



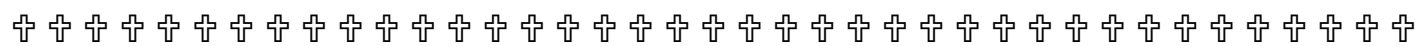
New Sermon Series for a New Year
January 11 – February 15, 2026

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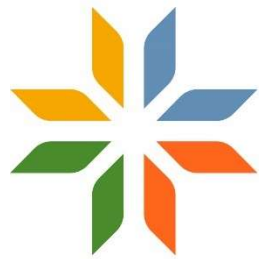
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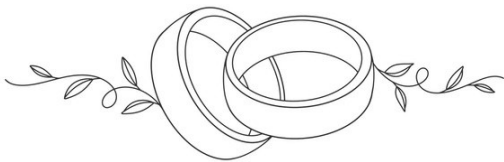
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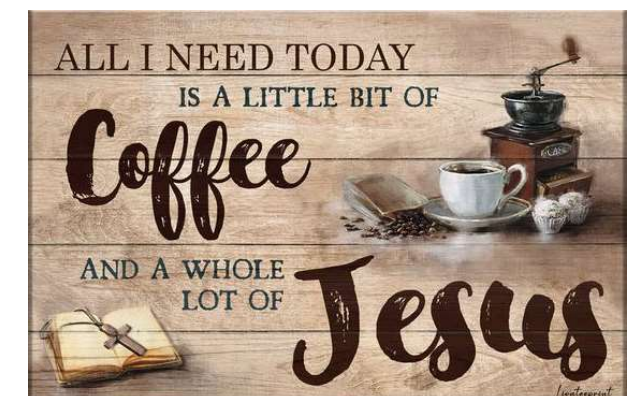


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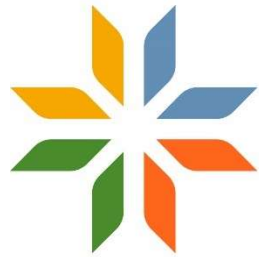
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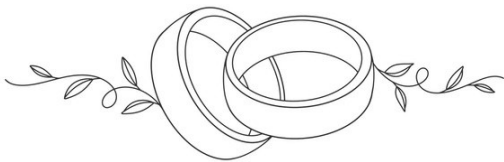
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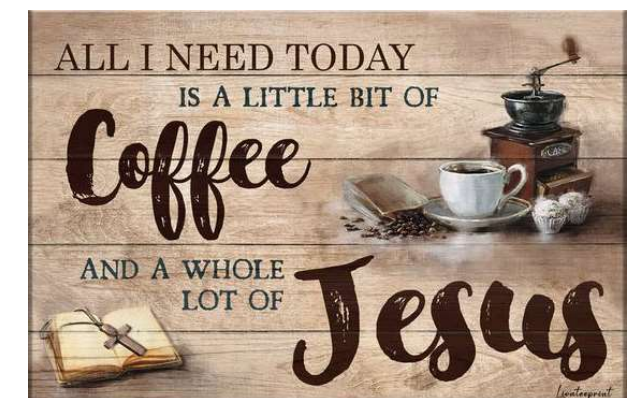


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Rev. Bill L. Wiggs, Jr. - Directing Pastor

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



Kid's Korner



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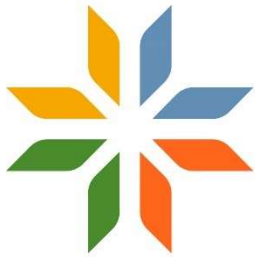
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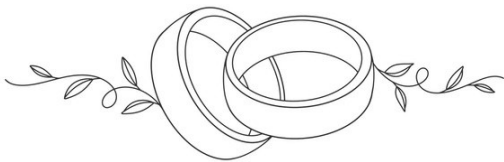
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Becky



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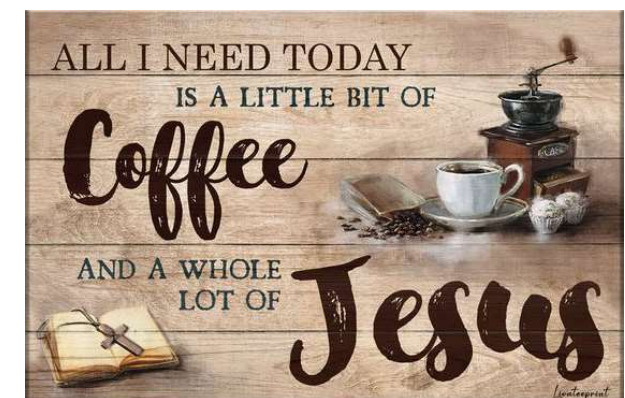


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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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But following Jesus has never been a private journey. From the very beginning, Christ formed a community and sent them into the world. As we grow as disciples, we are also called outward, toward our neighbors, our community, and all those who are longing for hope, healing, and belonging. The light Christ places within us is meant to shine, not only within the walls of the church, but in the ordinary places of everyday life.

