

# CONTACT

## FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

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December, 2025





## ELDER'S PAGE



If you gave me a Christmas gift, and I never opened it, would you be disappointed? I know I would. That gift would be worthless, because I wouldn't benefit from the gift that was given, and you would not experience the joy that would have come to you if I had opened it.

Jesus Christ is a Christmas gift from God to all of us. But some have never opened His gift, the gift of Salvation. Why celebrate Christmas at all if you are never going to open the greatest gift ever given? To me, it makes no sense to never unwrap the gift that gives you complete forgiveness for your past, a genuine purpose for living life, and a home in Heaven when you leave this world.

Christmas, for many of us, is a season of joy, wonder and excitement. Most of us get real joy in watching our children, our grandchildren and our friends open the gifts that we have given them on Christmas day. I will admit to you that when I was younger, and when I understood what Christmas was, my experience of Christmas consisted of two distinct, inevitable facts. The first was that I never stopped imagining what I would find as I opened my gifts on Christmas morning. The second was that I knew I would not sleep a wink from the time I was sent to bed until the time when Mom and Dad would allow us to go out to the living room and finally find out just what was in those packages with my name on them. I have a picture of my dad, on Christmas morning long ago, watching all of us kids opening our gifts and the look on his face was priceless. He saw the joy in our faces as we unwrapped our dreams. I never knew, until after he passed away, that in his house as a child, there were no presents, no tree and no decorations. It was just another day. My aunt, dad's sister, told me that there might be extra food on the table that day, but even that was rare. Knowing that makes me appreciate Christmas even more as the years go by.

I can only imagine the look on God's face every time one of His children accept the gift of His Son Jesus. Each time that happens is Christmas Day for Him. That gift is waiting for you right now, and I would encourage you to accept it. If you do, this Christmas will be the best Christmas ever, for Him and for you.

It only takes a moment to bow your head, and welcome Jesus into your heart and home. You will never receive a better gift.

Merry Christmas!

Elder Dave Fox



As we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, there are lots of ways that our kids can get distracted from the true reason to celebrate Christmas, Jesus. Here are some ideas to help you help the kids in your life learn more about Jesus this Christmas:

**Bible Reading:** Take time to read the story of the birth of Christ directly from the Bible. Luuke is a great book to start with younger kids.

**Advent Readings:** The Martin family is using "The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar" this year. It has daily readings and a fun poster for kids to punch out a new part of the scene each day.

There are other good ones on Amazon or 10ofthose.com that you can choose from.

**Movies:**

- The Star
- The King of Kings
- A Charlie Brown Christmas
- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- VeggieTales Little Drummer Boy
- Christmas with The Chosen

Find a way that works for you and your family!



## Titus Women

Titus Women will not be meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Come and check us out – you just might enjoy yourself!!



Prayer List:

Fred & Virginia Brautigam  
Jennifer Fox  
Abigail Johnston  
Mary Lou Metz  
Alyssa Minor  
Heather Neff  
Steve Novakowski  
Martie Pelley  
Rylin Richards  
Taylor White

Church Construction  
Backpack Ministry  
Food Pantry Ministry

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*  
Romans 12:12





Happy Birthday to you!  
Happy Birthday to you!  
Happy Birthday dear...

## Happy December Birthday to....

- 1 Todd Wolfe
- 5 Eunice Lohr
- 5 Mary Jo Rockey
- 6 Cindy Brautigan
- 9 Amber Cunningham
- 10 Patti Fox
- 12 Debbie Baum
- 17 Fred Brautigan
- 21 Jeffrey Lynn Wright, Jr.
- 23 Jennifer Fox
- 26 Paula Straughn
- 30 Gary Wolfe

Happy Birthday to you!



## Happy December Anniversary to....

We don't have any December Anniversaries on file. If you know of a church member with a December wedding anniversary - Please let us know.

## Hang Out Dinner Group!

On Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Hang Out Dinner Group went to dinner at the Fabio's Pizza at their new location in Center Wheeling. As always, everyone had a great time and ate very well.

They will not be meeting in December. If you would like to join them in January, let Tom Baum know.



The more the Merrier!!



