

*From the
Pastor*



January 2026						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fun and safe celebration! Do you make New Year's resolutions? I used to look forward to January 1, every year, anticipating a shiny new time of renewal and possibilities. I admit that my resolutions looked more like self-improvement projects. Now I just hope I remember to write 2026 on the checks I write.

I read an article from the "Old Farmer's Almanac" that claimed that New Year's resolutions were celebrated by the Babylonians in 2000 BC. It coincided with the vernal equinox during which time they planted crops, crowned the king, and promised to pay their debts, which included returning any borrowed farm equipment. The article went on to describe how the Romans adopted the practice where they offered sacrifices and promised good behavior for the year ahead. It then described New Year's resolutions from the Middle Ages, continuing until the present day.

The article claimed that in the 1900's the resolutions were more religious and spiritual, like developing a stronger moral character, better work ethic, and more restraint in earthly pleasures. However, over the years they migrated from denying physical indulgences to general self-improvement. The article ended with the statistic that more people succeed in New Year's resolutions than we might think. A poll of 1,074 adults revealed that 68% of those who made resolutions had kept them.

The church tells time differently than the secular world. The beginning of the church year occurs on the first day of Advent and continues throughout the year, reflecting the events of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. Technically and spiritually, we should have made our resolutions this year on November 30, the beginning of Advent!

I hope all of us who make resolutions include making time for prayer and bible study in the coming year. A good way to begin is to use a study guide.. There are multitude guides on the internet to use. I encourage all of us to make daily reading of the Bible a part of our resolutions.

Pastor Kathy



January 18th
Congregational Meeting
following the service
Elect new class of
Elders and officers



**FELLOWSHIP
Dinner**

Meat Provided

Please bring a
sidedish or
dessert!
STAY and EAT

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Jan. 4
Scripture John 1:1-2
Sermon; The Hard Part of Christmas
Elder of the Day : Sheila Tolson
Liturgist: Tyler Thomas

Jan 11
Scripture: Acts 10: 34-35
Sermon: Lord of All
Elder of the Day: Sheila Tolson
Liturgist: LuAnn Christian

Jan 18
Scripture: 1 Corinthians: 1:1-9
Sermon: Partners
Elder of the Day: LuAnn Christian
Liturgist Randa Bloomfield

Jan 25
Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Sermon: Together
Elder of the Day: LuAnn Christian

Members' Corner.. Celebrations and Everyday Stuff



Jan. 5 Randa Bloomfield

Jan 6 Ree Drummond

Jan 14 LuAnn Christian

Jan 22 Ladd Drummond



Jan 31. Jack and Ashley Drummond

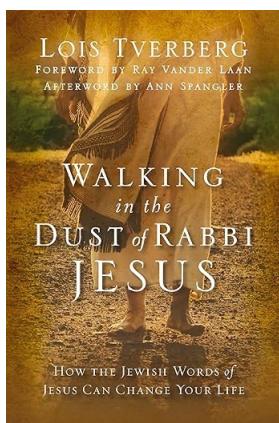
A little bragging going on!

Bob and Linda Priest are beaming with another addition x two to their family!

Collins Kate and Ellis Claire Manley, twins born to Madelyn and Mark Manley of Stillwater, arrived on December 14. Every one is doing well.



Book Recommendation



Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish Words of Jesus Can Change Your Life
By Lois Tverberg(Author) Ray Vander Laan (Foreward) Ann Spangler (Afterword).

Available on Amazon in Hardback, paperback, Audiobook and Kindle.

I've purchased this in Kindle and Audiobook. I keep listening to it, and love it. I think there is something in it for everyone, and it is easy reading or listening.

"Our modern society, with its individualism and materialism, is very different than the tight-knit, family-oriented setting Jesus lived and taught in. What wisdom can we glean from his Eastern, biblical attitude toward life? How can knowing Jesus within this context shed light on his teachings for us today?"

Part of the description from Amazon.com



Members' Corner.. For the fun of it...



Our First Christmas Cookie Bake!

In what we hope will become a tradition, six ladies of the church gathered on Saturday, Dec. 12 to create something fun for Christmas. This year's project was gingerbread men... from scratch, of course.

We had a good time being together, and there were a lot of laughs as we entered the decorating stage. Squeezing icing through a tube with any kind of consistency and tidiness is challenging. There were accidents and arms and legs fell off, but we laughed and ate those poor little cookies.

Those who attended church the following day were greeted with a worship bulletin and a bagged cookie.

