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## The Vision

January 2019

Bad news, doom and gloom sells. How can we blame the media when we are the ones who rush to read the latest claim that the end is in sight? It seems we want a confirmation that it is all hopeless. I am choosing to take a different route in 2019.

This year I will continue to preach through Romans but I will take a break in February to direct the messages toward love. Love is desired, but misunderstood, mislabeled and simply missed. It is the most important component of purpose, fulfillment and joy. Love never fails. That month we will provide Sunday School lessons that center on our theme: Love Never Fails.

We will focus on inviting our friends to join us in church on the first Sunday in May. It is a Mega Sunday Fellowship Day. This is not intended to be a high attendance Sunday. It is a Sunday to bring people who might not normally go to church. It is an effort of concern for others. We either have good news that needs to be shared or our news is no more important than any other. Jesus brings joy to people or He makes no difference. Inviting people for this one Sunday will be a concerted effort by our members to recognize those around us who need a church.

Our summers are full. We have VBS, Centri-Kid, Youth Camp and Music Camp. We celebrate together as a congregation in the Lord's Supper Fellowship in August. The summer gives us ample opportunities to reach out to people to join us in a variety of activities.

The Deacons of Thalia Lynn will be hosting the Thalia Lynn Community Fish Fry in September. The community came out and several people began attending our church afterwards.

October has our Fall Festival and we will again go into the community around us to invite people to it.

Of course, you know what we do in December. It is celebration packed time.

Let's make 2019 the Year of Joy. Let's make sure that we are giving out good news to our community. Let's make this next year the best year ever.

*Prentis McGoldrick*

**Annual Missions Offering** is underway.

Please make your donation using the special blue offering envelope located in the church office or the seat pockets in the sanctuary. The offering will continue through January.

*Join us for ...*

### **Mega Sunday Fellowship**

Sunday, January 6

- Traditional Service ~ 8:30 am
- Mega Breakfast Fellowship ~ 9:20 am
  - Sunday School ~ 10:10 am
- Contemporary Service ~ 11:10 am

Invite a friend and come join us!



## Music & Me Class

Have fun with your little one through music & movement.

Babies - 4 years old

Wednesdays @ 10:00 am

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Feb. 6



## Planet 56 Winter Retreat

For 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders

Jan. 18 & 19

Information will be given to kids in Sunday School.

### Wednesday Night Dinner Menu:

January 2:

BBQ Pork with Mini Rolls, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Salad and Dessert

January 9:

Garlic Parmesan Chicken with Pasta, Asparagus, Salad, Roll and Dessert  
Child's Meal: Beef and Cheese Sliders

January 16:

Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sautéed Vegetables, Salad, Roll and Dessert  
Child's Meal: Grilled Cheese with Fresh Food

January 23:

Breakfast for Dinner

January 30:

Cheddar Bacon Burger, Fries, Salad and Dessert  
Child's Meal: Hot Dog

\*Menu is subject to change.

### Publication Deadlines

#### Weekly Bulletin:

8:00 am on the Tuesday of the week to run

#### Monthly Vision and JOY Newsletter:

the 15th of the month prior

## EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!

THE ANNUAL KICKOFF MEETING OF ALL CHURCH COMMITTEES WILL BE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, STARTING @ 3 P.M. SHARP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. SEE DETAILS BELOW!

These meetings concern everyone who is serving on one or more of the following church committees: (standing, continuing or extended) for the 2019 year. Ministry teams will NOT be meeting—only committees. Just come to the FELLOWSHIP HALL where we will begin promptly at 3:00. A very short Church Council meeting will take place immediately afterward, followed by a brief called business meeting. Committee chairmen will be receiving pertinent information regarding their respective committees by the first week of January.

### Service of Hope

January 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

*Many have experienced loss and have a difficult time processing the changes that have come to their lives, especially during and after the holiday season. Please join us to remember our hope is in Christ and to support our brothers and sisters.*

*A reception will follow.*



## GA's Brunswick Stew is Coming

Delivery will be Sunday, January 27

Lookout for dates to order.

More details to come...



### Youth Schedule

Youth F.O.C.U.S. on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 pm. Come join us for some fun games and great Bible studies.

Youth Sunday School at 9:45 am upstairs on the Youth Hall.

For more information regarding Youth activities, contact **Shane Faircloth** at [shane@mytowncenterchurch.com](mailto:shane@mytowncenterchurch.com).

## Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm: All Church Committee Meetings

4:00 pm: Church Council Meeting

4:30 pm: Called Business Meeting

5:30 pm: Deacon's Meeting

### Collection for Cooke Elementary School

We will continue to collect new/gently used jeans, jackets, hats, sweatshirts, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. for the students at Cooke Elementary School through January. Please place them in the basket outside Sharon's office in the Music Suite. Thank you!



keeping those 55+ in mind

## JOY Day: Lunches for the Homeless Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Blankets for the Homeless is a local ministry that provides warm blankets, jackets, hats, and gloves for the homeless in our community. In addition, with the support of churches and other organizations, they provide a bagged meal. We will meet at 10:30 in the Fellowship to bag the lunches followed by "Mimi's Chicken Noodle Soup." The cost will be \$8.00 per person. Please fill out the Information Card or call 499-0557 to register by December 31st.

Donations of new, gently-used or handmade blankets, jackets, hats, gloves, etc. are welcome.

### JOY Dinner

Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

Entertainment provided by Roots and Fifths (jazz ensemble at Princess Anne High School)

Menu: Individual Meatloaves, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Salad, Roll and Key Lime Pie

Cost: \$10 per person. Please make your reservation and submit payment by using a "JOY Dinner" envelope located in your Sunday School class or in the church office.

Reservations and payment are due no later than noon on Monday, January 14.

### Potluck/Game Day

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning in 2019, the Potluck/Game Days will be held on the fifth Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Bring your favorite games and favorite food to share on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. (We will eat at 12:00.) Hope you can join us!

## Starts January 9

## Friends of God . . .



### A New Wednesday Night Discipleship Study for Adults

Did you know that a sizable majority of people in the United States have a distorted view of God's character to the point that they it keeps them from being the disciples that Jesus calls them to be? Fortunately, there's an effective way to bring them closer to him. Jesus modeled it through a process that is so familiar to us it is often dismissed. That model is friendship. "Friends of God" is refreshingly different from typical discipleship studies. Through 12 impactful sessions of Bible study, interactive conversation & creative discipleship adventures, participants in this new class will experience a deepening understanding of what it means to be a "Friends of God" disciple and how such disciples can continue to help change the world for Christ!

### The XP Corner

I'm attracted to organizational management matters. A few years ago, I was fortunate to take a CEO course at Penn State University. More recently I enjoyed reading a book called, "The Five Temptations of a CEO." One of the temptations listed is choosing *correctness* (perfect certainty) over *clarity*. Mind you, there is nothing wrong with using good information in our church decision processes. But a quest for perfect certainty puts off substantive and necessary decisions. For a church body, the absence of substantive decisions translates to increased ambiguity and reduced organizational clarity. If we are not comfortable with the possibility of being wrong using incomplete information available to us today, we will not move forward. I think you would agree that decision to build this church was made with very incomplete information. Had our church founders waited for perfect certainty, they would have waited 50 years more until Town Center could be built and would still be waiting for whatever comes next. "Perfect" certainly is the enemy of "good enough." My prayer for 2019 is that we will make prudent decisions about the future of our church, using the incomplete information that God will make available to us. The coffee is brewing. Drop by. Happy New Year!

David Doyle