

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Are you making any New Year's Resolutions for 2026? Statistics suggest that millions and millions of Americans will make resolutions, most of which will deal with improving physical health - things like exercising more, eating healthier, and losing weight. But you know what I rarely hear people making resolutions about? Their spiritual lives.

That's not because people don't want to become more like Christ - just about everybody I know at our church would say, "Sure, I want to be more like Jesus." But the truth is, we don't become more like Jesus accidentally. Just like eating healthier and losing weight, becoming more like Jesus only happens when we make intentional decisions that will help us follow him more deeply.

This winter, we're encouraging our church family to make a "spiritual resolution" for 2026. A resolution that will help you grow into a deeper disciple of Jesus Christ. In the fall, I preached on three steps of discipleship: knowing Christ as king, growing in your relationship with him, and going where Christ sends you. Think about your own relationship with Jesus right now. If you were to prioritize one of those three aspects of discipleship for growth - knowing, growing, and going - which would it be?

I hope you'll pray about that this month - and consider what God may be calling you to do. Just like a resolution to exercise means adjusting your calendar to make room to work out, what adjustments to your calendar might you make to grow deeper as a disciple of Jesus? If it's knowing Jesus as king, maybe you can think of areas of your life that you'd like to allow Jesus to speak into. If it's growing deeper in your relationship with him, perhaps you'll want to join a new Sunday School class or a group with others trying to go deeper, too. If it's going where Christ sends you, perhaps you'll look for ways where you can regularly serve.

Whatever it is you feel God calling you to do to prioritize your relationship with him in 2026, I hope you'll acknowledge it. Because that's the first step to growth. Nobody accidentally becomes a disciple of Jesus. It comes with intentionality, discipline, and an openness to what God may do in your life. At Goochland Baptist Church, know that we'll support you the best we can, as we journey together to make things "on earth, as [they are] in heaven."



PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email office@goochlandchurch.org



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email office@goochlandchurch.org

Address:

2454 Manakin Road Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Church Office:

804-749-3522

Email:

office@goochlandchurch.org

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

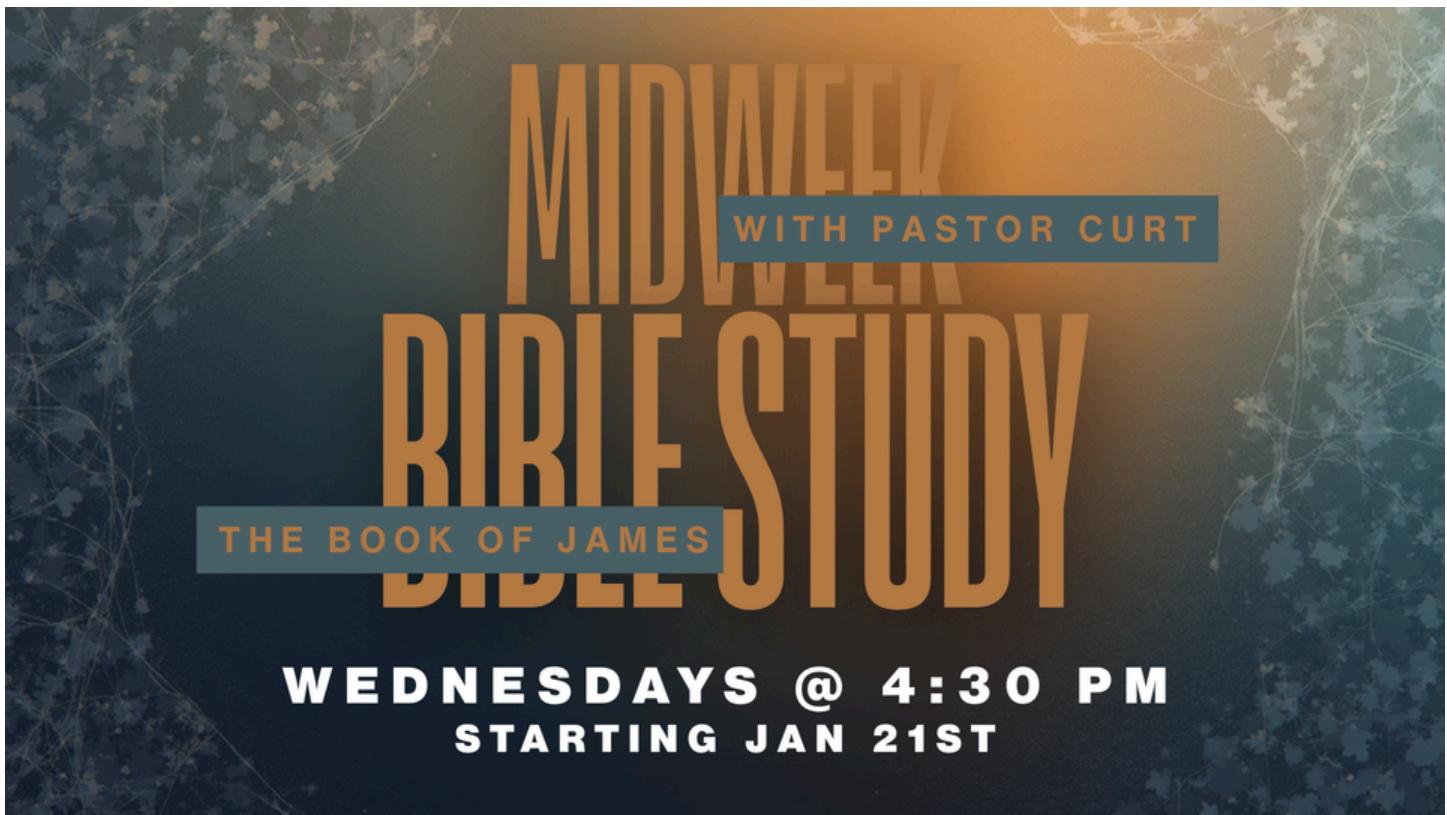
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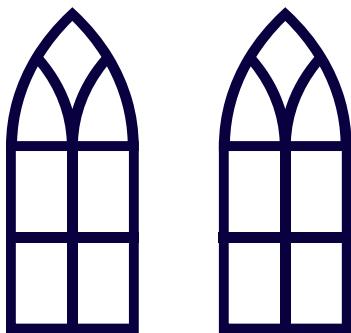
GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Pastor

