

A photograph of two people from behind, looking out over a city skyline at sunset. The person on the left is wearing a striped shirt, and the person on the right is wearing a yellow shirt. The sun is low in the sky, casting a warm glow over the scene.

THE WAY FORWARD

21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

NEW COMMUNITY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP



Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

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The Journey Ahead

A message from Pastor Kevin

As I look ahead to the year before us, I'm struck by both the weight and the wonder of this moment. I'm not afraid of the world around us—Jesus is still Lord. But I am concerned that many believers have forgotten who they are and who they belong to. When we lose sight of our identity in Christ, we become vulnerable to fear, distraction, and compromise. And I don't want that for you.

There is only one way forward, and it has never changed:

*we move forward with Jesus.
Not in self-reliance.
Not with cultural trends.
But with Christ forming us,
leading us, and sending us.*

A Church Rising Into Its Calling

At New Community, God is speaking clearly about our future. For over 31 years, He has used this church to change lives, and I believe He is calling us now to rise higher, reach farther, and surrender more.

As we enter 2026, God is inviting us to:

- Pursue holiness as a lifestyle.
- Rediscover the true way of Jesus—His teachings, His practices, His heart.
- Stretch beyond ourselves to serve, disciple, and impact our community.

He is expanding our vision.

He is enlarging our capacity.

He is preparing us for more than what we see right now.

In other words, God is calling us to go beyond—beyond comfort, beyond convenience, and beyond what we could accomplish in our own strength.

You'll hear more about this throughout the year, but know this: **God is preparing us for greater impact—and that work begins in you.**

Moving Forward With Clarity

Moving forward doesn't mean pretending your struggles don't exist. God isn't asking you to ignore your pain. He is inviting you to believe His power is greater than anything standing in your way.

This fast is not just a ritual; it is a reset.

A clarifying moment.

A sacred pause to ask:

“What is the way forward for my life, my faith, my family, my calling?”

Forward is not just a direction—it is a decision.

A decision to trust.

To obey.

To surrender.

To prepare.

To step toward what God has already prepared for us as a church and as His people.

My prayer is that during these 21 days, God will awaken your spirit, sharpen your vision, and show you what moving forward with Him truly looks like. And as He does, may we rise together—stronger, more unified, and with more clarity—to walk boldly into everything He has planned.

This is the way forward. And Jesus is leading the way.



Don't forget to register for the fast!

Instructions for the Fast

Over the next 21 days, as we abstain from food, may our hearts and minds be devoted to prayer and the study of God's Word.

- Begin the fast at 9 pm on Wednesday, January 7.
- Abstain from all solid foods from 9 pm to 3 pm the next day. Water, tea, and coffee are permitted during this time.
- The window for eating meals is from 3 pm-9 pm during the 21 day fast.
- Throughout the fast, practice moderation by avoiding overindulgence during meals (opt for smaller portions).
- After 3 pm, there are no food restrictions; except delicacies, desserts, and alcoholic beverages throughout the fast.
- Consider limiting or eliminating social media, entertainment, and political news to create more space for Scripture and reflection.
- Invite your children to participate—decide together what their fast will look like.
- Spend extra time in prayer and Bible study, especially during morning hours.
- A 21-day devotional is provided beginning on page 19.
- Join Pastor Kevin and NCBF leaders live at 12pm, Monday–Friday, starting January 8. Watch on Facebook and YouTube.
- Attend the Reset on Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30pm.
- End the fast on Thursday, January 29.



The Way Forward Starts Here

Introduction to the 2026 Fast

Over the last few years, we've walked through more than we ever imagined. We've endured a global pandemic, political upheaval, financial pressure, relational strain, and a level of personal disappointment that at times felt overwhelming. And now, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, a question rises to the surface for all of us:

How do we move forward?

How do we move forward when the weight of 2025 seems to follow us into 2026?

How do we move forward when disappointment still stings... when struggles still linger... when hurt still echoes in our hearts?

