



January 2024

Fox River Life



The following article is from Don Whitney. Don Whitney is professor of biblical spirituality and associate dean at

*The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. He is the author of several books, including **Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life**.*

May the Lord bless you in the New Year with a closer walk with Him!

***In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim***

Ten Questions for a New Year

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going. Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai: "**Consider your ways!**" (Haggai 1:5) He urged them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

Inside this issue

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)	1,2,3,
St. Joseph Food bank	4
Children's Church Update	6
Deaconess Ministry	
Update	6
Intentional Discipleship Update	5
Women's Ministry	6
Schedules	7
Mission Update	8
Young at Heart Update	8
Single Women's Ministry	8
Birthdays and Anniversaries	9

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. A great time for us to **“Consider our ways.”** To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What’s one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

Our enjoyment of God comes primarily through the means of grace he has given us. He has promised to bless us most directly and consistently through means such as his word, prayer, and the church. One specific suggestion I’d offer would be to include some meditation on Scripture along with your daily reading. It’s better to read less — if necessary — and yet as the result of meditation remember something, than to read more and remember nothing.

2. What’s an impossible prayer you can pray?

There are more than a dozen **“but God”** statements in Scripture, such as in Romans 5:8, which reads, **“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Situations that were humanly impossible were transformed by **“but God”** (Ephesians 2:1-7). What’s a **“but God”** prayer you can pray for the coming year?

3. What’s the most important thing you could do to improve your family life?

If your family doesn’t practice family worship, beginning there is the single best recommendation I could make. Just ten minutes a day, simply reading the Bible, praying, and singing together — an event that requires no preparation — is all it takes. My little book titled Family Worship can tell you more.

4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year?

Would it be a personal spiritual discipline (that is, one you practice alone), or an interpersonal spiritual discipline (one you practice with other believers)? Once you decide, determine the next step to take and when you will take it.

5. What’s the single biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you redeem the time?

Social media? TV? Video games? Sports? Hobbies? It’s easy for any of these (or something else) to take too much of our hearts and time. Is repentance required? Trying to stop, by itself, is probably not the answer. Actively replacing it with something better helps us in **“making the best use of the time, because the days are evil”** (Ephesians 5:16).

6. What’s the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

While we often stress the fact that individual believers are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:15), the New Testament actually says **seven times to one that the church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23)**. We mustn’t let our frequent emphasis on our personal relationship with Christ minimize the importance of our service to Jesus through his body. How can your church be stronger this year because of you? Serving? Giving? Praying?

7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

Praying frequently and fervently for someone’s salvation makes us more sensitive to opportunities to share the gospel with him or her. Will you commit to praying for at least one person’s salvation every day this new year?

8. What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make this year different from last?

Obviously, God's sovereignty rules over all things, and there is nothing we can do about much that he brings into our lives. On the other hand, under his sovereignty he gives us a measure of responsibility over many areas of life. In which of these would you most like to see a change from last year? You may find that your answer to this question is found in one of your answers above. To which of them do you sense the Holy Spirit calling your attention most urgently?

9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

For many, it might be as simple as designating a time exclusively for prayer instead of praying only "on the go" types of prayers. For others, it might be learning the simple, biblical practice of "praying the Bible."

10. What single thing can you plan to do this year that will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

Short-term deadlines tend to dominate our attention. Busyness and fatigue often limit our vision to just getting through today. But don't let the tyranny of the urgent distract you from something you're neglecting that would have enormous long-term impact on your soul, your family, or your church.

Consider Your New Year

The value of many of these questions is not in their profundity, but in the simple fact that they bring an issue or commitment into focus. For example, just by making a goal to encourage one person in particular this year is more likely to help you remember to encourage that person than if you hadn't set that goal.

If you've found these questions helpful, you might want to put them someplace — on your phone, computer, calendar, or wherever you put reminders — where you can review them frequently.

