

# NORTH BENTON CHURCH

# NEWS



## North Benton Presbyterian Church

Web Site: [www.northbentonchurch.org](http://www.northbentonchurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/northbenton.church.1](http://www.facebook.com/northbenton.church.1)

**January 2026**  
**Vol. 52, Issue 1**

Blessed New Year to all of you Northbentonians!

Congratulations! You did it! You completed another eventful year and now you look forward to what blessings God has in store for you this year.

I was thinking about the power of words to and how they have the ability to either discourage or inspire you. These words can either come from outside of us or from within. For example, think of the words can't vs won't and can vs will.

There is a subtle difference between can't and won't. "Can't" means at the present time, I am not able to overcome a barrier that keeps me from doing something. It is impossible to do, at least for now. If it is something you want to do, then you can work to change the circumstances until it becomes possible. On the other hand, "won't" is something that we make an intentional decision that we will not act even if we have the ability to do it. There are somethings that are prudent not to do even if we can. Think of jumping out of a plane without a parachute even if we can!

Moving forward, "can" means we have the possibility and the potential to do something. If we put our mind to it and

work hard enough and long enough, we really can do almost anything we want to do. That does not mean that what you can do ever happens. That is where "will" comes in. "Will" is a powerful motivator. It transforms what is possible into what happens. I WILL do it, no matter what.

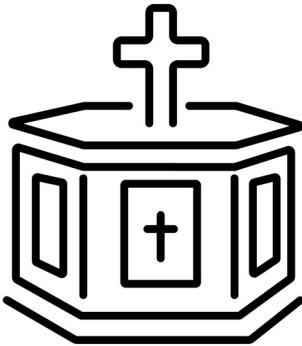
As we think about making New Year's resolutions, we have many possibilities. Evaluate them by deciding if they are something we really can't do and what does it take to make it a can. And if I have the ability to do it, WILL I do it if I really do want to do it? Here is to a year of possibility, action and growth.

I look forward to this year because it will be another year that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad it!

Blessings to you and yours,

*Pastor Herb*





Let's  
Celebrate

We know God is going to be doing great things, again as always, in the year 2026. We need to "GET READY" for what God is going to do! That will be the theme of the sermons for January as we see what God was doing for Israel in the Book of Joshua. "GET READY" for here we go...

**January 4, 2026.** Second Sunday of Christmas. "Getting Ready to Move" is the title of the sermon based on the first chapter of Joshua. God has plans and is intent on completing His plans. That means we have to move.

**January 11, 2026.** Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Now that we are 'moving', it is time to be "Getting Ready to See." When the people of Israel opened their eyes in the second chapter of Joshua, they saw the plan, the power and the prize.

**January 18, 2026.** Second Sunday after Epiphany. "With God nothing is impossible." (Luke 1: 37) Joshua 3 shows us that Joshua and the people of Israel were "Getting Ready to Experience." Oh my, what an experience they had!

**January 25, 2026.** Third Sunday after Epiphany. "Getting Ready to Speak" was something that God instructed the people of Israel to leave behind. We will speak of that from the fourth chapter of Joshua.

## January 2026

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

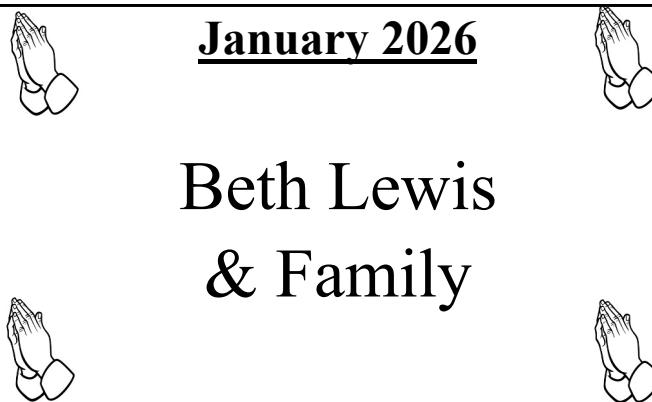
- 1/2 Sherry Kelly
- 1/8 Andrea Winters
- 1/11 Aaron Dicks  
Becky Wilson
- 1/12 Cara Gainor
- 1/15 Marilyn Herron
- 1/17 Garrison Martin  
Rick & Sherry Kelly
- 1/21 Chris Fay
- 1/28 Grace Bates
- 1/31 Sandy Wilmoth  
Sandy Fleming



OFFERING/ATTENDANCE		
<b>November 2025</b>		
	Offering	Attendance
11/2/25	4635.64	45
11/9/25	2505.50	41
11/16/25	829.00	39
11/23/25	1252.50	40
11/30/25	1327.00	30
<b>DEACON GREETERS</b>		
<b>January 2026</b>		
Cheri Martin Sherry Kelly		

CONTINUED PRAYER
<u>Nursing Home/Homebound</u>
Dan Rowe
(Essex #1 Salem, Rm. # 210, Salem, OH 44460)
<u>Ongoing Health Concerns</u>
Marilyn & Denton Herron, Jim Hilles, Stan Jozwiakowski, Sandy Jozwiakowski, Val Winters, and Paul Bates

FAMILIES FOR PRAYER BECAUSE WE CARE
<b>January 2026</b>



**Beth Lewis  
& Family**

<b>Coffee &amp; Pastry</b>
January 4, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

MISSION CAUSE FOR PRAYER
Youth Initiatives/Ireland - Doug Smith
Campus Crusade - Lisa (Smith) Wyss
Vacation Bible School

<b>Special Dates for January 2026</b>
New Year's Day, January 1, 2026
Epiphany, January 6, 2026
Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19, 2026

# Presbyterian Questions,

## Presbyterian Answers

Revised Edition

Donald K. McKim

## Book Review

Presbyterians often have questions about Presbyterian theology and beliefs that are basic to Christian faith itself. Featuring a unique question-and-answer format, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* is an accessible and concise treatment that provides a sampling of these questions on important topics and brief but complete answers from a distinguished Presbyterian theologian.