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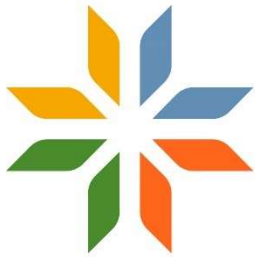
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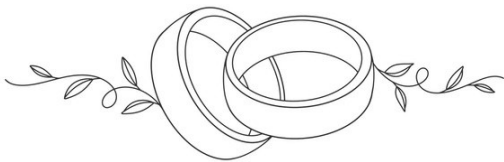
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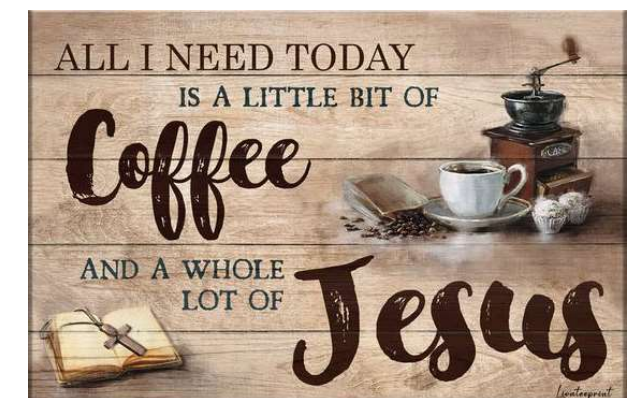


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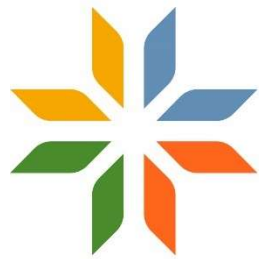
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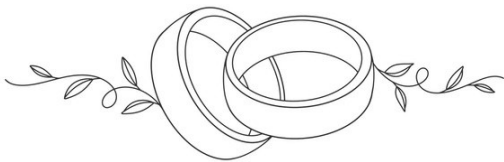
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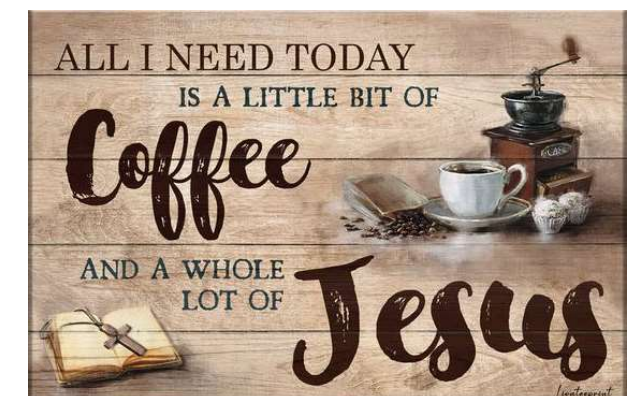


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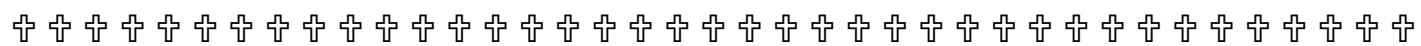
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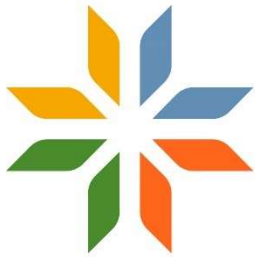
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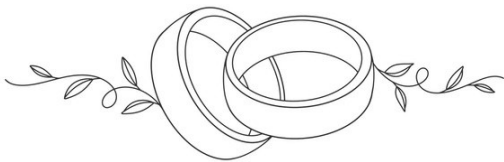
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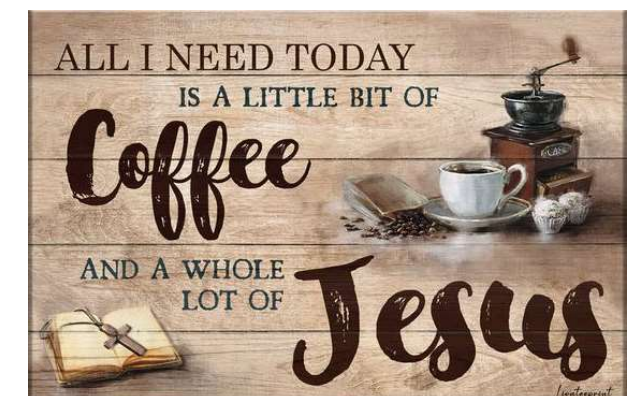