curt@goochlandchurch.org





**Join a GBC
Sunday School
class this
Winter!
Sundays @
10:30 am**

**Questions?
Contact Sharon
Condrey**

Adult Winter 2026 Classes

Fellowship Class - Co-Ed Intergenerational

Leaders: Jessica Stanley & Rev. David Angel

Jan/Feb Study Material: Variety of resources (books, music, history, pop culture) alongside Scripture

Seekers Class - Co-Ed Intergenerational

Leader: Rev. Kevin James & Justin Lingerfelt

Jan/Feb Study Material: "Taking Every Thought Captive" by Kyle Idleman

Open Class - Co-Ed Intergenerational

Leaders: Lynn Hayes

Jan Study Material: Smyth & Helwys series "Thus Says the Lord"

Feb Study Material: Smyth & Helwys series "Object Lessons"

Bible Study Class - Co-Ed Intergenerational

Leader: Wayne Melton

Jan/Feb Study Material: Verse-by-Verse Bible Study: Ephesians

Senior Adults Class - Co-Ed Senior Adults

Leader: John Webb

Jan/Feb Study Material: Lifeway: Bible Studies for Life Series - "Limited Resources, Limitless God" (6 Sessions) ; "Sharing Jesus in a Post-Christian World" (6 Sessions) ; "Compelled to Act" (Special Focus Sunday)

Agape Class - Women's Intergenerational

Leader: Gwen Padgett

Jan/Feb Study Material: "The Rise and Fall of Solomon" by John MacArthur



Children ages 5 yrs - 5th Grade are welcome to join us in the Cove for a time of bible stories, activities and prayer time following Pastor Curt's Children's Sermon each Sunday.

