

CONTACT

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

of the Churches of God, General Conference
1003 Logan Street
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January, 2025

MY ONE WORD

CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH JUST ONE WORD





I AM ENOUGH in 2025

I AM ENOUGH? Ever said that? Do you believe that? The truth is that most of us ***don't feel*** we are enough. It's the number one reason for life dissatisfaction. We are not happy with our jobs, our house, our car; always looking for something better. Or not always pleased with our families or even our church family; so we look for someone better. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (CEV) says, ***"And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed"***. The King James says "grace abounds". I love the Contemporary English Version that says God gives you "everything you need". The Message Bible says you are blessed by God in "astonishing ways". I really want you to get this! What we don't deserve, God is able, yet also WILLING to make overflow in your life. **YOU ARE ENOUGH ... In Christ!**

We are going to start 2025 with the Word of the Year. I believe it was 2011 when Dru was teaching the high school kids, and asked them to pick a word for the year. A Few years later we asked her to share that concept with the whole Church in morning worship. Ever since it is something I know I look forward to. Proverbs 18:21, says ***"There is power of life and death in your words (tongue)"***. Do you realize that you can talk yourself into a bad day, anxiety, depression, quitting? Likewise, you can talk yourself into joy, new perspective, greater faith in Christ. This is not a New Year's resolution, but Spirit filled inspiration. One word, can make you enough in Christ.

Sunday January 19th, we will complete the Revisioning for our Church. We need your help, though. For the past several months we have asked you to wrestle with and pray over and test drive, three potential vision statements:

A fearless, wall-less church. Ordinary people helping others find and follow Christ.

We are a Christian community with loving and faithful outreach through family, fun and forgiveness.

Ordinary people who live fearlessly, drawing others through worship and sharing the love of Christ.

I invite you to please make the time and come out and help us get across the finish line in establishing a new vision for who we are and where we are going. Together, We are enough!

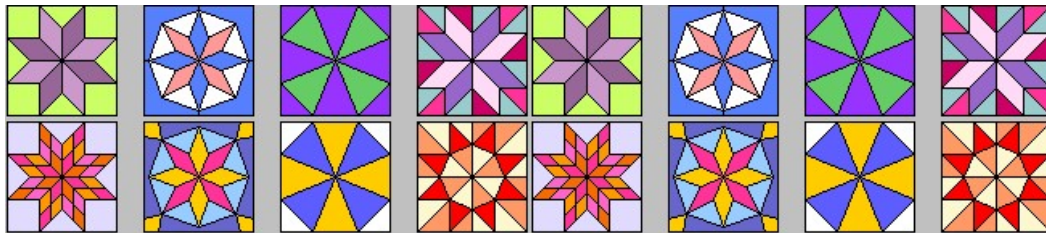
And finally, get involved in your church family and discover Life Changing Truths. The context of 2 Corinthians 9 is a giving and generous church. When you pursue truth, God does something miraculous in your life. The real vision God has for us at the McMechen First Church of God, is far more expensive than what we can afford. There lies the issue of enough? Yet God is after my surrender, not my perfection. I

don't live to love God, but I do live OUT of HIS LOVE. Jesus paid for everything our church will ever need on the Cross. These are truths, that when I understand I AM ENOUGH ... IN CHRIST, can truly change my life. So even if you don't really believe yet, that "You Are ENOUGH". I'm here to tell you, well, in Christ you are!

Pastor Mitch

I AM ENOUGH ... IN CHRIST in 2025!

God First



Piecemakers Quilt Club

The Piecemakers Quilt Club has been making progress on the quilt we are making as a fundraiser for our new church building. We still have a way to go, but as we turn the quilt on the frames, we now have more material on the finished side than on the side yet to be quilted! We are excited about the progress we have made. It's a slow process, but we think it's going to be worthwhile in the long run.



We still meet twice a week. Tuesdays at 5:00pm and Wednesday at 1:30pm and as always, we'd love to have YOU join us. You do not have to know how to sew, so don't let that intimidate you. You don't even have to sew at all if you don't want to. You can just come and spend time with us watching, talking, praying, and having a great time. We really are FUN people, and we have a great time together.

We are hoping to have a finished product by spring or early summer, but don't hold us to that! LOL! It really has been a blessing working on this project and we hope to raise funds to help with our new building.

By the way, keep praying for that project, too! Blessings to you all!



ELDER'S PAGE



As we begin a new year, I have to think back on 2024. Thinking how the Lord Jesus has protected me and my family, bringing me peace in all things. When I look around at what is happening today and yesterday, it can be very concerning and scary.

I was also thinking of the beginning of the year 2000. Some of us will remember Y2K – how we were worried that our computers would not work when the year rolled over. I remember checking to make sure, on January 1st, that my computer still worked. It was crazy to think it could happen. The computer still worked like it did on December 29, 1999. It was an unnecessary fear that we had.

I was also thinking about my Word for 2025. I think, but I'm not sure, I used the same word in 2024. The word is Peace. In the past, I have sought Peace in my life, but it has been a struggle sometimes to stay faithful to Jesus and believe in His Peace when I can't feel or see it.

John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave you, My Peace I give you, not as the world gives, do I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful." That is the Peace I'm looking for, not what the world gives but what Jesus Promises.

I encourage you to seek this Peace also.

Have a blessed month.

Elder, Tom Baum



Hang Out Dinner Group!

On Sunday, December 7th, the Hang Out Dinner Group went to TJ's in Wheeling.

It was a fun time and the food was great! We had some new faces join us!

If you would like to become a part of this fun group, contact Tom Baum for more information.



