



Spirit of Faith

Pastor Jim Deal
Faith Presbyterian Church
Of East Wenatchee
January 2022 News Letter

....to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

A New Beginning!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Second Corinthians 5: 17 NRSV

The start of a new year signals many things: new desk and wall calendars, and many people making of many New Year's Resolutions. What does the concept of "newness" mean to us spiritually? Here in this scripture, Paul is telling the Corinthian believers that they were all new creations in Christ. He emphatically states that "The old has gone, and the new is here!"

This would have been welcome news for the Corinthian congregation. They were far from a perfect church. There were bitter rivalries and struggles for leadership in the church. A sexual misconduct scandal rocked the church, and the church initially tried to just sweep it under the rug. (That strategy, of course, only made things worse!) Tragically, some members had an attitude of superiority towards other members. All in all, they were a church, but far from being the "blameless bride of Christ".

Yet Paul believed and preached the good news to them. Regardless of their checkered past, he believed in the power of God to make all things new. Paul believed that God's miraculous power could make all things new, including each and every believer in the Corinthian church.

So often, our world likes to point to the past as a way of explaining the present. While this is helpful, it can lead to a certain fatalism and pessimism. "Things have been going downhill, and will continue to go downhill!" "Nothing ever changes for the better." "History will repeat itself."

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Yet the good news is that with God, all things are possible. And even a very negative past can be overcome, through the power of Christ.

The news recently carried the story of Natalie Carter, a 40 year old mother from Birmingham, England. A year ago, she had a picture taken with her ten year old son, Liam, in matching Christmas pajamas. However, she found the picture less than flattering. She decided to lose weight. Over the next eleven months, she went from 282 pounds, to 164. She lost an astounding 118 pounds in less than a year! Her past weight struggles did not doom her to a lifetime of obesity.

It is the same with us. No matter what we have been struggling with; No matter how imperfect our lives have been; No matter how mired in sin we have become: God can make all things new! Including us! This is the good news to celebrate as we begin this new year! Remember the words of the angel to Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God!" Amen!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim

PS I am so thankful for your patience and understanding, as I continue to recover from my total knee surgery. Each day I make some progress with my physical therapy. I hope to begin driving again soon. Your kind thoughts and prayers, as well as your willingness to bear with me working mostly from home have been greatly appreciated. I go see Dr. Broberg for my follow-up appointment on January 6th. I am praying that it goes well.

ECO National Gathering in Dallas, TX

Please pray for me, as I will be traveling to the ECO National Gathering in Dallas, Texas at the end of this month. This is the national meeting of our denomination, and will be held at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. The theme this year is "Overflow", based on Romans 15:13. While in Dallas from January 31-February 3rd, I will participate in worship services, workshops, and informal discussions. Covid protocols will be observed, and organizers are following CDC guidelines for large indoor group gatherings. Thank you!

Happy New Year!

I pray this year will bring you
much happiness and joy.



January Anniversary
Walt & Effie Backus
1/27

Happy Anniversary

January Birthdays

<i>Bev Brain</i>	1/01
<i>Barb Arlt</i>	1/07
<i>David Stanfield</i>	1/09
<i>Ron Lodge</i>	1/10
<i>Connor Weldy</i>	1/12
<i>Star Christman</i>	1/19
<i>Effie Backus</i>	1/24
<i>Jonathan Deal</i>	1/28
<i>Walker Kane</i>	1/28
<i>Pastor Jim Deal</i>	1/29
<i>Emily Oakes</i>	1/29



Stewardship Campaign Report

According to Judy Stone, our receiving treasurer, we have now received pledges totaling \$128,480. This is an answer to prayer! This is more than the total pledged last year, \$124,460, which was more than two years ago: \$120,680. What I believe this means is that we are seeing an upward trend!

Given that inflation is now a concern, this is an incredible blessing as we plan our ministry for 2022. In last year's annual report, our elder for Finance Josh Weldy stated, "At this point we don't anticipate having to rely on cash reserves to fund operating and ministry needs in 2021. Praise to God for the successful stewardship campaign!" My hope is that we are in the same favorable financial position this year: not relying upon our cash reserved to fund ministry. Again, we praise God for a successful stewardship campaign this year!

Please know that the Session and I appreciate each and every person who gives to the Lord, both through giving to our church, and giving to local, national, and international Christian ministries. God blesses each and every person who gives!

If you have not pledged, but would like to do so, please know that it is not too late. Additional pledge forms are available at the church. We can also email you a form, too. We want to give everyone the opportunity to give, and to support our shared ministry. We so appreciate your faithful financial support of our ministry in 2021, and anticipate God doing great and wonderful, even miraculous things, through our church in 2022! To God be the glory!

Pastor Jim

January

2022



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2	Comunion Sunday 10am Worship 11:15 fellowship	3	4	5	The Feast of Epiphany 9:30am Women's Bible Study	6	The Feast of Epiphany 10:30a Office is open 4pm Men's Bible Study	7	10:30a Office is open	8
9	10am Worship only 11:15am Christmas un- decorating party	10	11	12	9:30am Women's Bible Study	13	10:30a Office is open 4pm Men's Bible Study	14	10:30a Office is open	15
16	10am Worship 11:15 fellowship	17	18	19	9:30am Women's Bible Study	20	10:30a Office is open 4pm Men's Bible Study	21	10:30a Office is open	22
23	10am Worship 11:15 fellowship	24	25	26	9:30am Women's Bible Study	27	10:30a Office is open 4pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Session by zoom	28	10:30a Office is open	29
30	10am Worship 11:15 fellowship	31	Pastor Jim traveling to ECO National Gathering							