Children Sunday School Classes @ 10:30 am

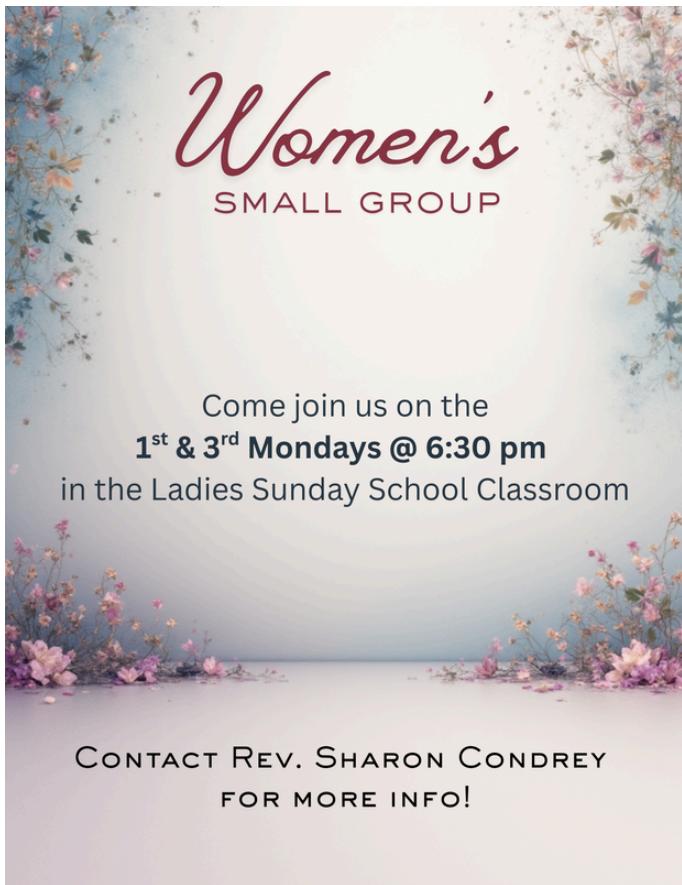


Older Children (2nd -5th Grade)

Younger Children (4yrs - 1st Grade)

Toddlers (2 & 3 yrs)

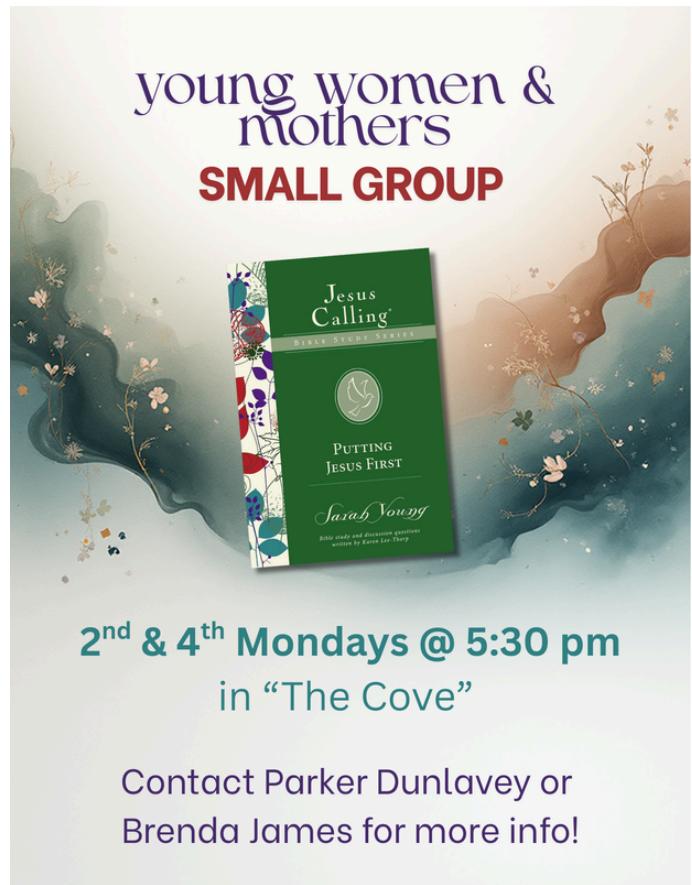
Infants



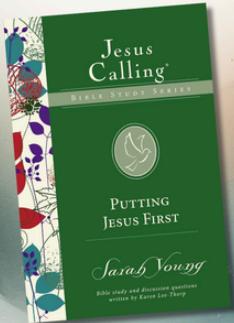
**Women's
SMALL GROUP**

Come join us on the
1st & 3rd Mondays @ 6:30 pm
in the Ladies Sunday School Classroom

CONTACT REV. SHARON CONDREY
FOR MORE INFO!



**young women &
mothers
SMALL GROUP**



2nd & 4th Mondays @ 5:30 pm
in "The Cove"

Contact Parker Dunlavey or
Brenda James for more info!