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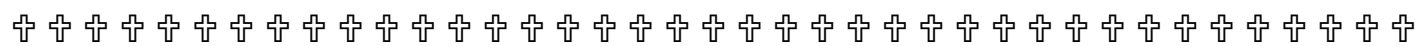
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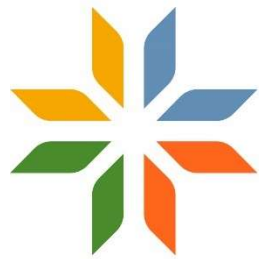
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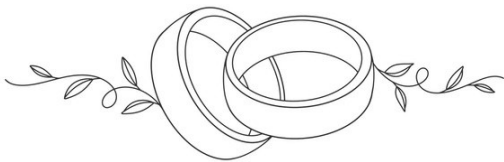
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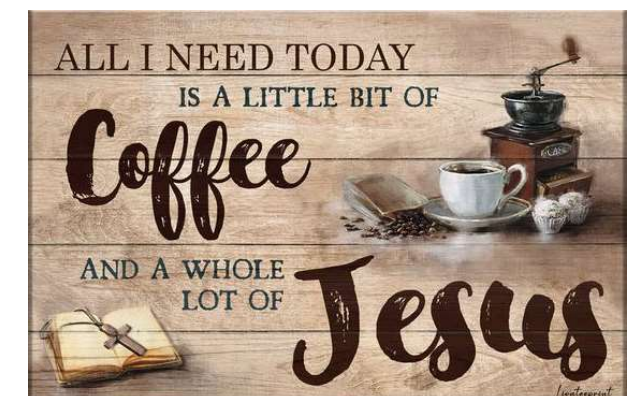


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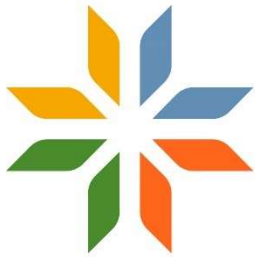
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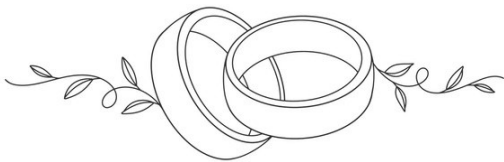
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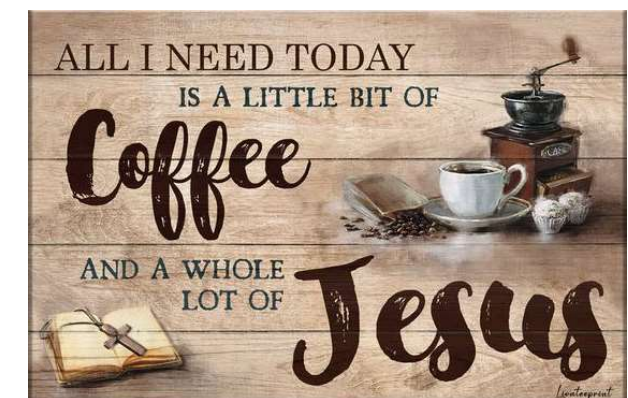


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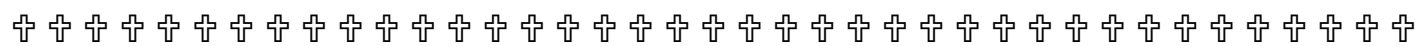
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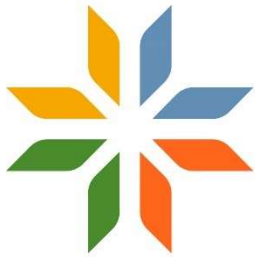
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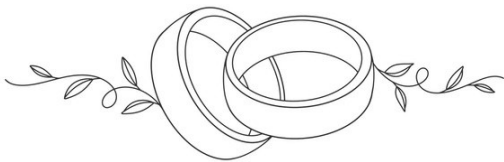
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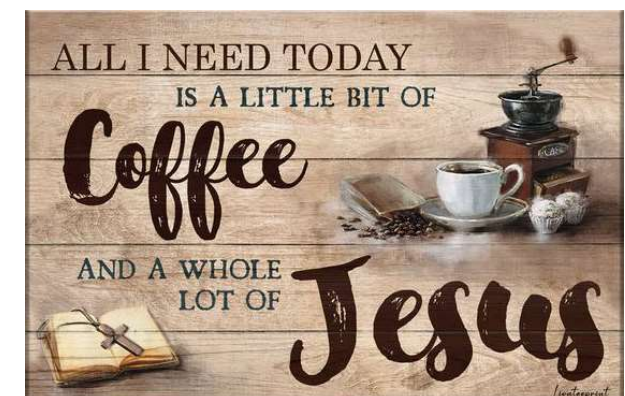


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Rev. Bill L. Wiggs, Jr. - Directing Pastor

