

TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

January 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 1 -	HAPPY NEW YEAR
	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	COMMUNION SERVICE
JAN 2 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 3 -	PHIL WHITACRE'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 7 -	LINDA OATES' BIRTHDAY
JAN 8 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
	FOLLOWS WORSHIP SERVICE
JAN 9 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 10 -	BRIAN BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 12 -	MOLLY MCVICKER'S BIRTHDAY
	PRAYER MEETING AT CHURCH 6:30PM
JAN 14 -	MEN'S GATHERING AT CHURCH 8:30 AM
JAN 15 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	PHIL & MONIKA CASH'S ANNIVERSARY
JAN 16 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 21 -	GALEN AND JEANIE SPAID'S
	ANNIVERSARY
JAN 22 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JAN 23 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
	ROLAND LAFOLLETTE'S BIRTHDAY
	JONATHAN BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 26 -	PRAYER MEETING AT CHURCH 6:30PM
JAN 28 -	GERALDINE LOY'S 101 ST BIRTHDAY
JAN 29 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	ANGELA JENNINGS'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 30 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
JAN 31 -	MILLIE TRIPLET'S BIRTHDAY

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2023. At this meeting, we will be receiving reports from the various entities within the church, electing officers, voting to amend the church constitution and any other business that may come before the meeting.

THANK YOU!

The VanDerLindens would like to say "thank you" for all the cards and gifts to our family this Christmas. We are so blessed by the thoughtfulness of the church and each individual. Thank you for encouraging us and caring for us so well. We look forward to ministering together with you in the New Year.

101ST BIRTHDAY

We extend a Very Special 101st Birthday wish to Geraldine Loy on January 28th. If you wish to honor her with a card, her address is 516 Erving View Lane, High View WV 26808

We welcome any comments and suggestions.
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PASTOR'S PEN

A Faith On fire

Next Sunday will be January 8th, 2023 – yikes, another year is in the books! Next Sunday, Timber Ridge Sunday school will begin a 13-week study using the book *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church*. We will look at one chapter each week, discussing the insights gleaned from the writer's lifetime of experience helping churches. Although the title makes it sound like it's the church that will be revitalized, the book takes a more personal approach. The book pushes to instill a personal heart transformation in every individual.

When we're honest, this is what scares us! It's one thing to think of church growth taking place while we stay the same. When we learn that God wants us to change individually, it can be more difficult to be enthusiastic. Yet, this is what God desires from us – a life constantly changing as we grow in our knowledge of Him and His love for us. It won't necessarily be easy, but it will be worth it!

In 2 Timothy 1:3-7 the Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, pens the following: "I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Timber Ridge Christian church has a long history of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. This faith has been passed down through the generations so that you, too, can look back to a father, mother, aunt, or uncle and remember how their faith, lived out over time, was a visible witness to the living Christ. However, you were never meant to live solely on the memory of their faith. Instead, God used them to instill personal faith in you so that you could grow in your knowledge of God's love. This means your Christian walk is meant to be one full of change, especially as it relates to growth that transforms you because development takes effort.

Paul tells Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God." If you've ever re-started a fire in the morning using the embers from the previous night's fire, then you know what Paul is saying. At first, the tiny embers are dull and lifeless. However, with a bit of air blowing over those coals, they brighten up and get hotter. As you continue to fan them, the extra oxygen turns the growing heat into flame and ignites the new wood. The embers were reinvigorated, and their heat caused the fire to spread.

The Christian walk can often look like last night's fire, lifeless and cold. But the coals of faith are still there! And when they are fanned back to life, their heat has the same effects. First, the faith of individual believers is brightened and brought back to life. Second, the excitement this brings causes those around them to be brought back to life. Finally, the heat of a revived faith spreads to those who haven't been part of the fire yet. "*Embers to flame*" begins with individuals, but it doesn't stay there! This process is part of how God has always spread the gospel message. Knowing this should remove any anxious feeling and replace it with excited anticipation. May the Lord fan the embers of faith into a fire that glows brightly here at Timber Ridge. And may that fire ignite us and those around us so that God is glorified and the next generation comes to know Him.

~ Pastor Mike