



The Messenger

“Advancing Christ’s Kingdom”

Pastor's Corner

Welcome to January 2026!

As with most New Years, this one promises to be one of great opportunities; one filled with activities, mission opportunities and growth. As most of you know, I felt led to declare the end of 2025 and all of 2026 as a year of prayer. Prayer can be viewed in many different ways.

Some see prayer as a lifeline to God.
Others see it as seeking God and His wisdom.
Some believe that prayer can actually change God’s mind.
While some say God withholds blessings from us until we ask for them.

The late Henry Blackaby teaches that the purpose of prayer is primarily to allow God to reveal His will to us and to actually change our heart to come in line with His. To help us focus on prayer, I have invited Dr. Chuck Campbell to join us each Wednesday evening to teach the series, “How to Pray Your Friends to Christ.” I have been through this study and I certainly recommend it. I hope you will join us at 6:30 each Wednesday in January for this study.

We are also urging all our members of all ages to get the Bless Every Home app. This will help you get to know who your neighbors are and encourage you to pray for them. Each morning you will receive an email with the names and addresses of five of your neighbors. You will be asked to pray for them. It is OK if every member of the family has the same list. We currently have 22 members participating in this ministry. Our goal is to have 40. Please consider downloading this app. I can imagine families joining together to pray for their neighbors.

We are also hoping to unveil a new outreach ministry. The target group is young men. This ministry known as, “The Foundation,” will be headed up by a team of young men: Hunter Jensen, Tanner Parker, Jordan Towery, and Mason Weaver. The goal is to provide an opportunity for young men who are not churched to find a place where they can ask questions and learn what it means to be a godly man. We have also asked Isabel Jensen, Patti Parker, and Rachel Weaver to be prepared in case the wives or girlfriends of the men we reach want to be involved. Please pray for this new endeavor; it has the potential to affect all the ministries at WBC.

John Jolly is hoping to kick off a new ministry for the children on Wednesday evenings. I will let him tell you about that.

(continued on next page)



Warlick’s Baptist Church

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Connelly Springs, NC
28612

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Here are some future dates you may want to put on your calendar:

- Sunday April 5th is Easter.
- Sunday May 10th is Mother's Day
- Sunday June 21st is Father's Day
- Sunday Evening March 29, 2026 Family Fun Night (Hosted by Robbie Parker's Sunday School Class)
- Sunday Evening May 31, 2026 Family Fun Night (Hosted by the Youth)
- Children's Camp June 8-12, 2026
- West Virginia Mission Trip July 10-15, 2026
- Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 2026
- Joint Thanksgiving Service November 24, 2026
- Christmas Play Sunday Evening December 13, 2026
- Christmas Caroling Wednesday December 16, 2026
- Christmas Eve Service Thursday December 24th, 2026

Pastor Gary



Chuck Campbell from the Catawba Valley Baptist Association will be teaching on Wednesday nights during the month of January. The series is titled “**Praying Your Friends to Christ.**” We invite you to bring a friend and join us each Wednesday at 6:30 for this meaningful time of teaching and encouragement.

Christian Symbol



SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the

church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.

January Events

- **Wednesday Nights** – Chuck Campbell – 6:30 – “Praying Your Friends to Christ”
- **1st** – New Year's Day
- **11th** – Deacon's Meeting – 3 pm
- **15th** – Senior Adult Comm. Mtg – 10 am
- **19th** – Senior Adult Meal – 11:30 am
- **19th** – Martin Luther King Jr Day
- **27th** – Widows of Warlick's – 1 pm



Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant



Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)



Senior Adult News

January Birthdays

Ferry Houser
8407 Oliver Childers Rd
Connelly Springs, NC 28612

17th – Kay Ervin
P.O. Box 5
Rhodhiss, NC 28667

23rd – Evelyn Anderson
3905 Brittain St.
Hickory, NC 28602

30th – Dwight Lail
2380 Settlemyre-Lail St
Hickory, NC 28602



Happy Birthday to any other seniors who may have January birthdays!

Recent Attendance

On Tuesday, December 23, Warlick's Seniors met in the CLC for Christmas. Probably because of having to change the date, our attendance was fewer than what we usually have. A total of 21 enjoyed a meal of various finger foods, drinks and desserts.