Their next outing will be on Tuesday, January 7th at El Paso in Glen Dale at 6:00 pm.

Come, Join Us – It's going to be a fun fiesta!!



Prayer List:

Vicki Allender
Tom Baum
Fred & Virginia Brautigan
Barb Davis
Mark Fink
Nancy Fox
Steve Inza (Military – South Korea)
April Johnston – Pregnancy
Jill Loveless – Job in New Hampshire
Tammy Mett
Jay Morris
Mara Nadolski
Nick Omergcik
Martie Pelley
Robert Robertson

Teresa Smith
Sandy Sperling
Shawn Straughn
Roger VanScyoc
Pat Vavrock
Donna White
Taylor White
Beth & Gary Wolfe - Praise
Jane Zimmerman
Aaron (No last name)
Becky (No last name)
Vickie (No last name)
Family of Nathaniel Minor

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer,

Romans 12:12



Reflecting on my Word for 2024

by Jill Loveless

As you begin to select your word for 2025, be prepared to accept the unexpected. I recall in December of 2023 when Pastor Johnston asked everyone to identify a word for the coming year. I was unsure what mine would

be. As I was listening to my audio Bible lesson, I heard a scripture that intrigued me. Full disclosure, I cannot locate the scripture now, but to paraphrase it, it mentioned that if only God's people knew He was waiting to bless them abundantly. Well, I was moved to select the word *Abundance*.

For full disclosure, my initial thoughts went toward financial and physical images of abundance. Yes, I wanted to enjoy more financial abundance. Having access to more tools to finish projects would be great. An abundance of free time was another enticing form of abundance. However, it became clear that my definition of abundance and God's were two different things.

The beginning of the year was when I became acutely aware that abundance had a variety of meanings. Because my parents' health had been precarious during the second part of 2023, I stayed in town for the Christmas season when normally I would have spent it in Arizona with my husband. I felt duty-bound to help get my parents to Florida for the winter. Unfortunately, they decided against making that trip. The beginning of the year gave me an abundance of uncertainty about when I would travel west.

As with most decisions we make, it is always best to go before God first. Listening to His voice should be the first thing we do. In the first week of 2024, my desire to go to Arizona became palpable. God gave me a date and led me to the financial means to secure the flight. Isaiah 63:9 reads, "In all their distress He too was distressed, and the angel of His presence saved them. In His love and mercy, He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old." I felt that God had made a way for me to travel and spend time with my Arizona family.

Just before verse 9, Isaiah 63:7 states, "I will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us—yes, the many good things He has done for Israel, according to His compassion and many kindnesses." I did not know at that time that God was about to reveal to me what true abundance is.

(Look for a continuation of Jill's thoughts in future editions of the CONTACT)

Thank you, Jill!

Decking the Halls in 2024!

On Saturday, November 30th, the church was invaded by many elf helpers who came out to decorate the church for the Advent season.

"Many hands made light work" was never more true than it was on that day.

We really appreciate everyone who came out and helped in any way. From toting boxes of decorations, to putting up trees and "fluffing" branches. (And running to Lowes for last minute "hook" substitutions.)

It truly was a group effort! A total of 17 people showed up ready and willing at 10:00 am and we put them to work.

Thank you...Hoddy and Cindy Brautigan, Alan Hinderliter, Donna Pegg, Kim Richmond, Patty Cooper, Michelle Morris, Diane Barker, John and Rebekah Martin (extra thanks to Rebekah for providing delicious Soup for all of us), Janice Sayer and her grandsons Rylee and Zayn White and Pastor Mitch.

We really appreciate all your help.

Thanks again,
Patti, Dave and Dru



Looking for a way to Serve???

Looking for an exciting Ministry to be involved with???

Here are some suggestions....

Titus Women News... Starting January 8th, the women will begin a new season of study. Rebekah Martin will be leading discussions through the book of Ephesians using the book "Gospel Shaped Womanhood; How losing yourself and finding your identity in Christ changes everything." All ladies are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights starting about 6:00 for food and fellowship!

And if that isn't your cup of tea...How about this?





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

Happy January Birthday to....

4	Jeanette Ziegler
6	Ty Cox
8	Alyssa Minor
9	Anna Lehew Kelly
9	Kristina Hill
14	Martie Pelley
15	Jocelyn Blatt
18	Vanessa Hill
19	Hoddy Brautigan
20	Rowdy Workman
23	Joan Williams
25	Betty Clark
28	Becky Martin
29	Kevin Martin
30	Michael Younger

Happy Birthday to you!



Happy January Anniversary to....

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



January, 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
We will be sharing our “Word” s for 2025 during worship on January 4 th & 5 th Dinner Church on the 26 th will be a “Soup”er Bowl Party!!!			1	2 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm *My Word for 2025* AA Group 7:00 pm
5 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am *My Word for 2025*	6 “Good Grief” – Grief Group 6 pm IronMen 6:00 pm	7 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm Hang Out Dinner Group at El Paso in Glen Dale 6 pm	8 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am BackPack to follow Piecemakers Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	9	10	11 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
12 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am	13 “Good Grief” – Grief Group 6 pm IronMen 6:00 pm	14 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	15 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am BackPack to follow Piecemakers Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	16	17	18 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
19 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am Revisioning Mtg 6:00 pm	20 “Good Grief” – Grief Group 6 pm IronMen 6:00 pm	21 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	22 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am BackPack to follow Piecemakers Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	23	24	25 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
26 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am *Dinner Church* 6:00 pm	27 “Good Grief” – Grief Group 6 pm IronMen 6:00 pm	28 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	29 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am BackPack to follow Piecemakers Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	30	31	