GOOCHLAND COUNTY
FOOD DRIVE
for the GoochlandCares Food Pantry

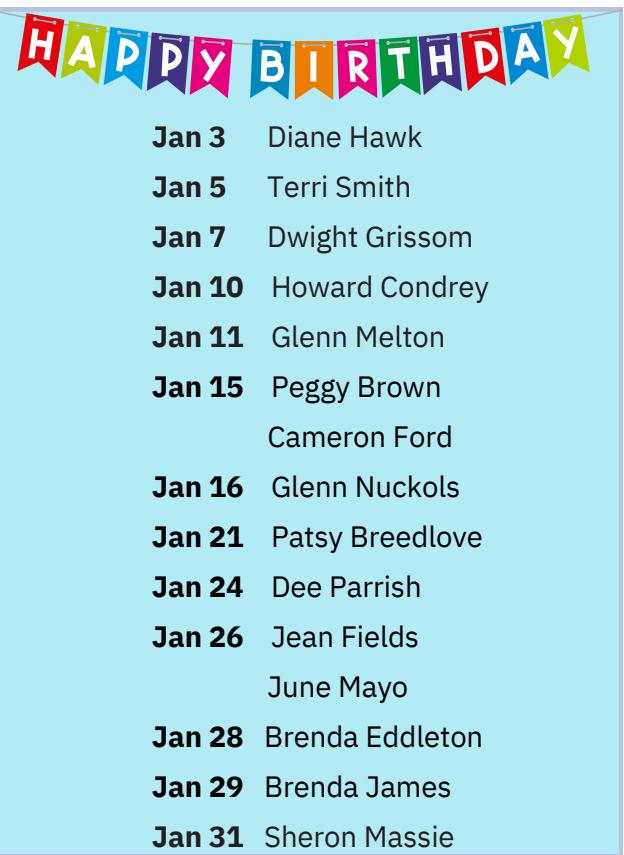


GOOCHLAND CARES
Free Clinic and Family Services

**679 lbs.
THANK YOU!**

GBC collected 679 lbs of food for the
GoochlandCares Food Drive in November.
Thank you for making a difference
in your community!

JANUARY 2026



GOOCHLAND CARES
Free Clinic and Family Services

Jan Volunteer Day:
Saturday, Jan 24th
@ 8am - 10:30am

Contact Shannon Wilson,
shannonwilson3@mac.com

January Sunday Serving Schedule

GREETERS

JAN 4 Gale Chaisson & Jim Fields
JAN 11 Emma Arnold & Diane Proctor
JAN 18 Lois & Dwight Grissom
JAN 25 Lynn & Ed Hayes

USHERS

JAN 4 James Melton, David Denton, Hope Webb & Jim Fields
JAN 11 Wayne Melton, Diane Proctor & Karen Evans
JAN 18 John Webb, Brian Miller & Tyler Gill
JAN 25 Gwen Padgett, Jean Fields & Gerry Nuckles

“New Year’s Resolutions”

By: Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

A devotion shared by Carla Yuen

“I never make New Year’s Resolutions, anymore,” the man told me, “I never keep them, anyway.” I can remember all too many resolutions I’ve made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year’s resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Something we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I’ve heard people who say, “I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I’d do it the same way again.” But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I’m concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: “Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns” (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you’ll be. But some of us are stupid enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by star thistle without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness. Call it stupidity.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much “unplowed ground” do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year’s is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan, the old saw goes, then we plan to fail. If you’re so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you’re not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. “Forgetting what is behind,” he wrote, “and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn’t let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year’s is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I’ve met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God’s help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength,” he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God’s strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn’t practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year’s resolution. In fact, why don’t you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: “Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me.” Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you’d like to see. And close this way: “Lord Jesus, I know that I’m going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen.” Good. Now you’ve got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.



JANUARY 2026

“The Gift of Jesus” play at GBC

Thanks to everyone who organized, attended, and starred in our Christmas play.
What a wonderful way to kick off the Advent season with our church family.



GBC Youth Christmas Party

Our youth had a great time going to see “David” at the movie theater, stopping by Sweet Frog for a treat, and packing goodie bags for the CARITAS Women.



YWM Group Christmas Gathering

Our Young Women & Mother’s Group held a Christmas Gathering where they enjoyed food, fellowship, cookie decorating, and sponsoring/wrapping gifts for a local family.



