

Dear NBEPC Family:

To begin 2024, one Bible verse came immediately to mind as I prayed about what to write to launch this new year. What God laid upon my heart is this from John 8:36 in the NASB: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

Wouldn't it be awesome if this were the year that God freed you from that addiction, or that sense of discouragement, or the overwhelming sense of grief, or the anger about something in your past where there seems no escape?

God is more than capable of doing that, and also leading those non-believers whom you constantly pray for to finally “get it.”

It is those ideas in mind that I am pleased to announce two things with this opening newsletter article of 2024. First is our January sermon series, taken from Paul's letter to the Galatians, called “Set Free.” Paul's letter to the Galatians was to combat a group in that region known as the Judaizers. They believed that Christians had to follow Old Testament ceremonial practices in addition to believing in Jesus. This series will address such topics as trying to work your way to God, your identify before God as a believer in Jesus and more, with central premise that, yes, who the Son sets free is free indeed.

The other initiative the Lord has laid on me is to introduce an Alpha program to New Bedford Church. Quite simply, Alpha is a program that provides a safe place for non-believers or discouraged believers to explore the issues of the Christian faith in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Featuring food, video and discussion, people are encouraged to bring their doubts about whether there is a God, their belief that the Bible is just a fairy tale, or whatever opinions they have. As I launch this program on Wednesday, January 17, I encourage you to invite the skeptics in your life to come for the full eleven weeks that Alpha lasts. At the very least, we'll feed them well! In the December 31 service and following that, I will provide you a printed piece that contains a very simple invitation. People will be able to sign up for Alpha on our church website.

May you feel a new sense of freedom as this new year begins. May the Lord fill your heart to overflowing with the power of the Holy Spirit, and take you to opportunities and spiritual growth that you never dreamed possible.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- New church officers will be installed during worship services on Sunday, January 28.
- The session contracted Paramount Commercial Cleaning LLC to handle custodial services at the church.

There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is for reviewing the Annual Report.

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are ready and on a table by the office. If you cannot find your box or would like a box, please see Bonnie. Thank You!

Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Lavon Rogers-----John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence-----Shenango Home
Nancy Phillis-----Home
Gene Bicehouse-----Garden Way Place



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! To everyone that helped out with this year's Angel Tree!! We were able to help out several local families with Christmas gifts for their children and gift cards for Christmas dinner! Your generosity is so much appreciated!!



We would like to THANK everyone that helped with Breakfast In Bethlehem this year! Whether you helped with hauling everything into the church, or the many nights of setting up, helped the day of BIB, with bringing animals in, or with the tear down and put away! THANK YOU! This Community outreach is not possible without your help!



CPR Class is being taught again here in the church on February 19th from 6-8:30P.M. This class is free of charge unless you would like a certification card, the certification card is \$20. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Attention all women and friends of the church. The Women's association will be hosting a winter Snowball lunch at noon on Saturday, February 24th. It's free for all women and girls. Don't pack away all your snow globes because we're asking you to bring one of your favorites to share. Get ready to warm up with friends on a cold winter day at the hot cocoa bar.

Birthdays in January

01/01 – Jakki Gardner
01/03 – Bud Freeman
01/04 – Olivia Eppinger
01/04 – Corigan Quinn
01/05 – Lois Adams
01/05 – Phillip Book
01/05 – Edie Dougherty
01/05 – Ashley Fox
01/05 – Shirley Janoski
01/05 – Jacob Taylor

01/06 – Nancy Bretz
01/06 – Joel Phillips
01/09 – Brenda Miller
01/11 – Marshall Whiting
01/12 – Linda Feil
01/12 – Diane McConnell
01/14 – Gary Geisinger
01/14 – Allen Jones
01/17 – Terri Quinn
01/19 – Rosie Moore

01/19 – Willie Moore
01/20 – Amanda Miller
01/24 – Lori Smith
01/24 – Bennett Whiting
01/26 – Mackenzie McCarthy
01/26 – Julie Whiting
01/27 – Joyce Goist
01/27 – Morgan Whiting
01/28 – Taylor Allison

Birthdays in February

02/02 – Paul Cummings
02/02 – Aleah Deal
02/02 – Nancy Phillis
02/03 – Dawn Harris
02/04 – Harry Cornman
02/04 – Shirley Freeman
02/04 – Alexandra Lambert

