



January 2022

Fox River Life



The proceeding is an article written by Daniel Darling who is a pastor, bestselling author, and podcast host. He is a regular columnist or World and a contributor to USA Today. He is the author of several books, including The Characters of Christmas, The Dignity Revolution, and A Way With Words. Daniel, his wife, Angela have four children.

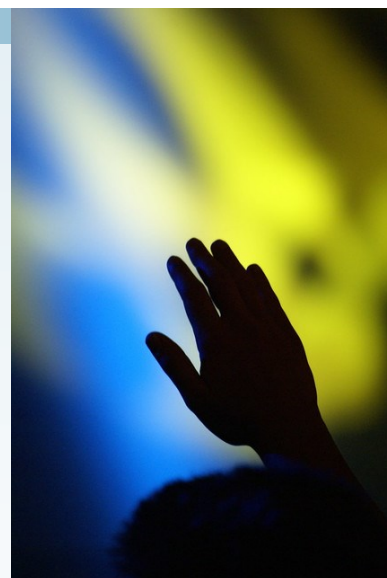
And so it is that the calendar has (finally!) flipped and we have begun a brand-new year. Last year, 2021—with its mix of joys and sorrows, goals met and goals missed, friendships gained and friendships lost—is behind us.

For many, New Year's is just another holiday. For others, it's a time of deep reflection, both on the past year and on the one ahead. For followers of Jesus, New Year's has no unique significance. There's no central biblical narrative informing our celebrations.

But this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar. Moses asked of the Lord, "Teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12). Time—seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years—is a gift to us from a good God. To wisely follow him, then, is to redeem our time (Eph. 5:16).

New Year's can also remind us of the new birth. In a sense, each day with Jesus is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. We are, after all, new creation people, and we serve a King who renews us daily by the Holy Spirit.

Setting goals for a new year are an important sign that we're intentional about glorifying God in our callings—work and business, home and church, private and public witness. When we work and plan, even in seemingly insignificant endeavors, we're fulfilling the cultural



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Soar on Wings Like Eagles

*“Even youths grow tired and
weary, and young men
stumble and fall; 31)but
those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk
and not be faint. “*

Isaiah 40:30-31

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

mandate (Gen. 1:28). In this age, we're blessed with an abundance of resources to help us to maximize our time: digital tools, productivity experts, and inspirational blogs.

But before we write out our goals, we should begin in the heart. The temptation for Christians is to make our plans and add a dollop of Jesus on top, rather than allowing him to form in us the desires and motivations to do his work.

So, whether or not we're making concrete goals or more abstract ones, whether we're writing down resolutions or foregoing them altogether, here are four important steps we can take, as we peer into 2022, to draw closer to Christ.

1. Remember

The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccl. 12:1). In January, the year is young and the opportunities seem fresh. So many productivity gurus preach a gospel of self-empowerment, but as gospel people, we know the fragility of human life. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator.

I love the words of hymnwriter Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960):

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

In a cursed and tumultuous world, creation itself reminds of God's great faithfulness. Every new season is a testimony, a signpost, to grace. So, the proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not “I made it through” or “Look what I achieved.” It is “Thank you, Lord.”

2. Repent

Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty, evidenced by the changing of seasons, should then lead us to repentance. His goodness breaks us in fresh ways as our sin is exposed by the light of his glory. But this isn't a morbidly introspective, navel-gazing exercise. To repent is to rejoice. We claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 because we know our forgiveness has already been purchased at the cross.

Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. This is why confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God.

How can we begin new plans and journeys in 2022 without first allowing his light to penetrate the darkness of our hearts and to reveal areas in need of growth? How can we start hustling and working and dreaming without first renewing our joy in the One who directs our



*"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."
Psalm 98:1*

Our plans to bless the residents at Brewster Village with a Christmas Stocking full of goodies and a gospel tract are complete! On December 19th after Sunday School, a number of volunteers joined us in the Fellowship Hall to assemble the stockings. We had volunteers age 15-89 in attendance! Thank you to all who helped make the job go much more quickly than it would have if we as a committee would have had to do it alone! You are amazing! The stockings were delivered before Christmas!