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



Kid's Korner



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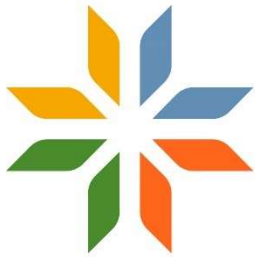
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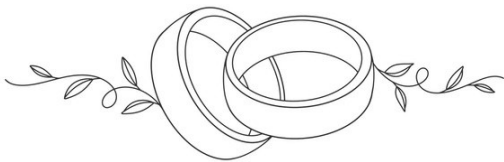
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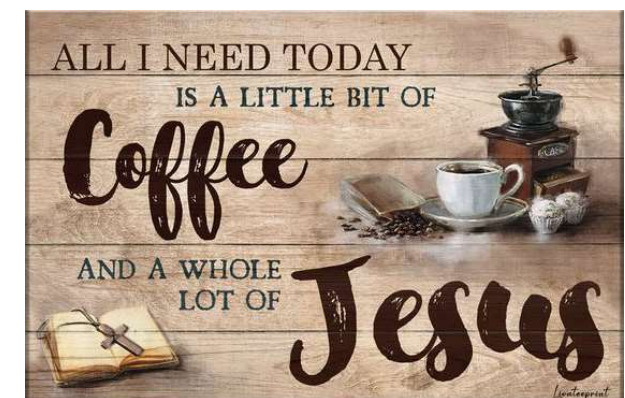


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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A new year is before us, and with it comes the gift of a fresh beginning. January has a way of inviting reflection, not only on where we have been, but on who God is calling us to become. As we step into this new year together, I find my heart drawn not to grand resolutions, but to a simple and faithful question: *What does it mean for us to walk with Jesus, today, together?*

At its heart, the Christian life is not complicated. Jesus did not call us to master a system, but to follow a Savior. Day by day, step by step, we are invited into a living relationship with Christ that shapes how we pray, how we speak, how we love, and how we serve. Discipleship is not something we complete; it is a lifelong journey of being formed into the likeness of Jesus.

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But following Jesus has never been a private journey. From the very beginning, Christ formed a community and sent them into the world. As we grow as disciples, we are also called outward, toward our neighbors, our community, and all those who are longing for hope, healing, and belonging. The light Christ places within us is meant to shine, not only within the walls of the church, but in the ordinary places of everyday life.

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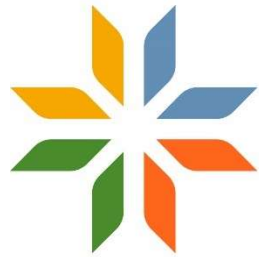
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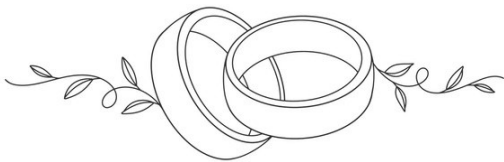
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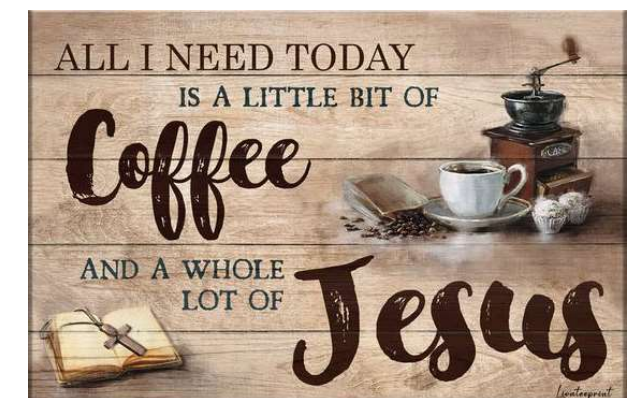


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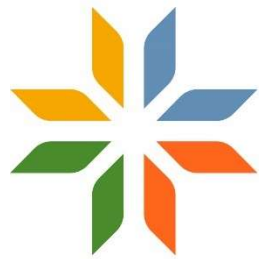
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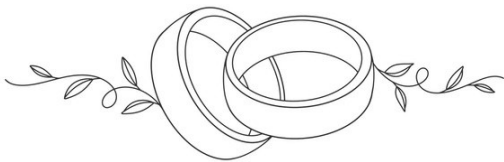
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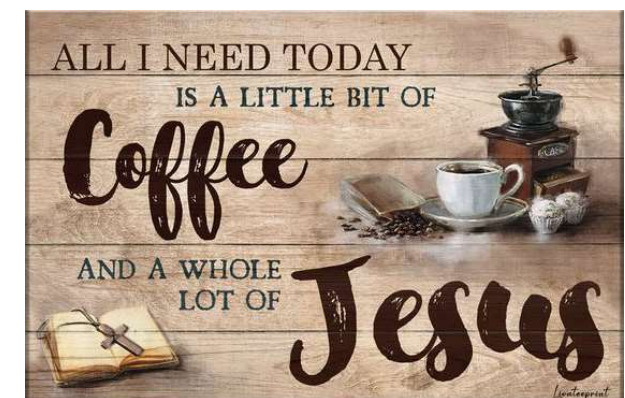