02/04 – Austin Whiting
02/05 – Pam Liddell
02/07 – Marti Marshall
02/07 – Martha Marshall
02/07 – Nancy Rudzik
02/08 – Len Halt
02/08 – Laura Harshbarger

02/09 – Barbara Sander
02/15 – Bowen Fulkman
02/15 – Shirley Snyder
02/22 – Lisa Magee
02/22 – Amanda Quinn
02/26 – Donald Pence
02/27 – Don Craig

Birthdays in March

03/03 – Gene Bicehouse
03/03 – Steve Fox
03/07 – Vinnie Fenati
03/08 – Sue Bluedorn
03/12 – Mira Fulkman
03/13 – Doug Houk

03/15 – Larry Bluedorn
03/17 – Jake Emery
03/19 – Dan Dieter
03/20 – Ed Rudzik
03/21 – Sheila Eppinger-Epper

03/22 – Beth Kendall
03/24 – Jennifer Saulpaugh
03/25 – John Book
03/27 – Robert Bretz
03/29 – Judy Stuhlmann



Donation Opportunity----In March, the AWANA Clubbers will have the opportunity to go shopping in our 'church' marketplace. They get to buy items with the points they earned. They can earn points each week for; attendance, bringing a Bible, bringing their Handbook, completing sections, and wearing uniform. Many kids have earned a lot of points and they look forward to shopping with them at the end of Awana. ***If you would be able to donate items for the marketplace please leave them in the box in the vestibule. Items can be donated until Sunday March 24th*** . Many great items could be purchased from a dollar store or in the clearance section. If you have any questions please let me know. Thanks for your help in rewarding the kids for their commitment in Awana and earning points.



Wednesdays 5:00-7:00
Ages 2 - Grade 6

Please lift the faithful servants in prayer as they serve the children of our church and community. Also keep in prayer for God to move in the hearts for more people to serve in the Awana Ministry as substitutes and helpers. Please see Dawn if you have any questions on what the responsibilities are for these positions.

Prayerfully consider being a life changer at Awana.

You are welcome to stop in and visit any Wednesday evening, 5:00-7:00.

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER for Awana: we are in January and we might have to deal with inclement weather...I will send an email by 3:00 PM on Wednesday to inform you of Club being cancelled for the evening. We do not always follow what the school district does for the day.

******UPCOMING CLUB NIGHTS******

January 3rd – NO Awana Night

January 10th – Pajama Night

January 17th – Double Double Point Night

January 24th – Glow Night Let Your Light Shine for Jesus Night!

January 31st – Regular Club Night

February 7th – Regular Club Night (make a Valentine at home and bring it to be mailed to the elderly)

February 14th – Valentine Night

Clubbers wear your red/pink/white/Valentine theme clothes to celebrate love

February 21st – Double Double Points Night

February 28th – Wear a Hat Night

J.A.M. Kids is a time during the 10:30 AM Sunday service for the young children to have a lesson time of their own. Lessons and materials are provided. Leaders are needed to disciple these young children. Sign up in the Vestibule for the day of your preference. ☺

Dawn Harris, Director of Children's Ministry 330-881-8110 dawnhnbpc@aol.com

There will be an Ash Wednesday Worship Service titled "From Here to Eternity on Wednesday, February 14, 2024



I'm excited to announce that on January 10th, youth group will be moving to Wednesdays! Meetings will be from 5-7pm and run in conjunction with Awana. Please consider keeping us in your prayers during this time of growth and transition. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the acts of grace and kindness that allowed this move to become a reality.



Join us in January as we (hopefully) wrap-up our study of the book of Revelation. After which we will begin studying the book of Daniel! We will meet on **January 4th & 18th** with study from 11am to noon and lunch to follow. Please join us as we continue to grow in our knowledge of the Lord together!

Starting in January, we will be adding a temporary growth group for couples. There will be two options for attendance:

Option #1: Sunday morning

January 14 – February 25

Time: 9:30am

Last 2 Lessons will be after couple's retreat.

Option #2: Sunday evening

January 28, February 4, 18, 25

Time: Dinner 5pm – Study 6pm

Last 2 Lessons at couple's retreat
(March 1-2)



Our study will be Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas. Please sign up in the church vestibule.

**NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143
Phone: 724-964-8055

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #147
New Castle, PA 16101**



**Redeeming Times Newsletter
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024**

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordepchurch@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service
9:30a.m. – Children's Sunday School
10:30a.m. – Traditional Worship Service