The Apostle Paul speaks directly to this tension in Philippians 3:13, calling believers to a posture that transcends circumstances: "...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..."

Paul understood something essential: moving forward is not automatic — it is intentional. It requires a decisive choice to fix our eyes on Jesus rather than on everything competing for our attention. For some of you, that truth alone is the reminder your heart needs. For others, you may find yourself asking, "But what does that actually look like?"

To move forward, we must begin with a few honest steps:



Ask, “What am I looking at?”

Are your eyes fixed more on your circumstances than on Christ? Are you comparing yourself to others instead of focusing on the calling God has placed on your life?

Take inventory of where you are.

Before we can step into what's next, we must understand where we stand right now.

On the next page, you'll find a spiritual assessment designed to help you evaluate your current spiritual health and identify areas where God may be calling you to grow during this fast.

Choose surrender and obedience.

The way forward always involves repentance — turning away from what holds us back and stepping into the freedom and purpose God desires for us. Obedience is not a burden; it's the pathway to breakthrough.

Get outside of yourself.

The book of Acts shows us that the Spirit moves powerfully when believers stop living inward and start living sent — serving, witnessing, loving, and building the Kingdom together.

This fast is our **Upper Room moment.**

A time to quiet the noise, still our souls, and sit before the Lord with open hands.

A time to fix our gaze forward on Jesus — the One who leads, strengthens, heals, and restores.

A time to receive what we need to **go beyond** this year and walk in the fullness of what God has for us and for those around us.

May these 21 days mark a fresh beginning.

May we move forward not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Way Forward.

Life + Spiritual Health Assessment

We cannot move forward without first knowing where we are.

This assessment is designed to help you take an honest look at where you are spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and practically as you begin the fast. Prayerfully reflect on each statement and rate yourself:

1 = Needs Major Growth

2 = Needs Improvement

3 = Fair / Inconsistent

4 = Growing and Steady

5 = Strong & Healthy

Spiritual Life & Intimacy With God

I am cultivating a deep, consistent relationship with God through prayer, worship, and Scripture.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am hearing God's voice and responding in obedience.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am allowing God to heal emotional wounds, unhealthy patterns, or past hurts.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Relationships & Community

My relationships are marked by love, forgiveness, honesty, and healthy communication.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Identity, Wholeness & Emotional Health

My thoughts and emotions are anchored in truth, not driven by fear, anxiety, or comparison.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am intentionally connected to Christian community and not living in isolation.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Purpose, Calling & Ministry

I know the season I am in and the assignment God is calling me to right now.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am actively using my gifts to serve God, the church, or others.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Work, Discipline & Daily Stewardship

I steward my time, responsibilities, and opportunities with excellence and purpose.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

My habits and rhythms (sleep, boundaries, screen time, consumption) honor God.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Physical Health & Lifestyle

I take care of my body through rest, movement, and healthy habits.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I feel physically energized enough to love, serve, and fulfill my responsibilities.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

Finances & Generosity

I manage my finances wisely and live with margin instead of financial stress.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am practicing generosity and honoring God with what He's entrusted to me.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

After completing your ratings:

1. Circle your two lowest categories

These will become your primary focus areas during the fast.

2. Pray: “Lord, what do You want to change, grow, or strengthen in these areas of my life?”

Write down anything the Holy Spirit whispers — correction, direction, healing, or practical steps.

Prayer Declarations

Speak these declarations over your life throughout the fast. Personalize them. Pray them with faith. Let them guide your heart toward breakthrough.