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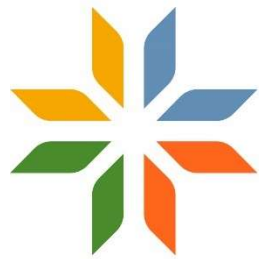
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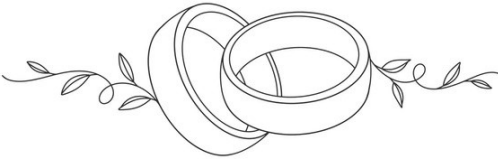
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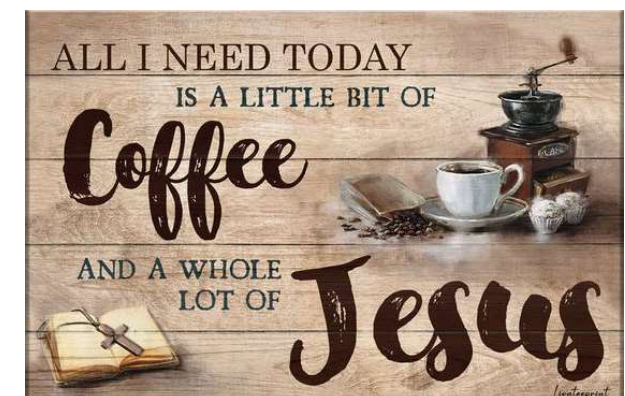


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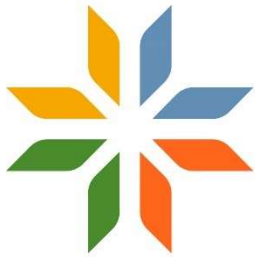
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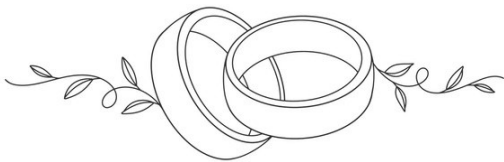
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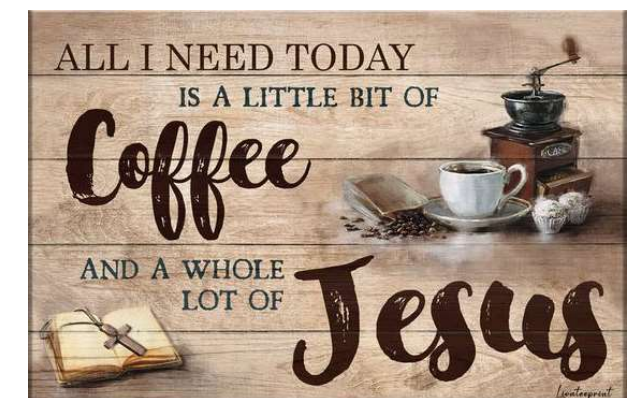


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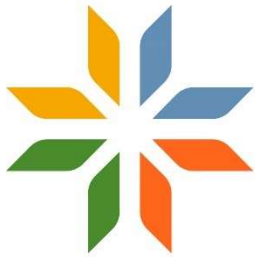
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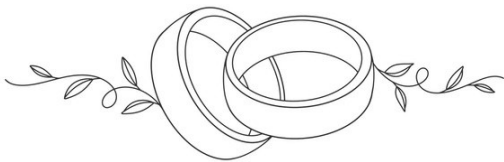
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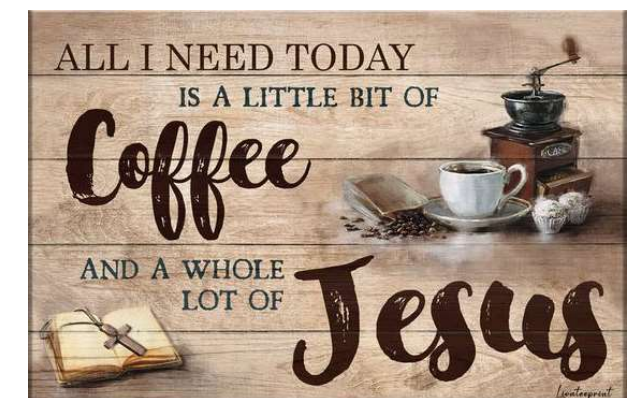


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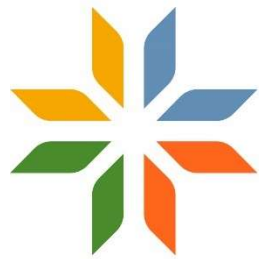
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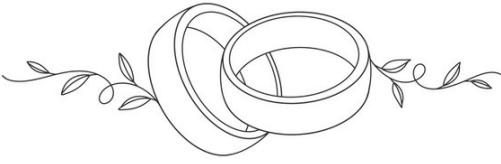
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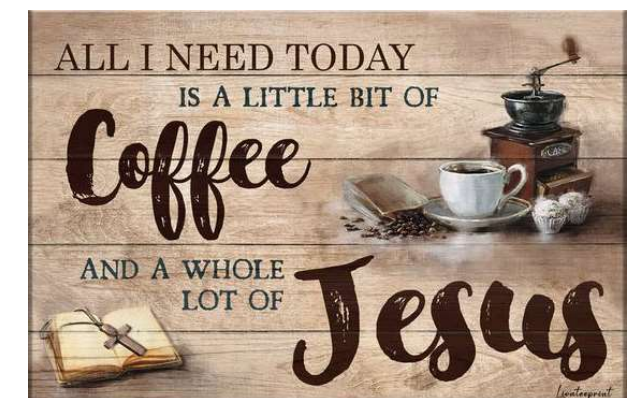