The Single Women's Supper will not meet during the month of January due to illness among the ladies. Please be in prayer for their quick healing! The next gathering will be held on February 1st at Jan Jourdan's home.

Secret Sisters are up and running and I've enjoyed seeing gift packages around the church! It's already been a blessing and will continue to be throughout the year!

See the picture for details about the next Ladies' Craft & Lunch!



Deaconess Ministry

UPDATE

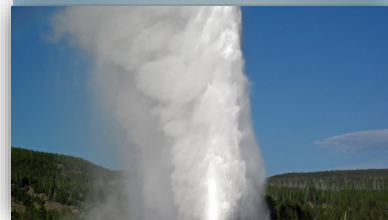


Deaconess of the Month—Jan Jourdan



The Christmas party was a huge success! There were close to 40 people in attendance.

Thank you to the Deaconesses for providing a delicious dinner. We all learned something about the gifts that the Magi brought to our Lord. Gold represented Jesus as King. The frankincense represented Jesus as God, and the myrrh represented Jesus as man and the sacrifice He would make. We also learned that, like each of the gifts that were given to Jesus, our gifts should be 1) useful (our time, talents, materials 2) precious and rare (in other words the BEST we have to offer and 3) respectful and worshipful (things fit for a king...reverence awe, gratitude, honor, respect and obedience). Thank you for all those who attended.



The Lord is Faithful

"Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. 24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD."

Psalm 31:23-24



Set Your Mind on Christ

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3) For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-2

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

steps?

3. Renew

New Year's should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Before we begin grand plans to lose weight or develop a new skill—good creational goals—let's begin by renewing the core commitments we already have.

Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes—loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. We must reject the lie that says success requires abandoning family commitments.

We should also renew ourselves to the faithful body life of our local Bible-treasuring, gospel-preaching church. The local church is the locus of God's mission in the world, where we gather in community to declare Christ's kingship each week, and where we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Commitments to marriage, family, and church don't always look or feel significant. But faithfulness in these core things over a long period is a radical, countercultural life. They form the habits of a disciple and show the world what it looks like to be a Christian.

4. Rest

New Year's should be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet our heady goals in 2021. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures, unchecked boxes, and disappointment at the scale. The gospel tells us that he loves us in the midst of these.

It's not the voice of your Savior, but the whisper of the enemy that says you have less worth because you blew your resolutions. A "more successful 2022" will not make Jesus love you anymore. He's the One, after all, who calls broken sinners and empowers them for his mission. Failed apostles, former persecutors, recovering Pharisees—his body is full of them.

Second, we should plan to physically rest. We don't often do this on New Year's. We plan to work and hustle. But do we schedule time to reflect and acknowledge our need for sleep and leisure? Rest isn't a sign of laziness or weakness; it's a sign of spiritual strength and confidence that when we close our eyes, our lives are in the grip of a sovereign God. To sleep is to say that we're not God and that the world can go on without us.

So, as we make our plans for 2022, let's remember that even in our failures, we serve the One who remembers our frame and knows we are dust (Ps. 103:14). We make plans, but we hold them lightly. We entrust our future, not to Google Calendar or a reading list, but to the King who holds the world in his hands.

In His Name,
Pastor Tim

Intentional Discipleship Update

We have been and are taking a break from our teaching ministries for the holidays. The week of January 3rd all things will start back up. With the bulk of those ministries restarting on January 8th and 9th. I am looking forward to our continued growth in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" in 2022. May God bless our efforts! I would encourage you all to read through the Bible in 2022. There are many reading plans available on the internet and with Bible Apps, take advantage of these tools and I know that if you do you will not be disappointed.



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

By Linda Hoffman
or Angela Groff
Church Librarians

2021 seemed to go by so quickly! Did you have all the time you thought you would to read all the things you wanted to read? I know I didn't...but then I stop and think about it, and I wonder if it was a case of "having time" or "taking time". How would you answer that question for yourself?

