



Muncy Baptist Church Newsletter



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Drawing Closer: A New Thing with Rev. Rob Rice, Pastor

If you do a quick Google search on verses for New Year's, near the top of the list will be these verses from Isaiah 43:18-19, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

These verses are a beautiful reminder that our God is a God who is always doing new and always making a way forward for us, His people. In many senses, you could make the connection between these verses and the promise of a coming Messiah, who would deliver God's people and make a way for them (and us) to be set free from our enemies.

On the surface, it all sounds good. Who wouldn't want to have a new beginning and watch God do a new thing, both then through the coming of Jesus and as we enter the new year?

The reality is that a lot of people, including us, struggle to accept the new things that God often wants to do.

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Think for a minute about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. When He came to do a new thing, to lead God's people in a new way, He was hated and even put to death. The people of Jesus, especially the religious leaders who held power, were quite comfortable with the old way of doing things. They were like the old wineskins, not ready to accept the work of Jesus, and perfectly happy to cling to the former things and their own traditions.

The same can be true for us. All of us have our comfort zones, the things that we like, the patterns we fall into, the habits we keep. Some of them might be good, but many times, they keep us from experiencing all that God has for us. We get stuck in our ways and aren't willing to see a new thing, or believe that God may be working in a way that we can't quite grasp or understand.

One of the ways that I believe God wants to do a new thing in the life of our church, is a new approach to reading the Scripture together this year. Having spent the last three years reading the whole Bible in a year, then the New Testament in a year, and most recently the Old Testament in a year, it's clear that we've been immersed in a great quantity of Scripture, but not always had the opportunity to grow deeper because we've had so much to read each day.

In 2026, beginning on January 5, together we're going to try something new and different. Rather than set ourselves for the whole year, we're going to focus on a shorter time frame, the first 90 days of the year, which this year will get us to Easter, with a few days of grace mixed in. We are going to go a little deeper and seek to read through the Gospels by Easter. In order to accomplish this goal, each day, we will read through one chapter of the Gospels. Throughout our time, there'll be opportunities for small group discussion and questions, and everyone (regardless of how comfortable you are with a smartphone) can join us, because we'll also publish a hard copy schedule.

I know it may be new or challenging for you to read the Scripture this way, and you may have other ways you like to read or study Scripture. Whatever else you do, I encourage you to join us on this journey and to see our Savior through the eyes of the Gospels, and watch as God does a new thing in your life and the life of our church.

We will have a meeting after church on January 4 for those who are interested in reading along with us in the Bible App.

The schedule of readings is listed on page 3 of the Newsletter.

Save the Date

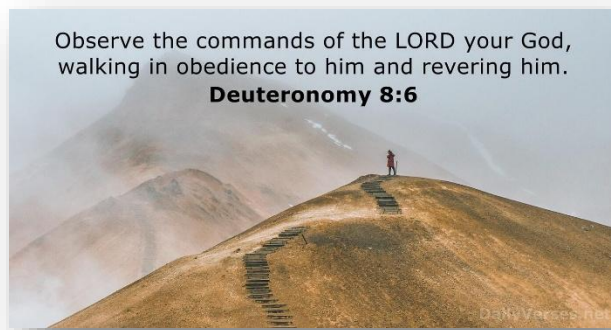
Sunday, January 25: Annual Luncheon and Meeting, following the worship service.

Schedule of Readings

January 5: Matthew 1	January 6: Matthew 2	January 7: Matthew 3	January 8: Matthew 4	January 9: Matthew 5	January 10: Matthew 6
January 11: Matthew 7	January 12: Matthew 8	January 13: Matthew 9	January 14: Matthew 10	January 15: Matthew 11	January 16: Matthew 12
January 17: Matthew 13	January 18: Matthew 14	January 19: Matthew 15	January 20: Matthew 16	January 21: Matthew 17	January 22: Matthew 18
January 23: Matthew 19	January 24: Matthew 20	January 25: Matthew 21	January 26: Matthew 22	January 27: Matthew 23	January 28: Matthew 24
January 29: Matthew 25	January 30: Matthew 26	January 31: Matthew 27	February 1: Matthew 28	February 2: Mark 1	February 3: Mark 2
February 4: Mark 3	February 5: Mark 4	February 6: Mark 5	February 7: Mark 6	February 8: Mark 7	February 9: Mark 8
February 10: Mark 9	February 11: Mark 10	February 12: Mark 11	February 13: Mark 12	February 14: Mark 13	February 15: Mark 14
February 16: Mark 15	February 17: Mark 16	February 18: Luke 1	February 19: Luke 2	February 20: Luke 3	February 21: Luke 4
February 22: Luke 5	February 23: Luke 6	February 24: Luke 7	February 25: Luke 8	February 26: Luke 9	February 27: Luke 10
February 28: Luke 11	March 1: Luke 12	March 2: Luke 13	March 3: Luke 14	March 4: Luke 15	March 5: Luke 16
March 6: Luke 17	March 7: Luke 18	March 8: Luke 19	March 10: Luke 20	March 11: Luke 21	March 12: Luke 22
March 13: Luke 23	March 14: Luke 24	March 15: John 1	March 16: John 2	March 17: John 3	March 18: John 4
March 19: John 5	March 20: John 6	March 21: John 7	March 22: John 8	March 23: John 9	March 24: John 10
March 25: John 11	March 26: John 12	March 27: John 13	March 28: John 14	March 29: John 15	March 30: John 16
March 31: John 17	April 1: John 18	April 2: John 19	April 3: John 20	April 4: Catch-up	April 5: Easter!