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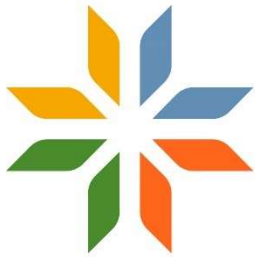
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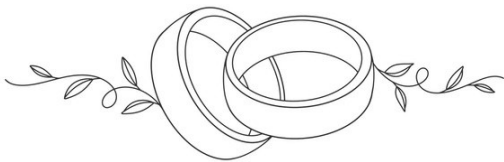
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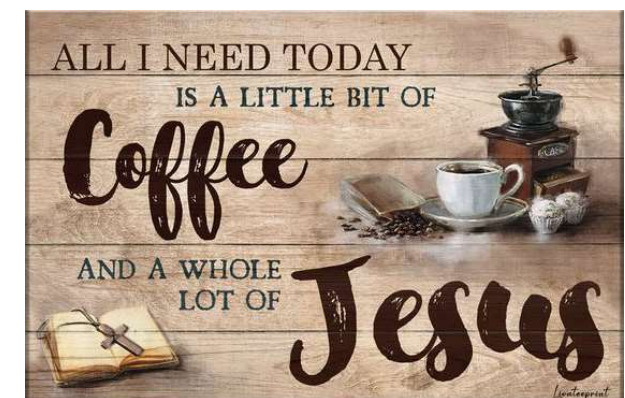


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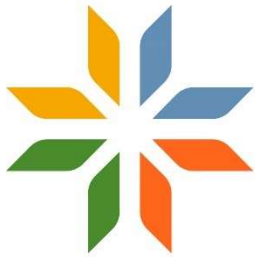
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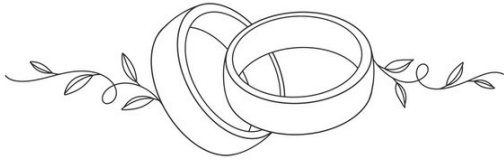
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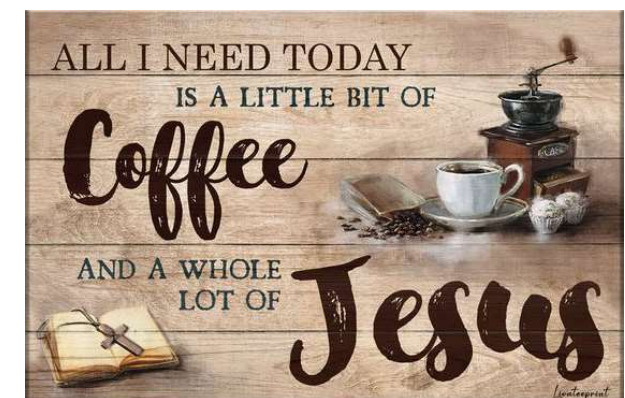


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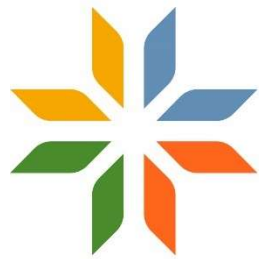
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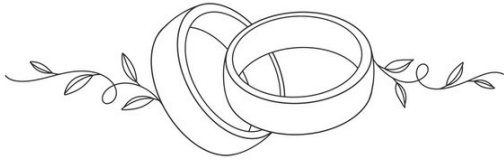
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Thank you, also, for the lovely gifts you shared with me. I look forward to another full season with you! Choir practice will stay on Wednesday evenings in the new year. If you would like to join us, there's always room for more people making a joyful noise together!

Becky



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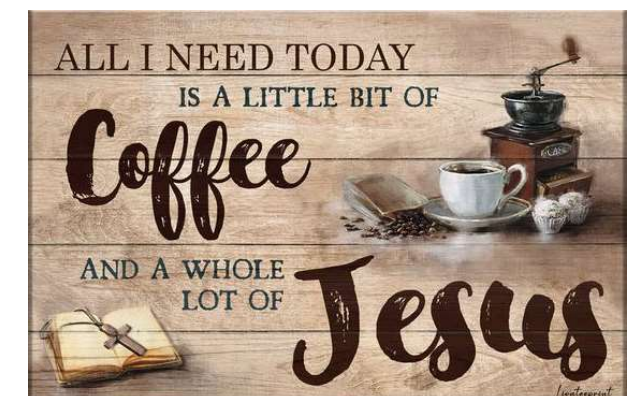


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January, 2026

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New Sermon Series for a New Year
January 11 – February 15, 2026

As we begin a new year, we turn not to abstract ideas but to living stories. Scripture reminds us that faith is not formed in perfect people, but in ordinary people whose lives are held, steadily and faithfully, in God's hands. From Abraham's first step into the unknown to David's prayer of repentance and restoration, these six stories show us a God who calls, wrestles, sustains, hears, steadies, and restores His people. As we listen again to these familiar accounts, we discover that the same faithful God who shaped them is still at work shaping us today.