Winners of the number of candies in a pint jar were Jim Munday and Judy Deal. Greetle Beach had the best score for being the most like Santa. A Christmas word search was also provided. Thanks to everyone who brought food, set up and cleaned up.

January Plans

Warm up with soup on Jan. 19th at 11:30 in the CLC. Assuming it will be cold this month, the committee will be preparing chile, vegetable soup, wild rice with chicken soup, and potato soup. We will also have some sandwiches, but members may also want to bring sandwiches, desserts or any other food of your choice to compliment this meal.

For this month as an ongoing project to help East Burke Christian Ministries, we are collecting canned soup and can openers. Dried bagged soup that only requires water can also be used and flip-top cans. Please bring these items when you attend our Jan. 19th lunch at 11:30.

- Senior Adult Committee Meeting - Thursday, Jan. 15th at 10:00 am

Stay Well and Keep Praying for each other

Senior Adult Vision Statement

"All of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic,
love one another, be compassionate and humble."

1 Peter 3:8



Our Senior Group had a good turnout regardless of the cold weather and sickness this month. We enjoyed a meal of our favorite finger foods!

Widows of Warlick's

Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 27th
1 pm in Robbie's room



A Purposeful New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better. — C. Neil Strait



The Foundation of Our Faith

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God: "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours."

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

Spicy Crockpot Chili



Ingredients

- 1.5 pounds ground beef
- 1 large white onion - diced (1.5 cups)
- 16 oz. spicy salsa
- 15.5 oz. can black beans
- 2.5 tbsp. chili pepper
- 1 tbsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 tbsp. olive oil dipping
- 3 bell peppers - diced (5 cups)
- 4 large jalapeños - diced (1 cup)
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 15.5 oz. can red kidney beans - drained
- 2 tbsp. smoked paprika
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper - optional
- ½ tsp. pepper

Instructions

1. Once peppers and onions are diced, keep jalapeños separate from the other diced vegetables.
2. In a large (14-inch or more) skillet, sauté diced onions and peppers (not jalapeños) in 4 tbsps. olive oil.
3. Let diced veggies sit for 5 minutes on MEDIUM HIGH, then stir. Wait 5 more minutes, stir, then 5 more minutes.
4. After those 15 minutes, add diced jalapeños and stir them in with the rest of the peppers and onions. Sauté, stirring occasionally, for 15 minutes with the rest of the peppers and onions.
5. Once everything is nicely brown, remove peppers and onions from skillet into a bowl.
6. Add 1.5 pounds ground beef to the skillet. Wait 2-4 minutes before breaking up into chunky pieces. Once brown, pour into a colander or mesh strainer to strain fat. Add back to the skillet.
7. Add 2½ tbsps. chili pepper, 2 tbsps. smoked paprika, 1 tbsp. garlic powder, 1 tsp. salt, and ½ tsp. pepper. Add back onions and peppers, and mix thoroughly. Sauté for 1-2 minutes more.
8. Add beef, onions and **peppers** into the crock pot or Instant Pot. Pour in 16 oz. spicy salsa, 14.5 oz. diced tomatoes, 15.5 oz black beans, and (*after draining*) 15.5 oz. red kidney beans. Stir everything together, place the lid on top and slow cook on **HIGH** for 4 hours. Once done, give it a taste. If you want to add more heat, start with 1 tsp. of cayenne pepper and increase by half-teaspoons to increase the heat to taste, and serve.

Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ’s compassion in us, they’re drawn closer to Him.





On Wednesday, December 17th, 26 men, women, and children of all ages visited eight of our church members to sing Christmas carols. This has become a cherished tradition that both the young and the old look forward to each year.

JANUARY
Children's Memory Verse

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

– Eph. 4:32

Kids, Memorize the verse & recite it for a prize!

Kids, Memorize the verse & recite it for a prize!



What We Really Need

Twelve ministers were on a flight headed to a conference in Seattle when the plane hit a fierce storm. Trying to calm their nerves, they told the flight attendant, "Let the pilot know everything's fine — there are twelve ministers on board!"

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned from the cockpit.

"Well?" one of the pastors asked with a grin. "What did the pilot say?"

She smiled and replied, "He said he was glad to have 12 ministers aboard, but he would rather have four good engines."