Those present: Capie Woodhams, Lindy Hudson, Missy Culver, Andrea Renfrow, Lonnie Jones, and Caelyn Johnson.

Some wanted to attend, but had previous engagements. We hope to schedule the 2026 Christmas Cookie Bake further ahead of time to allow more people to sign up for the fun. Let's just call this year an experiment and hopefully paving the way for future gatherings and fun times playing together.

**2026 will be Sugar Cookies...
All ladies and gents welcome to join the fun.**



In the Community..

Traffic in the building.



If you wandered into the adult Sunday school classroom in the past two weeks before Christmas, you found it was piled high with boxes, and the tables filled with brand new toys.

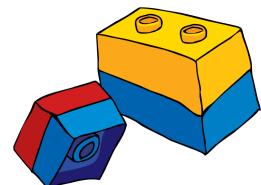
These toys came from the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program, Osage Nation Emergency Management, and Osage Nation Police Department. Pawhuska Ministerial Alliance received a portion of them to distribute among their clients. Amanda Bickford spearheaded the effort and also staffed the area for the last two Tuesday afternoons before Christmas.

I admit frequently peeking in the toy room on Benevolence Tuesdays, as I was curious and thrilled to see that clients were coming and the toy room showed clear signs of success in its mission. It made me happy to think of all the children who benefited from this and would have a happy Christmas with new toys under the tree just for them. The room was open to parents and grandparents.

About sixty-five adults were able to select toys for each of the children in their family. They were allowed at least two toys per child. I would say from the number attending and the small amount of toys remaining, that the program was a success.

I'm grateful that our church building is used for so many things that bring assistance and joy to others.

This year was the second year that Ministerial Alliance was allocated the toys. I pray that it will be true in the future. The need is great, and will always be a part of our community.



Bible Nuggets

“Epiphany is derived from the Greek word “epiphaneia,” meaning “manifestation.” Before Christmas was its own holiday, the early Christian church established the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 to commemorate several miraculous events that “manifested” Jesus’ divinity: his virgin birth, the visitation of the Three Wise Men (also called the Three Kings or the Magi), his baptism and when he turned water into wine at the Wedding of Cana.

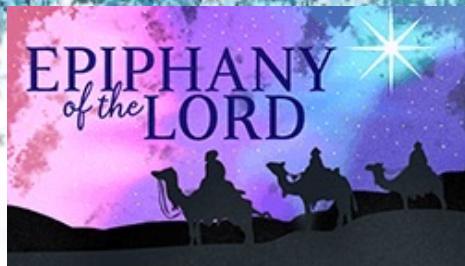
By the early fourth century, the church set aside December 25 for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, known as Nativity, and kept Epiphany on January 6.

Over the centuries, the church separated into the eastern and western branches, and both developed their own traditions, some even celebrating on January 19.

In the western church, the festival primarily commemorates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus.

There are a lot of interesting traditions around the world in celebrating Epiphany, including Twelfth Night and the 12 Days of Christmas.

You might want to read about them at <https://www.history.com/articles/epiphany-three-kings-day>



WHAT DOES THE STORY TELL US ABOUT GOD?

From Matthew chapter 2. You know the story. You know the story is in the Bible. I've found in my studies that if something is in the Scriptures, it is there for a specific reason.

We know in Matthew that the shepherds in the fields received the news by angelic announcement. Although the story doesn't state that they were Hebrew shepherds, it makes sense that they were, as the area around Bethlehem is where the sacrificial lambs were raised, and Hebrew shepherds would raise them.

On the other hand, the Magi were mysterious and from other lands, and they were not Hebrew, but rather Gentiles. Anyone who is not a Hebrew is a Gentile. We are Gentiles.

The Magi's journey signifies the inclusion of Gentiles in God's redemptive plan. Their worship of Jesus highlights that His message and salvation extend beyond Israel, reflecting God's desire for all nations to come to Him.

The visit fulfills Old Testament prophecies, such as Numbers 24: 17, which speaks of a star rising from Jacob. It emphasizes God's sovereignty and the unfolding of his plan for salvation through Yeshua, the Messiah.

The Magi's actions demonstrate the appropriate response to God's revelation. They traveled great distances bearing gifts. They bent or bowed down before him and worshiped him. Recognizing Jesus as King involves worship and sacrifice.

The Magi's story reveals God's openness to all, the fulfillment of His promises, and the call to worship Jesus as King.

(Source: some quotes from pastorjasonelder.com)

