

So, what's your New Year's resolution?

It seems to me that less and less people make New Year's resolutions, and maybe some of that comes with getting older. But even if you don't make a resolution, I believe that many of us have a change in mentality as we turn the page on the calendar to a new year. What I mean is that even if we don't resolve to do something different or new, we often come into a new year with an expectation of what it'll be like and how it may be different from the previous year.

And I believe that's a God-given mentality. I believe the way he designed us to want rhythms and schedules in our lives and that he designated festivities for his people in the Old Testament reveal that desire for us. We should come into a new year and a new opportunity with some renewed optimism.

So, what's your expectation for the New Year? Do you anticipate it being similar to last year? Or maybe you'd like something completely different? We'd all probably like to keep some things the same but change a number of things. Hopefully we all have something we're looking forward to as well.

But no matter where we're at on the scale of anticipation, my hope is that we're ready for God to do something amazing. As we've walked through this sermon series on God's Great Rescue Plan, I see more clearly that God's people, the Israelites, seemed to constantly live in anticipation. From the time that Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 to the promises given to Abraham to the Exodus to the promises given to King David and especially all throughout the prophets, the people lived in anticipation. They lived in expectation of God working.

And even into the New Testament we see God's people waiting in anticipation. In fact, it seems, like those who wrote our New Testament anticipated that Jesus would return very soon. But we know that 2000 years later we're still waiting for that return.

But even if Jesus doesn't return in 2020, which I hope we're praying he does, we can live in anticipation for God doing something amazing and miraculous in our world, even in our own community. And I don't know what that is but I am praying for something undeniably God-ordained to happen in 2020 so that we cannot deny his miraculous intervention. And I pray that through that miraculous act more and more are drawn to him and his followers have a renewed passion to live for him. Will you join me in that prayer? Serving Him and you, Matthew

Community Youth Meeting

In an attempt to work more together with the area churches, we will be hosting a community youth meeting that will be an opportunity for us to share thoughts and ideas for how we can serve and love the youth in our area better. The meeting will be on **Sunday, January 12th at 4:00pm** at the church. Please come with thoughts and ideas to share with the group as well as an open mind.

COMMUNITY
FOR YOUTH

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is currently scheduled for **Sunday, January 19^h** following the morning service. If you have any items that need to be discussed or brought to this meeting, please let an elder know. Current agenda items include election of officials, announcement of donation expectations and discussion of women on the board.

VBS Meeting

On **Thursday, January 30th at 4:30pm** we will be having our first meeting for this year's VBS. Even if you've never helped with VBS, this is a great way to get connected and share thoughts and build community cooperation.

Thank You

The Thiner family would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts this Christmas. Your thoughts and prayers throughout this past year are also greatly appreciated.

December Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Dec 1	\$1,309.00	\$58,648.21	\$63,901.92
Dec 8	\$891.00	\$59,539.21	\$65,233.21
Dec 15	\$810.00	\$60,349.21	\$66,564.50
Dec 22	\$976.00	\$61,325.21	\$67,895.79
Dec 29	\$1,005.00	\$62,330.21	\$69,227.08
Totals	\$4,991.00		

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
Kelly Lund-Bollinger - surgery
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure
Mark Danner – serious fall
Dorcees – stuck in U.S., waiting to return to Haiti
Egleton house fire
Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer
Tim Graham – home, more tests
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
Glenda Hunter – congestive heart failure
Marilyn Hendricks – open heart surgery
Drew Mathewson
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Jenny Stamaugh (Jones' friend) – hospitalized, heart trouble

Ellen Stevens – surgery recovery
The Thiner family
Marissa (Letha Stambaugh's friend) – cancer
Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer
Pam (Tammy B's sister) – kidney issues
Heidi (Cindy M's nephew's fiance) – growth on stomach, surgery

Praises:

Garrett Collins – Rushville teen with cancer responding to treatments well

Condolences:

Mary Ellen Farwell family
Rod Vaughn family
Harold Sizek family
Joanna Sager family
Diana Hankins family

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

- Sun, Jan 12th 4:00pm **Community Youth Meeting**
- Sun, Jan 12th 6:00pm Board Meeting
- Tues, Jan 14th 6:30pm Man Up
- Wed, Jan 15th 6:00pm **Family Night Resumes**
- Sun, Jan 19th 10:00am **Annual Meeting**
- Wed, Jan 22nd 6:00pm Family Night
- Wed, Jan 29th 6:00pm Family Night
- Thurs, Jan 30th 4:30pm **Community VBS Meeting**



Astoria Christian Church

Trust in the
LORD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
and lean not on
your own
UNDERSTANDING
in all your ways
submit to Him
AND HE WILL MAKE
your paths straight
PROVERBS 3⁵