A Willing Witness

The Problem with Itching Ears
with Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, Associate Pastor



The trouble with people who are not seeking the Savior, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a person's mind and conscience. That is why great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the Puritans, and 200 years ago in the time of Whitefield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary "Law Work."

Today, with itching ears we want a gospel without the preliminary "Law Work!" Many are resolute in their own self determination as evidenced with this testimonial, "I'm doing fine. I don't need God." Or, as a man I was witnessing to this morning stated, "The God I believe in wants me to do my own thing." Really? Itching ears.

Many people feel this way because of a watered-down gospel – which is no gospel at all. This gospel of itching ears simply proclaims that God will do what you want when you want without anything else so we with others proclaim in our self-sufficiency I– The God I believe in...I ask has there been any Law Work to speak to the heart of these individuals with such itching ears?

The Biblical truth is that we first must allow the Holy Spirit to do Law Work in our hearts, souls, and conscience. When a sinner understands the horrific consequences of breaking the Law of God, they will flee to the Savior and listen to Him and His loving voice, and itching ear syndrome is remedied.

This is God's call for all people:

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:30-31



God at Work



Let It All Work Out
with Felicia Sheets

As the New Year begins, many of us focus on goals that improve our physical bodies, but what if this year we set one goal that will not only nurture our mental health, but also strengthens our relationship with God, as well? Walk with me on this journey as we start giving it all to God and letting it all work out.

Can you imagine what life would feel like if we truly gave everything that was bothering us to God? All those worries, anxieties, and sorrows; we were never meant to carry them alone. In fact, if you recall in 1 Peter 5:7, we are told exactly that, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.” But how exactly do we do that? Can it really be that simple? The answer is yes, and it begins with a few intentional steps.

First, we pray. You need to pray about the things that are bothersome in your life, the things you want to change, the things that you are carrying that are heavy, even all the small things that seem to be a pebble in your shoe. God knows them, but He also needs to hear them. God hearing them from you, is you passing the torch to Him; you are casting your line out to Him and saying “Lord, I need your help.” As you pray, consciously release the weight of that burden off of your shoulders and place them into God's hands.

The next step is where things get tricky for us. We are creatures of habit, comfort, and independence, so we struggle with things like letting things go and asking for help, even when we need it most. But what we must do next is to trust in God that He is not only powerful enough but willing to carry it all for you, all because He cares for you and loves you. We need to surrender all our control over the situation at hand and trust in Him to provide for us what is perfect and right, all in His timing.

While we wait, we should stop and listen for Him, thank Him for everything He has given us, and humble ourselves. Then, we need to feel His peace grace our presence, let His peace consume us and bring us comfort. “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

As we go into this New Year on this journey together, let's choose to give everything to God. Watch as worry loosens its grip and peace takes its place. Begin living in the joy and freedom God offers rather than the darkness that only pretends to be comfortable. Sit back and watch as God lets it all work out.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries in January

Dave & Sally Dunmire	01/11
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Birthdays in January



Brycen Savoy	01/01
Derry Johnson	01/05
John Flick	01/05
Susan Steele	01/06
Susie Lyons	01/07
Kaitlyn Eshenaur	01/08
Mia Grace Fisher	01/10
Jim Woodruff	01/12
Peggy Reese	01/13
Ruth Little	01/15
Crystal Calaman	01/17
Troy Geiger	01/18
Schawanna Vermilya	01/18
Megan Woodruff	01/20
Harvey Breneisen	01/21
Kaylynn McCarty	01/23
Susan Craig	01/23
Jayson Parent	01/24
Jonah Taylor	01/25
Roberta Ravert	01/25
Alyssa Geiger	01/25
Dave Dunmire	01/26
Whitney Breneisen	01/26

**Don't see your anniversary or birthday?
Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you!**