I hope this article will help you to **"consider your ways,"** to make plans and goals, and to live this new year with biblical diligence, remembering the principle that **"the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance"** (Proverbs 21:5). But in all things, let's also remember our dependence on our King, who said, **"Apart from me you can do nothing"** (John 15:5).

May the Lord bless you in the New Year with a closer walk with Him!

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim

Food of the Month

Pasta

Help us reach our goal of 1,000 boxes of pasta in January!



Some of our Cookie Exchange Winners





Intentional Discipleship

After taking a little break for the Holiday season the Men and Ladies Bible Studies will be back on our normal schedules .

The Saturday morning Bible Studies will start up again on January 6th.

The Thursday afternoon Ladies Bible Study will resume January 4th at 1:00 pm. We are continuing our study in 1 Peter.

We are happy that a couple of new ladies have joined us. Welcome Fran and DeAnn! There will be NO BIBLE STUDY on Thursday, January 18.

Sunday School:

We will be continuing our Sunday School Curriculum this winter and spring with the next book in the series which is Unit 19. The title of this unit is Living for Jesus. The books are in the Fellowship Hall where we meet for Sunday School and the price is \$5, if you are not able to pay pick up a book anyway. We restart Sunday school on the 7th of January.

Membership Class

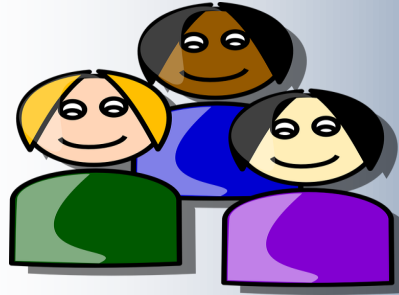
If you would like to join us for membership class, that begins on January 7th following Sunday School.

Deaconess and Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry and the Deaconess are planning on fun projects that will encourage fellowship and community with our congregation.

New ideas are coming in the months ahead.

Any questions you can contact Ellen Rudzinski and Carol Smith.



Children's Church

After taking a few weeks off for the holidays, we are set to get back to our curriculum.

In January we will pick up where we left off. They learned about the 12 spies going into the land of Canaan. Now we shall explore Joshua being chosen as Moses's successor going all the way to David being chosen as their king.

Along the way we will learn about Rahab, Ruth, the walls of Jericho, Gideon, Saul and David. The theme of this quarter is Obedience and Disobedience.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Matthew 2:18)





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

January 07—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00pm

January 14—Prayer @ 5:00pm

January 21 —Solus Christus @ 5:00pm

January 28— Prayer @ 5:00pm



Financial Update 2024
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Contact Mark Wildenberg 920-378-3380
with questions.



Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

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

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



January 07
Christopher Smith

January 14
Ray Rudzinski

January 21
Jeffery Smith

January 28
Kyle Tubbs

Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 475-8727 to volunteer
for Nursery

Missions

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

Mission Board

This time of year also includes sending out the “Annual Missionary Update” forms to each of our missionaries. Though we do not require a lot of lengthy answers for “how are things going” questions, we do hope to get insight into their needs, problems, and plans for the future.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 1:00 p.m.

The Young @ Heart Committee is planning to hold our next Praise Connection gathering in early March. Join us for a time of sharing, singing, and fellowship. Our host will be Jeff Smith. More details to follow.

The **Young@Heart** team continues to provide a 30-45 minute monthly worship service at Care Partners Assisted Living, 1750 Irish Road, Neenah, on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am. Our team could use some new members, and it would be wonderful to even develop a second team, so if you feel led to minister by singing or visiting with residents where you can share an encouraging word or prayer, please talk to Lynn Abitz.



Single Women's Ministry



The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting on
January 14th after Sunday School
Service, meet at Angel's Restaurant at 12:30 pm

Any questions please contact Lois Peeters at 920-419-4921

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.



January Birthdays

12 Jordan Platel

19 Aaron Bressler

21 Nadige Platel

23 Bill Olson

Fox River Baptist Church

**2700 East Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915**

Phone: 920-734-6162

E-mail: office@foxriverbaptist.com

Website: foxriverbaptist.com

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm**



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