

Macedonian Call

January 2022

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A Note From Pastor Randy

"These are the times that try men's souls." These words, written by Thomas Paine, first appeared in the *Pennsylvania Journal* while General George Washington's troops were encamped on the shores of the Delaware River opposite Trenton, NJ. General Washington had Paine's entire work, which contained the famous statement, read aloud to his men so that they may be inspired to press on in battle against the British army. Encouraged to fight on, Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night, December 25, 1776 and defeated the Hessians. And then, on January 2, 1777, the Colonial Army defeated the British army's best general, Earl Cornwallis, at the Battle of Princeton.¹ Although the historical and cultural context has changed, Paine's words are just as applicable today as they were during the Revolutionary War: "These are the times that try men's soul!" We are entering a new year with the cloud of COVID still hanging over us, inflation is at an almost 40 year high, violent crime is up in many major cities, businesses are struggling to stay open due to a variety of uncontrollable circumstances, jobs are available but many have no desire to work, the current president and his administration have rescinded a number of the rights meant to protect religious freedom and unborn babies, and a recitation of the things that try men's souls could go on and on. But, you get the picture! These are difficult and trying times in which we live. We could look to the words of Thomas Paine to find inspiration to press on; however, I believe we can find greater inspiration in God's words. Here are several verses which will prove helpful during this new year: Isa. 40:31; 41:10; Rom. 12:12; Gal. 6:9; James 1:2-3, 12; Phil. 4:13. I am trusting God to not only get us through this new year, but to pour His blessings out on Macedonia Baptist Church, our families and our nation. Happy New Year! ~ Pastor Randy

¹ "Thomas Paine Publishes 'The American Crisis,' 12/17/20, history.com, accessed 12/29/21.

"Re"

A prefix meaning again.

Sermon Series for January & February

Renew Refocus
Realign Rebuild
Reaffirm Recharge
Reject Reflect

A Note From Ashley

As we enter this new year that God has given us, I believe it's a great time to challenge ourselves to serve the kingdom of God. We are called to serve the kingdom of God by being the salt and light of the world (Mat. 5:13-16). We are not called to reflect our own light but that of the Light Giver. In a new age of social media that is "me" focused this can prove to be a difficult and humbling task. In order to fulfill the Great Commission (Mat. 28:16-20) and grow the Church I believe we need to look at worship, discipleship, evangelism, missions, and fellowship with a fresh perspective this year. In the upcoming months I would like to address each of these topics individually.

When we think of worship the first thing that comes to mind is music. We picture praise teams, or choirs on Sunday mornings. But in order to renew and revolutionize our relationships with Christ we have to think beyond that. Worship is not only song. Worship is the expression of our faith in Christ on a daily basis. 1 Peter 1:13-16 encapsulates this in saying, "...set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'". The first step to worshiping daily is being holy, and being the salt of the earth. Being holy centers on self-discipline and seeking the heart of God above all else. This includes prayer and opening Scripture at *least* once a day. Not once a week in Sunday school, but every day.

Romans 12:1 states, "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship..." Worship is a sacrifice. We can only delight in the Spirit of God and his truth when we are righteous in His sight. Worship Him with your life, not just your voice or by playing an instrument. True admiration to God is allowing Him to take every thought captive, and asking Him to erase the worry and doubt that creeps in. Worrying is a hindrance to daily worship, and a thief of joy. There is nothing worse than allowing the Enemy to take your moments, your day, or your month and fill them with despair. We are called to be set apart. If we want to be set apart we cannot allow the world around us to dictate our mood. We must take captive every thought, commit ourselves to righteousness, and give every moment over to Him in worship. I hope that you all have an amazing and blessed New Year, ~ Ashley



We will line the church's driveway with luminaries in memory of the more than 62.5 million babies killed in 48 years of legalized abortion in the US



A Note From Pastor Joe

Happy New Year!!! What a year 2021 has been for many of us! Would you like to take a trip down memory lane? Yeah that's what I thought. There are some things maybe we would like to forget. But most of those memories of last year, when reflected upon, will be a source of strength for the upcoming year of 2022. Let's all make a decision, no a commitment to truly live our Christ life this year. The times we did not do this in 2021 may have contributed to some of those bad memories.

Chuck Swindoll said that when he was a teenager (that was 70 years ago!) that a popular slogan of businesses that were hiring was "send us a man or woman who reads," which meant that they wanted a person who worked yes. But, they also wanted a person who was a thinker. He suggested for our day a good slogan for the church would be "send me a believer whose attitude is positive, whose heart is full of joy and whose face shouts YES!" As that type of believer we can reach our children, grandchildren, neighbor and world for Jesus Christ.

As we enter 2022, please think about the commitment to live our Christ life. We are going to help you to commit to this with plenty of activities, fellowship, discipleship and just some good ole times! Watch for your newsletters and stay informed. In Christ to the World ~ Pastor Joe

Essential Truth: Knowing Christ Personally

In this study we will talk about ... Who God is really... how to respond to Him...relating to Jesus and the Holy Spirit...life and death... freedom...faith...temptations...staying real...and what makes life worth living!

Each Wednesday at 6:30 pm
January – March 2022



January 23rd

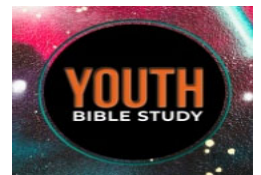
Breakfast @ 9:00 am

Men will lead Worship @ 11:00 am

JOY Ministry Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 11:00 am in the
Fellowship Hall
(Beginning Jan. 13th)



Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
Children 3 yrs. – 6th
grade



Wednesdays @
6:30 pm

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New Year!!
2 Deacon's Mtg. 8:30 am	3	4	5 Small Groups 6:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Church Council Mtg. 8:30 am Choir 5 pm	10	11	12 Small Groups 6:30 pm	13 JOY Bible Study 11am	14	15
16 Church Conf. am Choir 5 pm	17	18	19 Small Groups 6:30 pm	20 JOY Bible Study 11am	21	22 Volunteers for Luminaries Project 2:00 pm
23 Men's Day Breakfast 9am Worship 11am Choir 5 pm	24	25	26 Small Groups 6:30 pm	27 JOY Bible Study 11am	28	29
30 Choir 5 pm						