Spiritual Life & Intimacy With God

Declaration: *Father, I declare that You are my first love and my highest pursuit. I draw near to You, and You draw near to me. Your Word shapes me, Your Spirit leads me, and obedience marks my life. I am growing closer to You every day.*

Identity, Wholeness & Emotional Health

Declaration: *In Jesus' name, I declare that my mind is anchored in truth and not ruled by fear, anxiety, or insecurity. The Holy Spirit heals my wounds, renews my thoughts, and restores my peace. I walk in emotional wholeness, freedom, and clarity.*

Relationships & Community

Declaration: *Lord, I declare that my relationships are covered in love, forgiveness, unity, and grace. You strengthen my family, deepen my friendships, and surround me with godly community. I pursue reconciliation, and I walk in humility and honor.*

Purpose, Calling & Ministry

Declaration: *Father, I declare that I was created on purpose for a purpose. You reveal my assignment in this season and empower me to walk in it boldly. I use my gifts for Your glory, serve faithfully, and reflect Jesus everywhere I go.*

Work, Discipline & Daily Stewardship

Declaration: *Lord, I declare that my time, habits, and responsibilities are aligned with Your will. I walk in discipline, diligence, and excellence. I steward every opportunity well and honor You in the daily rhythms of my life.*

Physical Health & Lifestyle

Declaration: *God, I declare that my body is Your temple. I honor You with rest, nourishment, movement, and wise choices. You strengthen me, energize me, and give me grace to care for myself well. My physical health supports my spiritual calling.*

Finances & Generosity

Declaration: *Father, I declare that You are my provider and my source. I walk in wisdom, stewardship, and generosity. I live with margin, not worry. I trust You with my finances and my future. You supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory.*



Stay Connected!

Tune into our Midday Online Devotions

As we step into the year, many of us are excited about what this year will hold. It's a time when we set goals, make promises and dream. But if we truly want this year to be different from the last, we must seek God like never before.

Join Pastor Kevin and other NCBF leaders on this journey of faith and spiritual growth. This will be a powerful time to guide us, align our hearts with the Lord and bring the change we seek in our lives.

Midday online devotions will take place at 12 pm, Monday through Friday on YouTube and Facebook. Join us starting Thursday, January 8th.



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Introduction to the Book of Acts

Over the next 21 days, we will journey through the book of Acts to discover how the early church moved forward in faith, obedience, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

While we've included questions to help guide your reflection each day, we encourage you to read each chapter in its entirety and seek the Lord personally, asking what He wants you to understand, notice, and apply through His Word.

Overview

The purpose of Acts is to show how the message of Jesus went from a small group of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to spreading across the entire Roman Empire.

Author

Acts was written by Luke, the same person who wrote the Gospel of Luke.

Setting

Most scholars date Acts to around A.D. 62–64.

Resources on the book of Acts

N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Acts: Rediscovering What the Church Was and Is*

The Navigators, *Acts*

John F. MacArthur, *Acts: The Spread of the Gospel*

For more resources on the book of Acts visit our website:
newcommunitybible.org/fast





Day 1

Acts 1 - Waiting on the Promise

Before moving forward, Jesus teaches us to wait for His power.

What instructions did Jesus give His disciples before He ascended?

Why do you think Jesus made them wait instead of acting immediately?

Where is God asking you to slow down and wait for His leading?

Day 2

Acts 2 - The Power to Move Forward

The Holy Spirit empowers the next step.

What actually happened when the Holy Spirit filled the believers?

How did the crowd respond to the Holy Spirit's power?

Where do you need the Holy Spirit's power to move forward right now?

Day 3

Acts 3 - Faith That Moves Forward

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

What did Peter and John do for the man at the gate, and how did they do it?

What does this miracle reveal about the name and authority of Jesus?

Where is God calling you to use your faith to help someone around you?

Day 4

Acts 4 - Boldness to Move Forward

When God fills you, boldness rises.

Why were Peter and John arrested, and how did they respond?

What does their prayer show us about the source of boldness?

What step of boldness is God asking you to take?

Day 5

Acts 5 - Purity Protects the Way Forward

God takes holiness seriously because the mission matters.

What happened with Ananias and Sapphira, and why?

What does this teach us about God's seriousness toward integrity?

What area of your life needs greater honesty, purity, or alignment?