Fully updated for the changes to the Presbyterian new Form of Government, this revised edition also includes updated entries and six new questions and answers. Arranged according to doctrinal topics, the book is ideal for individual and group study, church officer training, new member and confirmation classes, and all those who are interested in Presbyterian theology.



## 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.

## Favorite Recipes of Old

*Recipes are chosen at random from the North Benton Church "Favorite Recipes" cookbook.*

### **EASY PUDDING\***

*Almagene Brown*

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 tsp. salt

2 T. flour

2 egg yolks

2 T. cornstarch

2 cups milk

1 tsp. vanilla

2 T. butter

Beat ingredients with mixer. Cook and stir constantly over medium heat until thick and first begins to bubble. Remove from heat and add vanilla and butter.

\*Variations: coconut or chocolate chips may be added while still warm. Brown sugar may be substituted for granulated sugar for butterscotch pudding.



# Engage Your Mind



# 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



C \_\_\_\_\_ n P \_\_\_\_\_ e



S \_\_\_\_\_ s of C \_\_\_\_\_ t

(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C \_\_\_\_\_ s

(Acts 11: 26)

B \_\_\_\_\_ s and S \_\_\_\_\_ s

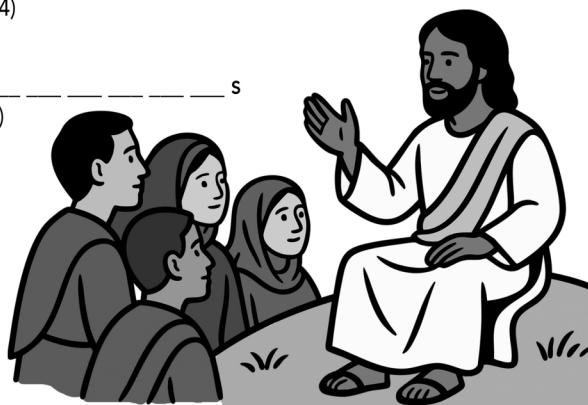
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B \_\_\_\_\_ s

(Acts 5:14)

W \_\_\_\_\_ s

(Acts 1:8)



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

## “News from the Pews”

We are going to try doing “News from the Pews” again. Please submit you news with one photo to [secretary@northbentonchurch.org](mailto:secretary@northbentonchurch.org)

# PUZZLE

## TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages. "Translate" the verse below using the code.

<b>CODE</b>	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=↗	S=■
B=×	H=◀	N=†	SH=✿
D=◀	I=▲	O=✿	T=♪
K=II	P=□	TH=♥	

Y      □ □ □ □      ▲ □ □      □ □ □

W      ■ ■ □ □      ▲ □ ■      ▲ □ □

W      ▲ ■ □ □ ■      □ □ □ □      □ □ □

W      ■ □ □ □      ▲ ■      ● □ ♪ □

U      □ □ □ □ □      □ □ □ □ □      □ □ □

*Proverbs 3:13*

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.

## 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)

## 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

2026!



### 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



### 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

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <b>Birthday Sunday</b> 9:00 Coffee & Pastry 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Deacon's Mtg 10:45 Searcher's Class	5	6	7	8 7:30 Session Mtg (in person, at church)	9	10
11 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class 10:45 Congregational Meeting with pot-luck luncheon	19 MLK Day	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	26	27	28	29	30	31

# NBC News

North Benton Presbyterian Church  
19070 North Benton West Road  
North Benton, OH 44449



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Salem, OH  
44460  
Permit No. 112

**Sunday Service: 9:30 am Worship Service**

**“A church where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord”**

It's risky to venture into the comments section of online news sites. Risky, but fascinating. Commenting on an interview with a millionaire endeavoring to live forever in this life, one reader posted this from Matthew 16:25: “Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.’ - Jesus.” Reacting to that comment, another reader posted, “Wasn’t there a book written about Him?” To which a third reader replied, “Yes, Fiction.”

There are always those who will mock belief in Jesus. When the apostle Paul stood in a public forum to tell a large group of Athenians about Christ, results were mixed. “When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered” (Acts 17:32). Others, however, said, “We want to hear you again on this subject” (V.32). And

some believed (v.34).

How others respond to the truth of the Bible is between them and God. But it's the claim that we can live forever in this life that's fiction. Our bodies are destined to die. In contrast, the Bible tells us of the one who is “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Like Paul, it's our task to share with anyone who will listen what this Man has done for us. We can trust the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

**How do you feel when others mock your faith? Why is it important to let them know what you believe about Jesus?**

***Dear Father, thank You for Your Son, who conquered death for us. I pray for those who don't believe in You, that Your Spirit will draw them to you.***

*Reprinted from “Our Daily Bread”*

*January 1, 2026*

*Our Daily Bread is provided FREE of charge can be found on the information counter in the lobby.*