New Year's resolutions are prevalent during the first few weeks of a new year, and I often resolve to read more, but then my busyness gets in the way of my resolve. I think what I need to do is be more intentional, just as I am with my work and my business, to schedule time for the importance of reading. The next thing is...What am I spending time reading? I love that I am able to be part an amazing Bible study that directs me to the word through the chapters and study questions of the book! That helps me with my choice of what I'm reading, but am I spending time in The Word outside of my Bible study time? Yes, but not enough! So...as I resolve to take the time to read more, I am going to strive to be intentional about scheduling that time, and planning out what I'm going to be reading. I challenge you to join me!

Our library has many volumes of books that you can choose from to help you make wise choices in your leisure or theological reading. Be intentional, take some time to browse the library and select a few books to add to your list to read in 2022! Taking time to read can be very therapeutic for the soul!

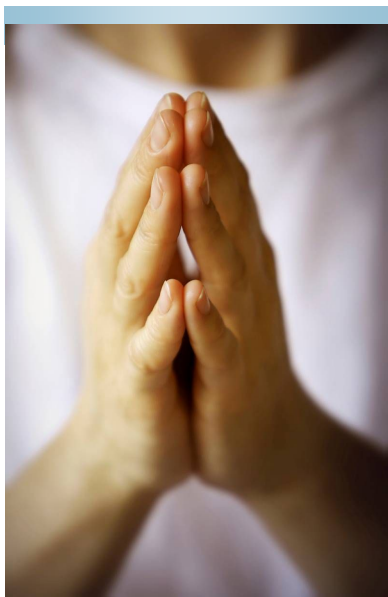
Happy Reading!



New Every Morning

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23) They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

January 2—No Evening Service
 January 9—Prayer at 5 pm
 January 16—Sola Christos at 5 pm
 January 23—Prayer at 5 pm
 January 30—Special Event

SUNDAY



Men's & Women's
 Bible Study
 Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
 Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
 Wednesdays at 9:30am



Financial Update—November 7-28, 2021
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00
 Received: \$ 2,100.00
 Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



January 2

Kyle Tubbs

January 9

Scott Smith

January 16

Ryan Smith

January 23

Pat Groff

January 30

Howard Schimke

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect
 non-perishable food items.
 Place your food items on the table
 provided in the foyer.



Connect
 WITH OUR
 CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920)277-1526

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

Missions Update

Well it has been a very busy and good Fall with visits for our Missionaries. We are grateful for the time we had getting to hear from them and getting to know them better. In the 2022 Budget we were able to increase all of our missionaries support up from \$175 a month to \$200 a month. In addition through the generosity of the church and especially of one family in particular, we were able to give to Jane Fischer \$14,000 to help with her shortfall that she is experiencing at this time. One last thing, I have led the Missions Board for roughly the last 3 years and have enjoyed my time doing so, however it is time for me to step back and let another leader arise. The new leader of the Missions Board will be Ray Rudzinski and I know he will be able to lead the Board well and put into place procedures that will guide us now and in the years to come.

His Plan is Perfect

*“For I know the plans I have
for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a
future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11



UPDATE...

Young @ Heart ministry has been looking to revive our outreach to care communities in the area, which had been previously suspended due to the pandemic. An opportunity presented itself when Lynn Mdlodzik referred us to Pastor Rich Engle, a chaplain at King Veteran's Home, who directs a ministry in the Valley called Shepherd's Care, which provides services to local care communities.

We were able to join Shepherd's Care to provide music and singing for a service at Country Villa Apartments in Little Chute on December 16. Young@Heart members Lynn Abitz, Doris Olson, and Diane Van Loo were joined by Pastor Tim Godfrey and Scott Smith. We look forward to exploring future opportunities in the new year.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



19—Aaron Bressler

23—Bill Olson



1— Jay & Linda Hoffman



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