

the Joy Journal



January 2026
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ly they fade. By February, good intentions often give way to old habits.

ple, biblical commitments that truly last.

First, a renewed commitment to prayer.

What if, instead of making resolutions we hope we can keep, we focused on spiritual commitments that God promises to sustain?

Scripture reminds us that lasting change doesn't come from will power alone, but from walking daily with the Lord. The Christian life is not about self-improvement—it's about spiritual formation. As we step into a new year, I want to encourage us to lean into four sim-

ple, biblical commitments that truly last.

First, a renewed commitment to prayer.

Prayer is not merely a discipline; it is a relationship. When we pray, we are not checking a box—we are drawing near to our Heavenly Father. In busy seasons, prayer is often the first thing we push aside, yet it is the very source of our strength. Even small, faithful moments of prayer—morning surrender, whispered gratitude, honest cries for help—can reshape our hearts over time.

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Spiritual Resolutions That Actually Last

Second, a steady commitment to God's Word.

Many begin January with ambitious Bible reading plans and feel discouraged when they fall behind. Instead of focusing on volume, focus on faithfulness. God's Word is living and active, and even a few verses read prayerfully can nourish the soul. Let Scripture shape your thinking, guide your decisions, and remind you daily of God's promises.

Third, a deeper commitment to fellowship.

We were never meant to walk this journey alone. The local church is God's gift to help us grow, encourage one another, and bear each other's burdens. Whether through worship, Sunday School, serving together, or simple conversations, fellowship strengthens our faith in ways we often don't realize until we need it most.

Finally, a quiet commitment to obedience.

Obedience doesn't always come with applause, but it always pleases the Lord. Often, it's lived out in unseen choices—choosing forgiveness, speaking truth with love, trusting God when the path is unclear. Faithful obedience, day after day, builds a life that honors Christ.

Before closing, I want to pause and say thank you. December was filled with Christmas programs, special services, outreach opportunities, rehearsals, decorations, meals, and countless acts of service—many seen, many unseen. To everyone who gave time, energy, and heart to help our church celebrate the birth of Christ: your faithfulness mattered. You served not for recognition, but for the glory of God, and it did not go unnoticed.

As we step into this new year, may we not be discouraged by lofty resolutions that fade, but encouraged by simple commitments that endure. Let us walk forward together—praying, growing, serving, and trusting the Lord who is faithful in every season.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

(2 Peter 3:18, NKJV)

Grace and peace as we begin the year ahead,

Joey Cole

Worship Pastor



Luke 18:13- 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

The tax collector had a deep understanding that he needed God. He understood what his spiritual condition was, and the only one who could help was his maker. Unlike the Pharisee who compared himself to others, the tax collector understood his own spiritual need.

Our culture defines success as a person with wealth, power, prestige, luxuries, cars, etc. Jesus defines spiritual success as the exact opposite. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit."*

The ones who are humble and realize their need of Christ. May we all be needy people. I am reminded of this old hymn, *"I need thee, oh, I need thee, every hour I need thee."*

Please continue to pray for the TIM team as we are working on the bylaws and church policies.

Johnny Hutchins

TIM TEAM



Dear Church Family,

I pray that you'll have a great start to 2026!

As the new year begins, I ask that you continue to pray for God's will on our church and in all our daily decisions. Please always remember everyone on our

prayer request list, because prayer does change things. I pray Tennessee Avenue continues to be a light in the community and that we can help spread God's word. I'm thankful for His blessings in providing our new heating and cooling unit for the main building and also that the cost ended up being lower than expected.

Please remember the multiple groups working within our church – our Pastor Search Committee, our TIM team working with the Deacon body to update our bylaws, our School Leadership and the lives they touch each day, Pastor Joey and the office staff that keeps everything

running, our church musicians, sound team, and last but not least, the Finance Committee.

I'm truly thankful for each of you, and for Pastor Bob Jones our Interim as we continue seeking God's will for our next Pastor.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy and Blessed New Year!

Sincerely,

Scott Frazier

new habits, and discover more of God's love together. This month, our lessons will focus on new beginnings—looking at stories from the Bible that remind us that God is always doing something fresh in our lives.

We'll be encouraging kids to set simple "faith goals," like praying each day, reading a Bible verse with their family, or finding ways to show kindness at school. We can't wait to cheer them on!

Thank you for partnering with us as we help your children learn, grow, and shine

God's light in the new year. It's going to be a wonderful January!

Thank you for all you do and especially for your prayers! I love and appreciate you all!

Miss April

Children's Ministry Director

Happy New Year, Families!

We're excited to kick off a brand-new year in Children's Ministry! January is the perfect time to grow in faith, build



the month of JANUARY

birthdays

3 rd	Lindsey Jenks
4 th	Chelsea Vance
6 th	Jeff Brunette Maleah Minor Matilda Minor
8 th	Bella Ellis
9 th	Bill Coleman Mara Dixon John David Hunt
11 th	Keith Grindstaff Jeannine Huff
12 th	Brenden Keen
14 th	Jeff Trivett
23 rd	Sam Messer
24 th	Bryson Hernandez
26 th	Andrea Haynes Savanah Medaglia
27 th	Ricky Fleenor Reva Mitchell
28 th	Jeff Carter
29 th	Erica Jackson
30 th	Mike Blair James Sproles

Happy New Year!