When All Else Fails—God Reigns



When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns —
The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

— William Temple - at the Lamberth Conference, 1930



For God so Loved

One of the hallmarks of John's short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here it is verse 16: "This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal." In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God's redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question "What is the meaning of love?" Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

— Michael Card in The Parable of Joy

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Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

- H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
 - A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
 - P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)
 - P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
 - Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

 - N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
 - E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
 - W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

 - Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)
 - E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
 - A**im at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
 - R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)
- Gus Nichols



A Prayer for January

Lord,

thank You for the gift of a new year and a fresh beginning. As January unfolds, guide our choices, strengthen our faith, and help us walk with wisdom, courage, and patience. Bless our homes, our work, and our relationships, and lead us through this year with Your peace and grace.

Amen.

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



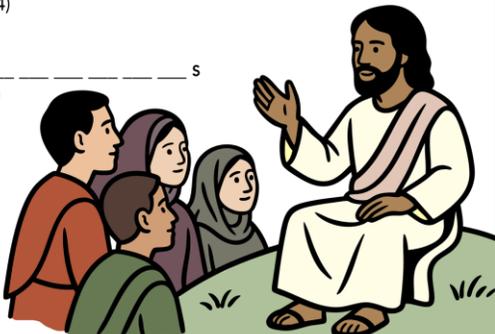
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11:26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

For you were once darkness,
BUT NOW
YOU ARE LIGHT
in the Lord.
Live as children of light.

EPHESIANS 5:8, NIV

Little Sparks of Wisdom

“Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.”
—Joseph Fort Newton

“If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday.” —E. C. McKenzie

“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.”
—Dean Inge

“You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in a lifetime without him.” —Author unknown

“Getting me into hot water is often God’s way of keeping me clean.” —Ruth Zimmerman



Please notify the Church Office if there is a mistake or if your birthday is not on the list.

4th
Trey Blackwood

8th
Terry Houser

11th
Chris Sigmon
Ladell Traxler

17th
Kay Ervin

21st
Melissa Hart

23rd
Evelyn Anderson

24th
Jack Puckett

26th
Tammy Reece

30th
Dwight Lail

January Volunteers

Greeters for Worship Service

- 4th – Adam Rawls, Bill Swan
- 11th – David & Kim Walker
- 18th - Lonny & Michelle Hildebrand
- 25th – Steve & Helen Davis

Deacons for Altar Call

- 4th - Garrett & Leslie Clark/Adam & Wendy Rawls
- 11th – Lonny & Michelle Hildebran/Jerry & Theresa Hunt
- 18th - Michael & Jennifer Donnelly/Rusty & Anna Oakley
- 25th - George Hollowell & April Traxler/David & Kim Walker

Nursery

- 4th – Connie Burton, Debbie Pugh, Devlyn Rainwater
- 11th – Beverly Cook, April Traxler
- 18th – Garrett & Leslie Clark
- 25th – Lonny & Michelle Hildebrand

Ushers

- 4th – Jacob Dellinger, Mason Weaver, Hunter Jensen, George Hollowell, Bill Swan, Adam Rawls
- 11th – Carl Lowman, Will Lowman, Rusty Oakley, Jordan Parker, Robbie Parker, Ron Snow
- 18th – Keith Bowman, Tommy Cook, David Walker, Steve Davis, Jerry Hunt Sr., Lonny Hildebrand
- 25th – Garrett Clark, Dwight Lail, Chad Hart, Mike Houser, Floyd Hayes, Jordan Hayes



Warlick's Baptist Church

A place to grow, serve & belong.



January



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1  | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Chuck Campbell 6:30 pm "Praying your Friends to Christ" | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Deacon Meeting 3 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 Chuck Campbell 6:30 pm "Praying your Friends to Christ" | 15 Sr. Adult Comm. Mtg - 10 am | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Sr. Adult Meal - 11:30 | 20 | 21 Chuck Campbell 6:30 pm "Praying your Friends to Christ" | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Widows of Warlick's - 1 pm | 28 Chuck Campbell 6:30 pm "Praying your Friends to Christ" | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Sunday Service Times - 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Wednesday Service Times - 6:30 p.m.- Bible Study
Adults/Youth/Children