Day 6

Acts 6 - Servant Leadership Moves the Mission Forward

Growth requires order, unity, and shared responsibility

Why did the apostles appoint new leaders, and what was the result?

What gifts or qualities did Stephen exhibit?

How can you use your gifts to serve more faithfully?

Day 7

Acts 7 - Seeing God's Faithfulness in Your Story

Stephen shows how God has been leading us all along.

What is Stephen's main message as he recounts Israel's story?

How does Stephen's vision strengthen his courage?

Where do you need to remember God's faithfulness in your own story?

Day 8

Acts 8 - The Way Forward Is a Gospel on the Move

When believers truly grasp what Jesus has done, they don't stay still — they go.

Why did the believers scatter, and what did they do wherever they went?

How did Philip respond to the Holy Spirit and share the Gospel with the Ethiopian official?

What step of obedience is God asking you to take so the Gospel can move through your life?

Day 9

Acts 9 - Forward Through Transformation

God changes who we are so we can change the world.

What actually happened in Saul's encounter with Jesus?

How did his life change immediately afterward?

What transformation is God trying to work in your life?

Day 10

Acts 10 - Forward Through Surrendered Obedience

Peter obeys even when the instructions don't make sense.

What vision did Peter receive, and how did he respond?

What does this moment teach us about God's heart for all people?

What is God asking you to obey even before you fully understand?

Day 11

Acts 11 - When God Moves Beyond Our Expectations

God will often stretch our theology and challenge our assumptions.

What concerns did the Jerusalem believers raise about Peter's actions?

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch what evidence of God's grace did he recognize, and how did he respond to what he saw?

Who might God be inviting you to see differently through the lens of His grace rather than your assumptions?

Day 12

Acts 12 - Forward Through Prayer and Deliverance

Breakthrough comes when the church prays.

How did God respond to the church's prayers for Peter?

What does this reveal about the power of united prayer?

What breakthrough do you need to pray for with renewed faith?

Day 13

Acts 13 - Prayer Moves Us Forward

Through prayer and fasting, we are able to hear the Holy Spirit clearly.

What were the believers doing when the Holy Spirit spoke, and how did they react?

How does Acts 13 show that God sends people through the church, not just individual calling?

What are you praying for that requires God to move, and how is He calling you to pray more persistently?

Day 14

Acts 14 - Forward Through Opposition

We move forward even when facing resistance.

How did people respond to Paul and Barnabas' message, and what does this reveal about the cost of following Jesus?

How does the crowd's misunderstanding of Paul and Barnabas show that God's power can be misinterpreted?

Day 15

Acts 15 - Forward Through Unity

Disagreements are handled with spiritual maturity.

What disagreement arose, and how was it resolved?

What does this teach us about conflict handled in a godly way?

Where do you need to pursue unity or reconciliation?

Day 16

Acts 16 - Forward Through Worship and Breakthrough

Worship opens doors that chains can't hold closed.

What were Paul and Silas doing when God shook the prison?

How did their worship impact the jailer and his family?

What could change in your life if you worshiped in your hard place?

Day 17

Acts 17 - Forward Through Wise Engagement

Learning to reach culture with truth and grace.

How did Paul approach sharing the gospel in Athens?

What does this show about engaging culture thoughtfully?

Where is God calling you to share your faith with wisdom and grace?

Day 18

Acts 18 - Forward Through Faithfulness

God strengthens us in seasons of opposition.

Who encouraged Paul, and how did it impact his ministry?

How did God reassure Paul in Corinth?

Who can you encourage, or where do you need God's encouragement?

Day 19

Acts 19- Breaking Free from Idols

When the Gospel takes root, it confronts what we worship.

Why did the silversmiths oppose the Gospel, and what does this reveal about how worship can affect personal gain?

What happens when devotion to God threatens what people value most?

Where might the desire for “more, bigger, or better” be competing with God for your devotion?

Day 20

Acts 20 - Forward Through Commitment

Finishing the race God sets before us.