anniversaries

4 th	Ricky & Marie Fleenor
12 th	Benji & Tammy Lawson
13 th	John & Kathi Gentry Jimmy & Peggy Phipps
14 th	Wayne & Vicki Ramsey

event calendar

1 st	HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office, Academy & ECEC Closed
2 nd	Church Office & Academy Closed
2 nd	Senior Adult Breakfast Eggs Up Grill 9:00 am
4 th	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
4 th	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
5 th	TACA Classes Resume 8:00 am
7 th	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
7 th	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
7 th	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
8 th	Ladies' Community Bible Study Resumes TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Thursdays)
8 th	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
12 th	TACA Home Basketball Game FLB 5:30 pm
16 th	TACA Home Basketball Games FLB 5:00 pm
19 th	Meals on Weels
26 th	Widows Ministry Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon
26 th	TACA Home Basketball Game FLB 5:30 pm

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Dear Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, thank you very much for the hope packs gift for the inmates at Christmas. This will help every inmate receive the Gospel message in their hope pack. Thanks again,
Kent Pugh

SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND
9:00 AM**

**Senior Adults, join us for great food,
fun & fellowship!!**

TABC FINANCES

Tithes & Offerings

"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10

11/23/2025 Offering	\$ 10,991.00
11/30/2025 Offering	\$ 5,894.00
12/07/2025 Offering	\$ 13,749.00
12/14/2025 Offering	\$ 5,710.00
On-line Giving 11/18-12/15/2025	\$ 5,705.82
Period Giving Total	\$ 42,049.82
Total 2025 Offering YTD:	\$ 654,636.15

Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 799,755.69
General Account	\$ 146,497.42
Designated Account	\$ 101,198.98
Daycare / Academy	\$ 44,493.63
Money Market	\$ 22,114.93



Our very own Mrs. Kathy Sharp has published her first book, 'Surviving The Storm'! It is available on Amazon.com for any who would like to purchase it. All proceeds from purchases will go to the Widows Ministry.



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TACA Sword & Shield

JANUARY 2026



A HIGH VIEW OF OUR GOD!

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling..."

~ Ephesians 1:18a (CSB) ~

Paul was not talking about our physical eyes but instead our spiritual eyes. God wants to give us His vision for our lives. That is His calling for us. There is no higher calling. I want you to be reminded today of the hope His calling has for you. I pray that you will be encouraged by that calling and seek to make a difference for Him every day.

I love a quote by Rick Warren that says: *"Let the size of my God determine the size of my goals. God's dream for my life is bigger than my dream."* Never has there been a time more important than now for the imagination of God's people to come alive. The evangelical world desperately needs a generation of believers who in faith will be able to discover the dream God gave them for their lives.

We need to have a high view of our God. One that recognizes all the miraculous things that God has done. One that holds tightly to the promises of His Word. One that embraces the power and sovereignty of a Holy God. Gaining a high view of God will completely change our perspective about life and all of its difficulties. A.W. Tozier captured this truth when he said:

"The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us... The decline of the knowledge of the holy has brought on our troubles. A rediscovery of the majesty of God will go a long way toward curing them."

Joshua understood the need for a high view of God. He had a history with God. In Deuteronomy 3:22 he remembered how God had delivered him before and he knew not to be afraid and who to trust. He knew the Lord would be with

him no matter what. He said so in that verse: *"You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you."* (ESV)

Joshua saw God do extraordinary things with his life and leadership because of his view and trust of God. Joshua lived out God's dream for his life. I pray that God will "open the eyes of my mind, so that I can see the hope that His calling holds for my life."

I pray that God's dream for my life will be evident, so that I might be the person that He wants me to be. One that will bring honor and glory to an extraordinary God.

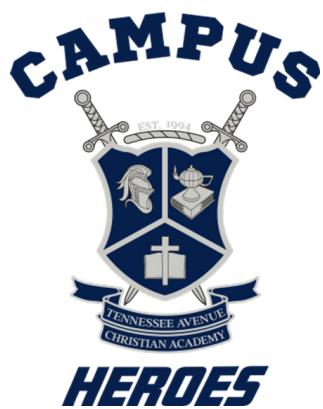
In this new year, won't you join me in praying the same for your life? For your family? And for our beloved school?

Cindy Beal
Administrator



TACA Sword & Shield

JANUARY 2026



**Campus
HEROES**

Ms. Monica Dixon is a faithful volunteer. You will see her in carline, the office, and anywhere else that she is needed. Thank you, Monica, for your heart to serve!

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10

Tennessee Avenue Families,
Early Childhood Education



Happy New Year! I love this time of year. After all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I feel like the start of a New Year is a reminder of God's faithfulness. No matter what we have faced in the past year, we survived. The grace of God helped us persevere through this crazy roller coaster of life.

This time of year always brings to mind a few of my favorite verses of Scripture. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) says, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* The trials and tribulations of the past year are behind us now. We are starting off a new year filled with hope and joy of all the new things that are to come. Isaiah 40:31 (KJV) says, *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* We can go into this new year knowing that God is going before us, and He is going to give us the strength to face whatever satan tries to throw at us. Matthew 5:16 (KJV) says, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* With the new year, we can shine for God, and show others the love of Christ.

My prayer for all of you as you go into this new year is to remember that God loves you, and that He has sustained us in the past years, and He will continue to do so in the New Year! All we have to do is remember to have faith, and trust that no matter the situation, God is already there and already has a plan!

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett
Director
Early Childhood Education Center



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COME JOIN US!

SUNDAYS

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
AWANA	6:00 p.m.
Youth Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
Kidz Korner	6:00 p.m.
Youth Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

Prayer Prompter

“As you plan ways to
embrace the New Year,
consider abandoning
‘The sin of prayerlessness’.”

(See 1 Thessalonians 5:17
& Philippians 4:6)

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previously recorded services, by visiting www.tabaptist.org
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