And remember ... Christmas isn't over yet! It only BEGAN on December 25th. The Wise Men are still travelling! The Church celebrates Christmas for twelve joyful days, through Epiphany, January 6th, when we celebrate the Magi's visit to the Christ Child. Christmas sometimes feels overwhelming. But that's not how it has to be. Let yourself continue the celebration a while longer! Keep your decorations up. Let the joy continue in your heart and in your home.

Invite others to join you as you continue to seek Christ. The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to make Church attendance a priority. Let's see if each of us can reach someone during 2026, to let them have the joy of knowing our Lord and Savior, with an added bonus of more people in our pews worshipping together.



Prayer List



Joys And Concerns: Diana Bailey, Aaron Brush, Dave Culbertson, Rev. John Davis, Mike Delp, Gail Glick, Darrell Kirby, Molly Macke, Tiffany Macke, Candy Painter, the family of Jane Illyes Peterson, Joyce Smithson, Sharon Welliver, Karen Wheat

Our Church and her leaders:

Marshall First UMC
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
Our District Superintendent, Sarah Isbell

Pastor Bill
Bishop David A Bard
Connie Wieck and other Missionaries

Our Military Personnel:

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard	Michael Holmes	John Kuhn
Shelby Sanborn	Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney	

Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and our Armed Forces

Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents

Phyllis Boatright	Gordon & Carolyn Clark	Violet Cook
Dan Flowers	Sharon Miller	



From the Pastor's Desk

Grace, peace, and hope to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to follow Him and promises to walk with us every step of the way.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A new year is before us, and with it comes the gift of a fresh beginning. January has a way of inviting reflection, not only on where we have been, but on who God is calling us to become. As we step into this new year together, I find my heart drawn not to grand resolutions, but to a simple and faithful question: *What does it mean for us to walk with Jesus, today, together?*

At its heart, the Christian life is not complicated. Jesus did not call us to master a system, but to follow a Savior. Day by day, step by step, we are invited into a living relationship with Christ that shapes how we pray, how we speak, how we love, and how we serve. Discipleship is not something we complete; it is a lifelong journey of being formed into the likeness of Jesus.

As a church, this year calls us to be intentional about that journey. To remain rooted in Scripture. To be faithful in prayer. To gather regularly in worship and fellowship. And to allow the Holy Spirit to keep shaping our hearts so that our lives reflect the grace we have received in Christ. These practices do not exist for their own sake; they exist so that we may grow deeper in faith and more attentive to the voice of our Shepherd.

But following Jesus has never been a private journey. From the very beginning, Christ formed a community and sent them into the world. As we grow as disciples, we are also called outward, toward our neighbors, our community, and all those who are longing for hope, healing, and belonging. The light Christ places within us is meant to shine, not only within the walls of the church, but in the ordinary places of everyday life.

This year, I encourage you to ask yourself: *Who is God placing in my path? Where is He inviting me to serve, to listen, to love, or to speak a word of hope?* Outreach does not always look dramatic. Often it is found in quiet faithfulness, showing kindness, offering prayer, extending grace, and living in a way that points others to Christ.

As we begin this new year, my prayer is that we will be a people who walk closely with Jesus and walk faithfully with one another. A people grounded in His Word, guided by His Spirit, and committed to His mission. We do not know all that this year will hold, but we know the One who holds us. And that is enough. May this year be marked not by hurry, fear, or distraction, but by steady faithfulness. May we grow deeper in discipleship and wider in love. And may God use us, together, for the sake of His Kingdom and the blessing of the world He loves.

Walking with you into the new year,
following Christ together,

Pastor Bill

A Publication of Marshall First United Methodist Church

702 Plum St, Marshall, IL 62441

Rev. Bill L. Wiggs, Jr. - Directing Pastor

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



Kid's Korner



Happy New Year church family! December was a delightful whirlwind of Christmas joy. Our kids participated in lots of Christmas activities. They were elves on the Christmas float- thanks so much to Amy and Paul Cannady, Sarah Brannon, Shannon Snedeker, and Charlie Moore for helping with the float.

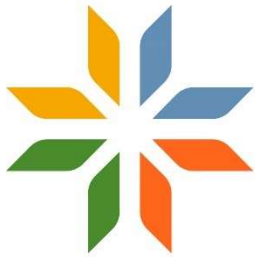
Four 'new' KFC kids have joined us! Our lessons, crafts, and snacks in December were all Christmasy. We ended KFC 2025 with a party and our monthly family dinner. We will start back up again on Jan. 7.

