

Spiritual Improvement in 2026
John Jones

Did you know that New Year’s Day has been celebrated on January 1st since 45 B.C.? When Julius Caesar introduced the new Julian calendar (which we still follow), he named the first month of the year after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings. Janus was said to have two faces: one looking forward and one looking backward. For at least 2,070 years, people have taken this particular time of year to look backward in reflection and look forward in resolution for the new year to come. While there is no biblical expectation for the new year to be marked for any religious purpose, what a good time for us to consider the year behind and the year ahead. This is exactly what we’ve been trying to do in our current sermon series “New Year, New You.”

New Year’s Resolutions are often made to mark the turn of the calendar. Last year in the United States, 38% of people resolved to save more money. 33% pledged to eat healthier, lose weight, or exercise more. A recent trend in resolutions is to improve one’s mental health (around 25%). Though these goals are honorable and, who wouldn’t want some improvement in their lives, the success rates aren’t great. Only about 6–12% of people fully achieve their resolutions by year’s end. 23% actually quit in the first week, while 43% give up by the end of January. Averaging these out, some have labelled the second Friday in January as “Quitter’s Day”! If you’re aiming for a financial or health-based goal, here’s one tip: “Approach-oriented” goals (like “exercise three times a week”) succeed more often than avoidance ones (like “stop eating junk food”).

How can we apply these lessons to our Christian lives? We have emphasized the importance of self-evaluation from 2 Corinthians 13:5: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” Evaluation is essential, but how do we find success in keeping our spiritual resolutions? Perhaps we should make specific spiritual goals that are “approach-oriented” in 2026. “I will read my Bible *more than I did in 2025*” is less attainable than “*I will read my Bible 5 days a week.*” *Giving ourselves specific metrics with some grace baked in will help us to grow. What I’ve done successfully in the past is to keep a journal. I don’t write much, but I do write the date, what I read, and a thought that occurred to me while reading. It’s a great place to keep a prayer list too!*

This year, instead of saying “I need to pray more,” try, “I’m going to set my alarm 5 minutes earlier every day so I can start the day off right with prayer.” Whatever changes you decide are necessary, make them measurable, specific, reasonable.

I hope to hear from you in July that your spiritual resolutions are bringing you closer to God and more into conformity “into the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). May God be glorified in 2026 by His people committing themselves to personal spiritual improvement!

On Our Prayer List... *May we always be using God’s blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

{Recent Medical concerns/updates}		{Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery}
*Jimmy Phy —been in the hospital with Pneumonia-now home *Jim & BettySuddeath -home recovering Betty a fall/Jim-illness *Betty James -been in the hospital with complications from Pneumonia		*Lacey Franklin -doing well wk 4 fr open heart surg

{THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER}	
*Jimmy Phy -continued endurance with cancer *Lillian Childress -(Sherry Harvey’s aunt) successful radiation treatment *Dale Street -(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA *Hudson Jones -(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine,Walnut St COC–Leukemia} *Robert Gardner (friend of Bill Williams) CA *Debbie Gafford -friend of Diane Curtis	*Mack Winstead -CA-continued prayers *Houston Howell *David Nowlin -CA treatments-WcoC elder *Jackie Borders -Lauren Stuart’s mom *Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA

Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.					
*Hattie Tate *Claude Hurt *Marcia Simpson *Joshua James -now hm *Savannah Patrick -(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick’s granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN	*Betty Suddeath *Carlene Davis *Sue Edmision *Shane Cobb	*Al & Vicki Peek *Rhonda Canada *Alyssa Gold *Warren (Johnny) Proctor	*Marvin England *Chase Lewis *Carolyn Wilson *Larry Fuqua	*Dennis Wright *Doug Simpson *Mike Gunn *Thelma Davidson	*Margie Gunn -now hm *Josh Barnett *Scotty Palk *Janie Brown

{Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}		At Home in McEwen
AHC Decatur County -726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363 Wyle Marshall -(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad) NHC —812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- JoAnn Haley Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185- June Dreaden - Rm 204 Magnolia Place - 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185- Jimmy Tyler -(room 106) Waverly Hills Post Acute -895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185- Bertha Bradford -rm 102A / Gary Pace		
		Jim & Jane Ridings -172 Indian Ck Rd Robert Bradford -347 Brown Mill Rd. Jimmy Mullinicks -56 Mike Street

It's hard to believe this is our last bulletin for the year 2025; as we look back as with any year gone by we see we've been blessed with much joy & loss, this year as been harder than most in sheer number of loss to God's family here @ McEwen, yet our loss is their gain. May each of us continue to strive in service to our Lord in 2026 & each day/year God gives us with the promise to be with Him one day forever & reunited with loved ones who've gone on before.