What did Paul say about his life and calling?

What mattered most to him as he looked ahead?

What assignment has God given you that you must finish?

Acts 21 - Forward No Matter the Storm

Obedience in the Face of Opposition

What do you notice about Paul's resolve to follow God's Will despite opposition?

How do the believers' pleas compare with Paul's response in Acts 21:13–14, and what does this reveal about discerning God's will?

What step of surrender is God inviting you to take next?

Congratulations on completing the 21-Day Acts Devotional!

You've seen how the Holy Spirit empowered ordinary believers to live with courage, unity, and purpose—and that same power is available to you today.

As you close this devotional, we encourage you to finish the remaining chapters of Acts on your own and revisit this book throughout the year. Its themes of bold faith and Spirit-led living will continue to guide you as you move forward into all God has for you in 2026.

For additional resources on the book of Acts, visit our website:
newcommunitybible.org/fast





What's Next? It's Time to Go Beyond!

For the last three weeks, we have devoted ourselves to drawing near to the Lord—quieting the noise, opening our hearts, and allowing Him to give us a fresh perspective for 2026 and beyond. We pray this fast has helped you sense God's presence, hear His voice, and see more clearly the direction He is calling you into.

But make no mistake: The end of the fast is not the end of the journey. In many ways, this is just the beginning.

Now is the time to put into practice the rhythms, convictions, and clarity God has been forming in you. Most New Year's resolutions fail—not because people don't desire change, but because they lack consistency and lose sight of their "why."

But that won't be you.

On the next page are practical steps to help you walk forward with purpose, accountability, and community—just like the believers in the book of Acts who didn't stop after one spiritual moment.

1. Write Your 2026 Way Forward Vision

Now that your heart is clear and your spirit is refreshed, take time to prayerfully write your 2026 Vision Statement. Capture what God has shown you, where He is directing you, and who He is calling you to become this year.

2. Join a Small Group

If you are not already in a small group, we invite you to take this next step. With over 70 group options, you'll find a community where you can stay connected to God's Word, strengthen your relationships, and experience real life change.

Find the complete list at newcommunitybible.org/small-groups

3. Serve in a Ministry

Serving isn't just volunteering—it's the way of Jesus. It's how we practice love, humility, and purpose.

Whether you're gifted in hospitality, media, youth ministry, administration, or something else, there is a place for you to make a difference.

Explore opportunities at: newcommunitybible.org/serve

4. Share Your Story

What God has done in your life is not meant to stay with you. Your story may be the encouragement someone else desperately needs. Whether God moved in your heart during this fast or through something He did years ago, we want to hear it—and we want to celebrate it with you.

Share your story at: newcommunitybible.org/testimony

2026 VISION STATEMENT

What are you trusting God for?

