

# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

January 2022

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 1 -	HAPPY NEW YEAR
JAN 2 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	COMMUNION SERVICE
JAN 3 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
	PHIL WHITACRE'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 6 -	PRAYER MEETING 6:30 PM
JAN 7 -	LINDA OATES' BIRTHDAY
JAN 9 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
	FOLLOWS WORSHIP SERVICE
JAN 10 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
	BRIAN BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 12 -	MOLLY MCVICKER'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 15 -	PHIL & MONICA CASH'S ANNIVERSARY
JAN 16 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JAN 17 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 20 -	PRAYER MEETING 6:30 PM
JAN 21 -	GALEN AND JEANNIE SPAID'S
	ANNIVERSARY
JAN 22 -	MEN'S BREAKFAST 9 AM
	HAYFIELD RESTAURANT
JAN 23 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
	JONATHAN BRILL'S 40TH BIRTHDAY
JAN 24 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 27 -	GERALDINE LOY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY
JAN 29 -	ANGELA JENNINGS'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 30 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JAN 31 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
	MILLIE TRIPLET'S BIRTHDAY

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022. At this meeting, we will be receiving reports from the various entities within the church, electing officers and any other business that may come before the meeting.

#### THANK YOU!

The VanDerLinden's would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards and gave gifts this Christmas season. We continue to be blessed by the thoughtfulness of the church and each individual. We appreciate all of you and look forward to ministering together in the New Year! Thank you for encouraging us and caring for us so well.

### 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

*We extend a Very Special 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday wish to Geraldine Loy on January 27<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to honor her with a card, her address is 516 Erving View Lane, High View WV 26808*

### BACKPACK MINISTRY

The date for preparing backpacks is January 10<sup>th</sup>. The church's rotation weeks are January 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> but the plan is to prepare for all three weeks on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.  
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### PASTOR'S PEN

#### Cultivating Christian Character

Whether you're an elite athlete or a stay-at-home mom, honing your skills takes time and effort. That same principle applies to your Christian walk as well. When you came to faith, you may have known very little about what God wanted from you. But as you read your bible, it became clear; God wants more from you than just learning about Him. He wants you to apply what you learn in your daily life. Like an athlete or a homemaker, this won't happen without effort. To improve your fastball or your cherished apple pie, you will have to study, practice, and learn from others.

In Ephesians 4:1-3, Paul writes, *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* There are five qualities Paul encourages every believer to cultivate. Humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity. Although none of these traits stands alone, looking at them individually helps show how they work together.

It is no surprise that Paul puts humility at the beginning of this list. Without humility, there is no teachability. And those who are unteachable seldom grow to maturity. Humility allows you to admit errors and accept instructions. Without humility, it will be impossible to show gentleness to others as one strives to serve God faithfully. Humility shows up in how you see yourself. Gentleness shows up in how you see others. To be gentle is to be tender and kind. Gentleness considers the weaknesses of others and responds accordingly. The attitude of gentleness often comes across as patience. When you see someone gently correcting a child, it often highlights one's patience. This trait has fallen on hard times. But Paul calls us to strive to learn the usefulness of patience. The sprinter hurries along, seeking to get their race over quickly. However, the long-distance runner picks up a measured pace. They look at things from a broader perspective. What makes this patience possible is that it's born out of love. Love plays an important part in Paul's theology. He has personally experienced God's love for him and longs to share this love with God's people. You will only love those around you when you see people as God sees them. To accomplish this, simply stop and remember how God saw you before you knew Him. God loved you while you were His enemy and patiently, gently drew you to Himself through the humble work of Jesus on the cross. This one sacrifice speaks of the unity God provides within the plan of redemption. Looking just a few verses ahead, Paul writes, there is, **"5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." God is one, and those united with Him must be one with Him and one with each other.

As the New Year begins, now is an excellent time to start cultivating these Godly traits. It will be hard work but well worth the effort. So, how do you do it? It's relatively simple, study your bible and learn about Jesus. Then, take time to ask God to help you grow in these areas. Next, spend time in prayer, alone and with others. Read about the lives of other Christians who also struggled to reach maturity. Finally, spend time this year fellowshiping with other believers. Allow them to help you cultivate Christian character. I would love to have a better fastball, and I'm willing to eat good apple pie. We've got another year ahead of us. I can't wait to see how God works!

~ Pastor Mike