The McMechen First Church of God Food Pantry has been B-U-S-Y! With the recent government shut down, there was a great need and we responded. Since the beginning of November, we have packed 22 food boxes and 10 special Thanksgiving dinner boxes. That's a bunch of food, folks! But we couldn't do it without YOU! Thanks to everyone who has generously given food, and/or money donations to help us help others. It's a real blessing and saying thank you just doesn't seem like enough. But your gifts are truly appreciated! We were able to secure a grant for \$5500, which has enabled us to build up our supplies and prepare to assemble special Christmas dinner boxes to be ready on December 22 for pickup, here at the church.

If you know of someone who is in need, please let us know. They can call the church (304-925-8230) and leave a message. We will call them back and arrange a pickup time. Our pickup schedule is Wednesdays between 1pm and 3 pm, but we can adjust if necessary. We do not want anyone to go without a very basic necessity – FOOD! We primarily are servicing the McMechen/Benwood area; however, we won't turn anyone away. The need is great and everyone who has received a box has been so grateful.

If you would like to help load, unload, pack and be available for recipients to pick up, please let Dru Fox or Patti Fox know. We will find something for you to do! We have been blessed to have several people helping, and it is very much appreciated.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers. It's a lot of work, but the blessing we are receiving by being God's servants is overwhelming!

Blessings to you all!



One of the things we like to do during the holidays, is to put live poinsettias on the altar for the Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve services.

If you would like to place a poinsettia on the altar in honor of someone or in memory of someone, please see Patti Fox.

Seeing the church all "decked out" always seems to add a little something more to worship.



## Advent Candle Lighting

Another part of celebrating the Christmas Season is the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Each Sunday we light a candle on the Advent Wreath, have a short reading and blessing.



If you or your family would like to participate in this part participate by reading a short devotion and lighting the candle at either the Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning worship service, please let one of the elders know. They will provide you with the devotion to be read and answer any questions you might have.

It's a very special part of our Advent Services and we would love to have you take part.



## My Word for 2026

Yes, you read that right! It's time to start thinking about your WORD for 2026.

If you are unfamiliar with this concept – here is the general idea.

For the past several years, we as a church and also as individuals begin examining our lives and choose an attribute, characteristic or area of our life that we would like to see change or grow more evident in the New Year.

The thinking is that New Year's resolutions are made and (most often) broken in the first few weeks of the new year. We want to look at improving ourselves in a particular area where we see ourselves lacking or maybe needing to grow a little more.

The great thing about this "WORD" is that you can't fail!!! Any change, no matter how small, is progress. Some people have had the same word for several years, still wanting to see *more* change in a particular area.

Here is the process – Do some self-examination; make a list of words and then pray about them and narrow it down to one word. (This may take a couple of weeks or longer.) Choose a bible verse that will help you throughout the year.

We share these words in Worship – usually the First Sunday of the New Year (probably Saturday and Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>). Don't worry – It's not mandatory that you share what your word is or even that you choose a word. It has just become something that we like to do as a church and sharing helps us keep each other accountable and helps us to encourage one another in accomplishing these changes.

My WORD for 2025 was "Pause". I wanted to take more time to realize what I had and to really appreciate it (life is short). I haven't chosen a word for 2026 yet – if you were to ask me right now as I type this article at 20 minutes til midnight on Thanksgiving Night – I would say my word would be REST!!! 😁

If you've never chosen a word for the year, I would encourage you to join us this year! You won't regret it!



# December, 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 <b>Council Meeting 7:00 pm</b>	5	6 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm  AA Group 7:00 pm
7 Sunday School 9:00 am  Morning Worship 10:35 am	8 IronMen 6:00 pm	9 Piecemakers Quilt Club / Food Pantry 5:00 pm	10 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am  BackPack 12 noon  Piecemaker's Quilt Club 1:30 pm	11	12	13 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm  AA Group 7:00 pm
14 Sunday School 9:00 am  Morning Worship 10:35 am	15 IronMen 6:00 pm	16 Piecemakers Quilt Club / Food Pantry 5:00 pm	17 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am  BackPack 12 noon  Piecemaker's Quilt Club 1:30 pm	18	19	20 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm  AA Group 7:00 pm
21 Sunday School 9:00 am  Morning Worship 10:35 am  <b>Community Christmas Service 7:00 pm</b>	22 Christmas Food Box pack & pick up  IronMen TBD	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm</b>  	25 	26	27 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm  AA Group 7:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Sunday School 9:00 am  Morning Worship 10:35 am	29  IronMen TBD	30	31  Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am  New Year's Eve!		<b>Community Christmas Service            at the Church of God (Boggs Run)            Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm</b>	