The YF kids helped pack bags for Summer Lunch Christmas delivery. They along with some younger kids went Christmas caroling and enjoyed a light supper.

Thank you to everyone who helps with Power Lunch!!! It takes lots of food and lots of hands to feed 70+ high school kids every week. The kids are very appreciative and just really enjoy coming.

Stay warm!

Belly



United Women in Faith

Our Circles are not meeting as usual in January, but these events are worth noting:

Sisters in Faith is having a dinner out on 1/29 Thursday at 6:00 pm (central) at The Terminal (instead of our regular meeting).

Our church's day to work at the Thrift Shop is 1/17 between 8:00 am and noon.

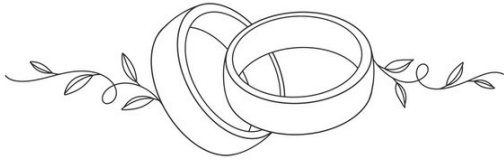
Food disbursement is on 1/27 from 1:30-4:30 pm.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries:



Joyce Gwyn	January 04
Carrol Ellington	January 04
Hunter Lovstad	January 06
Gale Titus	January 08
Jennifer Welliver	January 09
Larry (Butch) Woodard	January 09
Milo Claypool	January 10
Chris Macke	January 11
Connie Wieck	January 12
Pastor Bill Wiggs	January 13
Owen Ramsey	January 14
Nancy Claypool	January 17
Laura Irwin	January 18
Amy Daugherty	January 20
Paula Ross	January 25
Nathaniel Macke	January 26
Keith Lindgren	January 28
Candace Sanzenbacker	January 28
Jackie Titus	January 30
Lisa Welsh	January 31



Dustin & Jenna Morey	January 21
John & Patty Macke	January 29

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

from The Joyful Noiseletter
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Looking at it like Dolly, even in January winter weather, if you focus, you just may hear God whispering to you.

January Volunteers

Greeters Lisa & Jack Davidson

Ushers Ken Macke, Paul Cannady,
and Rick Manuell

Lobby Watch 4th
11th Jim Arthur
18th
25th

Counters Bev Smith and Carrol Ellington

Liturgist Nancy Claypool

Nursery 4th Danielle & Liberty Cline
11th Jenna Morey
18th Nancy & Ken Claypool
25th Janey Eitel & Lindsay Welsh

New volunteer sheets are in the Welcome Center! Please prayerfully consider how YOU can help serve alongside your church family.



Mission of the Month for January - Church World Service Blankets

It is time for our annual CWS blanket mission giving. Remember those gray and yellow blankets that we display every year? Those blankets are distributed to displaced families worldwide by CWS, a unified inter-denominational organization. They provide warmth as well as shelter for many who are suffering from the effects of disasters such as fires, wind storms, floods, wars and other extreme events throughout the year.

A donation of ten dollars will purchase a blanket. You can place your blanket money in the pew envelopes in the collection plate or hand in at the church office. Be sure you indicate CWS blankets in the memo line on your checks or envelopes. But why stop at one ? You can sponsor as many blankets as you wish. They represent Christians worldwide who respond to the sufferings of others in a positive way by bringing a message of caring and love. Please help CWS in this annual blanket asking.



Sleeping Mat Update: We made 20 during 2025! Since beginning this project in November of 2023, our goal has been to finish 1 each month, and we almost doubled it this year! Join us to weave during 2026, and let's see how many we can do. Keep the bag donations coming, and if you'd like to help us add some color, Amazon does have colorful shopping bags in bulk that we can add to our regular grocery store bags.



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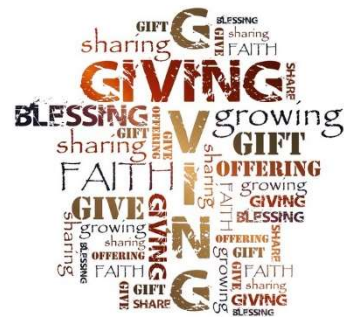
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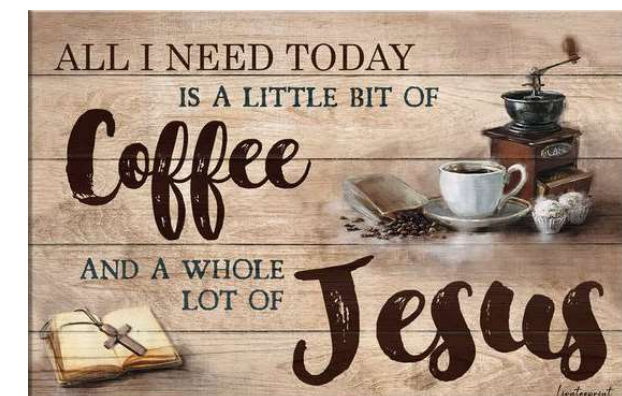


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