**There will be NO January
Joy Club, we hope to see you
in February.
Stay tuned for updates!**



**Thursday 1/8 @ 11:30 am
Olive Garden in Short Pump**

**Bus will leave GBC @
11:00am**

TO RSVP for these events please call John Webb at 804-334-9270.

www.goochlandchurch.org/senior-adults

JANUARY 2026 PRAYER REQUESTS

Pat Alvis – health concerns

Hunter Bailey – Recovering after the first round of cancer treatment while celebrating the birth of their second child, Preston Blaine Bailey

Allen Bowles -- at home

Gale Chaisson – health issues

Eva Childress – recovering from blood clots on her lungs; back at home now on a regimen of blood thinners

William Hicks – recovering well after stroke

Scott Hobson -- has multiple myeloma

Judy Johnson – in memory care facility

Connie Jones -- heart and lung issues

June Mayo – recovering from shoulder surgery

Ellen Melton – recovering after 12/22 surgery

Hazel Melton -- recovering from stroke at home

Morris and Audrey Nuckles – Audrey is recovering from her knee replacement. Morris still has foot issues.

Vicky Parrish – has moved to Commonwealth Senior Living

Diane Proctor - got a good report after her PET scan

Lee Proffitt – returned to St. Mary's Woods

David Purcell – ongoing health issues

Amy Richardson (Gwen Padgett's aunt) - Recent lab results were very positive. Pray that everything remains stable and Amy can remain off chemo.

Phyllis Toney – at home

Ed Howland (John Webb's friend who provided the BBQ

dinner for our Fall Renewal) - had a large brain tumor removed and is now undergoing laser gamma treatment

Ella Hubbard and William Rose (Mike Nicholas' friends in Reedsdale, VA)

Linda Kellum (Rebecca Michels' Mom) – aging in place at home

Sherry Kittelson (Kitt Townsends' sister-in-law) – undergoing treatment for cancer

William Martel (13 year old friend of Garrett Webb, son of Andy and Kristi from King William County) – diagnosed last week with a fast-growing brain tumor and afterward lost vision in his left eye

Freida Moore (David Denton's sister) – diagnosed with stomach cancer, and perhaps lung cancer, too

Bruce Purcell (David Purcell's brother in Florida) – AFib and fluid issues related to heart

Neal Purcell (David Purcell's brother) – health issues

Jay Ramsey (William and Lila Hicks' son-in-law) -- thankful that the cancerous spot on spine is tiny! Doctors want to watch it for the time being.

John Rivera (Daisy Purcell's brother-in-law) – undergoing leukemia treatments

Mary Rivera (Daisy Purcell's sister) – health issues

Diana Shelburne – pulmonary issues

Mary Anne and Lawson Smith (Gwen Padgett's cousin and her husband) – have just given up their car for their health and request prayers that their health would improve.

Terry Stalls (brother of Ken Stalls) - seriously ill with an incurable respiratory illness

Peggy Tinsley (sister of Brenda Allen) – health concerns

Tyler Trice (friend of Ray Waldrop) – health concerns

Mark Troy (former GBC member) – diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). His address is PO Box 159, Barren Springs, Virginia 24313

Family & Friends of GBC Members

John Bartlett - Linda Moore's brother

Julia Beaver (friend of Janet Myers) -- has Crohn's Disease and significant weight loss

Slavia Brown (wife of Robert Townsend's business partner) – recovering from stroke

Ed Chaisson (Bill Chaisson's brother in Maryland) – diagnosed with a form of dementia

Melody Cox (daughter of Juanita Mack) – health concerns

Lonnie Denton (David Denton's brother) – serious illness

Ronnie Dunlavey (friend of Clay Nuckles) – scheduled to have foot amputated on Dec 29

Jeffrey Durrett (brother of Stuart Durrett) – recovering from major heart surgery at Duke University Hospital

Jerry Fanning (friend of Willy Hall and John Webb) – health concerns

Jimmy Hauk (Karen Evans' brother-in-law) – is undergoing chemotherapy

Kimberly Ann Hill (friend of Mike Nicholas) – cancer has returned and spread to lymph nodes

Christina Holleman (John Webb's granddaughter) – Please continue to pray that Christina will maintain her range of motion as her time in physical therapy comes to an end.