God and 2. All things are held together with God. So, if you follow Jesus, you will find Christ at the center of your life. Christ holds your life together and gives it purpose. God created us to serve Him, live for Him, and share Him with others.

It All Starts With God: The Church - Paul's heart is three-fold: for God, people and for the church. Christ is the head of the church.

In this New Year, let us think of our church: it's plans, programs, ministries, celebrations, worship & small groups.

Let us consider:

1. It is the Lord's church.
2. God is calling people to serve Him through his church.
3. Christ is to be supreme, the head of the church.

Let us consider: Is Christ supreme in our church? It's worship? It's Ministries? It's Attitude? It's Service?

GREAT NEWS

Our 2nd Annual Basket Raffle, Bake & Craft sale collected \$1,724.00. Here are the winners: Snack basket - Evan Conley, Yummy Soups - Sue Lutz, Snowman - Donna Lotz, Tupperware - Terri Mabry Ramos, Pizza Tupperware - Marianne Hall, OSU and Warm & Cozy - Andrea Monday, Festive Christmas - Janet Brown, S'mores Party - Erin Bagan, Party Basket - Frank Scalzi, Tea Time - Jenny Cogan, Baby Fun - Liz Ebbing.
Thank you to everyone who donated a basket, worked on election day, sold tickets, or bought a ticket, baked for the election day sale, made crafts. We truly appreciate everyone working together to make this event a huge success.

Remember always that it is important for us in this New Year to trust Christ and to serve Him as the one and only head of the Church.

So folks, Our church has the opportunity for a fresh start now in this New Year. We need fresh ideas from you. We need fresh and new people on our committees. Would you be willing to do a Children's Message? Host a Coffee Hour? Be a Liturgist, Usher, Greeter? Be a Sunday School sub? Will you help? God is calling.

It All Starts With God. Creation starts with God. Praise & thank God for it! Your life starts with God. Ask God to guide it! Our church starts with God. Serve it and trust God to bless it.

Thanks be to God!

A LITTLE ABOUT EPIPHANY

Many Christians around the world annually celebrate Epiphany on January 6. It is a public holiday in many countries and marks two events in Jesus Christ's life, according to the Christian Bible. The first event was when the three wise men, or kings, visited infant Jesus. The second event was when St John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established.

January 6, which is 12 days after Christmas in the Gregorian calendar, marks not only the end of the Christmas holidays but also the start of the Carnival season, which climaxes with Mardi Gras. In some European countries, such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, children dress as the three kings and visit houses. In their roles as the kings, or wise men, they sing about the Jesus' birth and pay homage to the "king of kings". They are rewarded with praise and cookies.

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

4 Madge Stubbs
7 Laurie Camper
**8 Dr. David
Steiner**
9 Pam Gutman
14 Julian Grant
15 Joya Haithcock
**16 Margaret
Buckles**
17 James Winslow
18 Jill Nichols
21 Kelly Cooper
26 Tom Greenland

Sincere Thanks to the Congregation

*I am overwhelmed and humbled by your most generous Christmas gift. I will continue to do my best in serving the church and all of you. I love you all! God's blessings in the New Year,
Lori*

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