

# FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

s this finally the year? Is this the year your resolution will finally stick? Or did you resolve years ago to never make another New Year's resolution again? If that's you, can you see the irony that you have probably never broken that resolution?

Do you know what is more reliable than a resolution to make ourselves change? It comes with a guarantee of 100% results every time! The answer is:

### The promises of God!!!

God promises that as we put our faith in Jesus, believing He died for our sins and rose again, He will make us NEW! We will have a new heart! We will be a new creation! We will change and grow as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We will become a beacon of light in this dark world as we share the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) with those we meet and encounter.

There is no resolution we can make that would bring this kind of transformation and lasting change in our lives; they fail with too great a frequency. But God can and will fulfill His promises to us, making us new. This newness of life is a gift of grace to us, offered freely for all who will receive it.

Even the seasoned saints of God are being continually transformed as God sanctifies us through and through. I am thankful that I do not need to rely on a resolution that fails, but I can trust in the promises of God, knowing that the good work He began in me, He will carry it on to completion!

May your life this New Year be overflowing with the promises of God in your life as you follow Him!

~Pastor Kym Slater

## **Church Events**

- Jan. 4 Liberty Quartet
- Jan. 5 Upward Season Starts!
- Jan. 7 Lunch Bunch; Solo Mamas Closet; Wed. Night Ministry starts again
- Jan. 9-11 Sr. High Retreat
- Jan. 10 Men's Breakfast
- Jan. 11 House of Prayer;
   Kids' Dept. Training
- Jan. 15 Book Club
- Jan. 16 Ladies' Bunco Night
- Jan. 18 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- Jan. 20 50-UP Fellowship
- Jan. 21 Board Meeting
- Jan. 25 Membership Class
- Jan. 30-31 Upward Picture Day

# Look what's happening...

Liberty Quartet in concert! Sunday, Jan. 4 @ 6pm Join us for this fun night of Southern Gospel music! We will be taking a Love Offering to support their ministry. Please make gifts out to "Liberty Quartet".

Lunch Bunch Jan. 7th @ 11:45am - All women (young, old, single, married) are invited for this fun time of fellowship. Bring a sack lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall. Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

50-UP Fellowship Jan. 20th @ 5:45pm - Entertainment this month will be a Surprise! The meal will be Homemade Soup. Please sign-up at the Event Table to bring a pot of soup, or bread. Also signup if you need a ride.

Novel Ideas & Slice of Life Book Club - Thursday, Jan. 15 @ 6:30pm. Join us for lively discussion and friendly fellowship. We are reading the book "Centennial" by James Mitchener. Text Mimi Eshelman @ 208-250-7496 if you would like to attend. They meet in Room 106.

NYC26 Teen Fundraiser! - Friday nights and Saturday mornings starting January 16. The teens will be hosting concessions at our Upward Basketball games this year. Swing by and grab a breakfast burrito, cup of coffee, donut and snack! All proceeds from the sales go towards the teens earning money for NYC26.

Also...as soon as it snows we have teens on standby to shovel your driveways and sidewalks. Contact KayLynn Pentecost to arrange some teen workers (by donation).

Men's Fellowship Breakfast ~ Saturday, Jan. 10 @ 8am All men are invited for a yummy breakfast and time of fellowship. A special speaker will bring a devotion from the Word.

<u>Ladies' Ministry Bunco Night</u> - Friday, Jan. 16 @ 7pm Join us in the Teen Center for a fun night of Bunco. Please bring your favorite snack to share.

**Sr. High Winter Retreat** - January 9-11 in Donnelly, ID Pray for the students and sponsors headed to Winter Retreat, that they would be refreshed, have fun and draw close as a group. If your 9th-12th grader would like to attend, contact Nathan Diaz ASAP.

2025 Contribution Statements - Statements will be emailed to the address we have on file by the end of January for donors having given a single gift of \$500 or more in 2025. If you need a printed copy of your statement or if you don't see it in your email, please contact Amy in the church office.

New Sunday Night Class - Starting Sunday, January 18th, 5:30pm-7pm (8 weeks)

We all desire sexual integrity, whether it's for ourselves or for others. But we struggle with knowing where to start. Pure Desire Ministries knows how hopeless this can feel. That's why they've created the solution: The Sexual Integrity 101 video course! This 8-week video training is for men, women, students, pastors, lay leaders, parents, and more. It's for anyone who wants to be better informed about this topic or find freedom from the effects of unwanted sexual behaviors and betrayal. This course will show how shame and grace affect the healing process, give understanding about addiction and betrayal trauma, and get you started on the path to sexual health. If you are or ever have been married or someday want to be married, you should attend this course. Sign-up for the class & childcare is available at the Event Table or online. Please reach out to Pastor Kym if you have any questions. Optional workbooks will be available in class for \$20.

Kids' Dept. Training ~ Sunday, Jan. 11 @ 12:15pm - The Reach Hurting Kids Workshop is a four part video-based workshop for volunteers to have the tools to help kids affected by trauma. Lunch and childcare are provided.

Anyone who volunteers with children in any department (and parents!) is encouraged to attend! Please sign up with the QR code so we know how many people to expect.

Sessions will be quarterly.

Membership Class - Sunday, Jan. 25th @ 12:15pm

Would you like to learn more about the Church of the Nazarene and becoming a member at Bethel? Join Pastor Derek for this class. Lunch is provided and childcare is available for kids birth to Kindergarten. Signup at the Event Table so we can provide enough food.

Bethel Brew ~ January spotlight ministry will be Lifeline Pregnancy Center. Lifeline is a local resource center that helps women (& men) facing unplanned pregnancies with education and emotional support. All proceeds from the stand will go to Lifeline during January. We are hopeful to be open all 4 Sundays!

#### Celebrate Recovery ~ A New Year has begun!

We are starting with Lesson 1 on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. Denial ~ "a self-protecting behavior that keeps us from honestly facing the truth". And Principle 1 "Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable." Come find help for your hurts, habits and hang-ups every Thursday night at 6:30pm. Light dinner is served at 6pm.