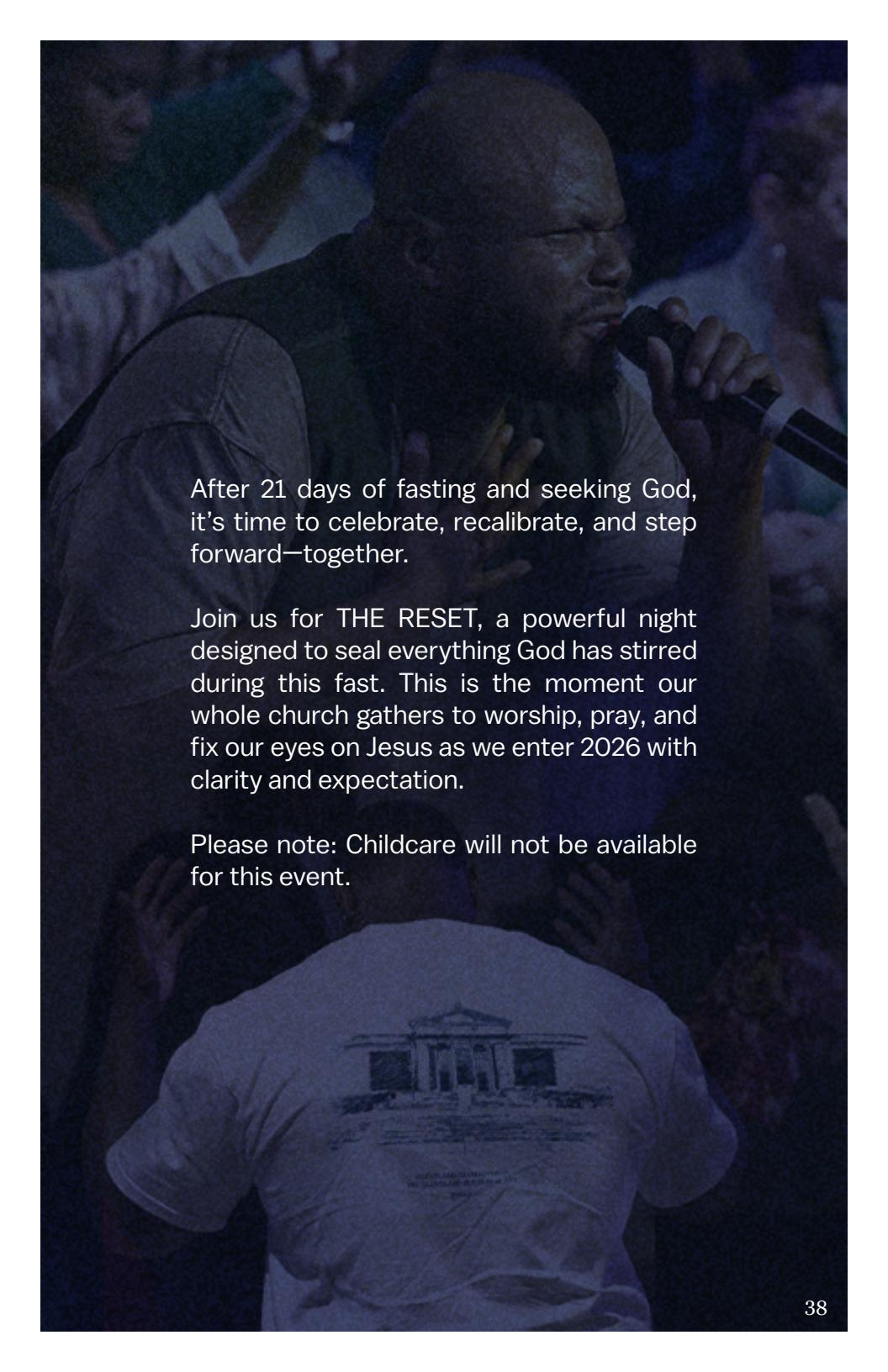
Who is God calling you to become, and how will you move forward this year?

This vision statement is an invitation to partner with God in shaping your future. It will require faith, surrender, and a renewed commitment to seek Him above everything else. As you prayerfully write your vision for 2026, ask God to reveal the steps He wants you to take, the areas He wants to transform, and the new direction He is calling you into.

Lord, I am trusting you for:

THE RESET

Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30PM

A close-up, low-light photograph of a man singing into a black microphone. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people in a church setting.

After 21 days of fasting and seeking God, it's time to celebrate, recalibrate, and step forward—together.

Join us for **THE RESET**, a powerful night designed to seal everything God has stirred during this fast. This is the moment our whole church gathers to worship, pray, and fix our eyes on Jesus as we enter 2026 with clarity and expectation.

Please note: Childcare will not be available for this event.



Stay Connected with New Community

We are a church on a mission to change lives through the power of Jesus Christ. If you're looking for a place to grow in your faith, connect with others, and truly belong, this is the place for you.

Join us Sundays at 9 AM or 11 AM.

Visit our website to explore our small groups, ministries (Children's, Teens, Young Adults, Senior Adults), upcoming events, and to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

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