Baptisms: * Ericka Fowers—May 12th Sophia Grace Stone—June -(during church camp) *Cody Fleming—Nov 14th (worshipping@Popular Gr.) Nathan Fry—Nov 24th (Lineman-Home in PA) *Jarod Wright— Dec 5th Evan & Thora Tomlinson- Dec12th Joey & Carson Flowers-Dec 17th		*Jordan Keith *Shaydun Keith *Cortlyn Henley *Ermay Vazquez (all the above were baptized from bible studies with Drew & Morgan Peyton.)	<u>Those who've gone on before us:</u> *Earline Davis—Feb 2nd *Herbert Cappe-March 5th *Keith Rodgers-March 12th *Mary Lana Adams-March 15th *Betty Rumsey— May 1st *Dorothy Killebrew-May 1st *Elton (Toad) Smith-Aug 31st *Wesley Parrish-Sept 10th *Linda Rodgers-October 11th *Kenny Fleming-December 1st *Retha Raye Mullinicks-Dec 18th
Restorations: *Sherry Harvey-June 15th @ camp *Aubree Stanfill-June @ camp			
All welcome to stay & play games Wed night(NY Eve)after services			
Friday, Jan 9th-Singing @ New Spring Ck-Bus will leave @ 6:10. Sign-up list in the foyer.			

this coming Sunday, Jan 4th @ 5:00PM.
Mike & Connie Burns agreed to take over from Ms Retha Raye &Shelly submitting our Dairy Queen re- ceipts for them to re- imburse the church a portion of. A box has been set-up in the back of the auditorium for you to put yr receipts

IN.F.O.C.U.S. Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

The final Monday of 2025 is here. Every year seems to pass by quicker and quicker than the last. The week before Christmas was a very busy one for our youth. We had a service project, our Christmas party, and our mall trip all within a few days. Our final event of 2025 will be our lock-in for all our 6th-12th grade. We will begin at 6:00 pm Tuesday night and end at 6:00 am Wednesday morning. I'm already tired just thinking about it!

I'm so thankful for the wonderful year I've had with all our youth and their families. We have made lots of memories together and I will cherish them all. Please be praying for a great and successful 2026!

In Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, January 4th 2026

WelcomeJimmy Suddeath
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Derek Berryman
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Mike Burns
Mike Robertson Jacen Robertson
Barry Phy Daniel Curtis
Noah Stuart Robert Proctor
Closing Prayer.....Thomas Cook
Collect Cards.....Jaxon Holt
& Luke Jones
Greeters.....Erin Jones & Hattie Tate
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #3

Sunday 6PM January 4th2026

Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
Prayer.....Wade Tummins
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....W. R. Long
& Keith Grigsby
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Kilpatrick

Wednesday 6:30 PM, January 7th 2026

Lead Singing.....Bruce Mayfield
Prayer.....Joe Smith
Adult Class.....John Jones

If you are unable to serve.....please contact
Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)

*If changes need to be made in scheduling please
contact Jimmy Phy.

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Return Service Requested



*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

The MESSENGER is online!
Visit the church website
to view!



OUR RECORDS for 12/28/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School	119
Sunday Morning Worship	197
Sunday Evening Worship	92
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	58
Sunday Contribution	\$9,507



The MESSENGER

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Week of December 28th 2025

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST

Behold
I make
all things
➤ new ➤

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
Worship.....10:00am
Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study.....6:30pm

Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey Bruce Mayfield
W.R. Long Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman Mike Burns
Wayne Coates Mark Forster
John Hurt Barry Phy
Robert Proctor James Ridings
Joe Smith Dwight Stuart
Ethan Tummins Wade Tummins
Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

Ministers ----- Every Member
Pulpit ----- John Jones
Youth ----- Keith Grigsby
Secretaries ----- Terri Tummins
Teresa Fleming

EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Continue to be:

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

(Team - 5 there may be cards to work on this Wednesday night.)

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