



**BEHOLD,**

I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF

**GREAT**

**JOY**

LUKE 2:10

First Church of the Brethren  
730 Church Street, Eden, NC 27288  
December 29, 2021



## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?

*Right From the Heart Ministries*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

2022. It’s the start of another new year. The old has gone (goodbye, 2021!) and the new year is here – ready or not! Can you believe it?

Like many this time of year, there’s a lot of dreaming, planning, and looking ahead. If we’re honest, most of us can recognize a few character traits or habits that we’d like to leave back in 2021. Some of us will even go so far as to attempt to modify or change things this year. And it might work – for a while. But simply changing our outward behavior is like rolling back the odometer on a car. You reduce the numbers from 200,000 to 20,000, but you still have a car with 200,000 miles on it.

When it comes to experiencing true, lasting change, we need to go deep. Thankfully, there is hope for those of us who sincerely want to change; and it all starts with surrender. Now, I know this is completely counter-intuitive. After all, every motivational speech begins with encouraging some form of a decisive act of will. Think Nike: ‘Just Do It!’ But Jesus tells us something different.

The power to truly change begins with admitting that we can't do it alone and asking for God's help.

Why? **Because lasting change comes from within and only God can truly transform us from the inside out.**

The Bible says that if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation; the old is gone and new has come. In other words, when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, we are completely transformed – changed from the inside out. So, instead of changing a few habits or polishing our outward appearance while remaining the same old person inside, Jesus offers us a spiritual heart transplant.

Are you looking for a fresh start, a new direction, or a total life change in 2022? Leave the old behind and step into the new as you walk with Jesus. Give Jesus control of your life and follow Him in faith. That, my friends, will be a change for the better. It will be a change that lasts.

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“Faith is a living and unshakable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake.”

-Martin Luther

# FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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## **Pray Without Ceasing**

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

## **Thinking of You**

Marie Priddy

## **District Prayer Request**

Pray for Harold E. “Hal” Sonafrank, who begins as pastor of the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren on January 1, 2022. Let us pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call and send out workers into fields near and far.



If you can't attend Sunday services you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

### Wishes for the new year

Faith that increaseth, walking in light;  
Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright;  
Love that is perfect, casting out fear;  
These shall insure thee a happy New Year.

Peace in the Savior, rest at his feet,  
Smile on his countenance, radiant and sweet.  
Joy in his presence, Christ ever near!  
This will insure thee a happy New Year.

-Frances Ridley Havergal

“Holiness is not something we do or attain;  
it is the communication of the divine life,  
the inbreathing of the divine nature, the  
power of the divine presence resting on  
us.”

—Andrew Murray

Upcoming Birthdays

January 3: David Wood

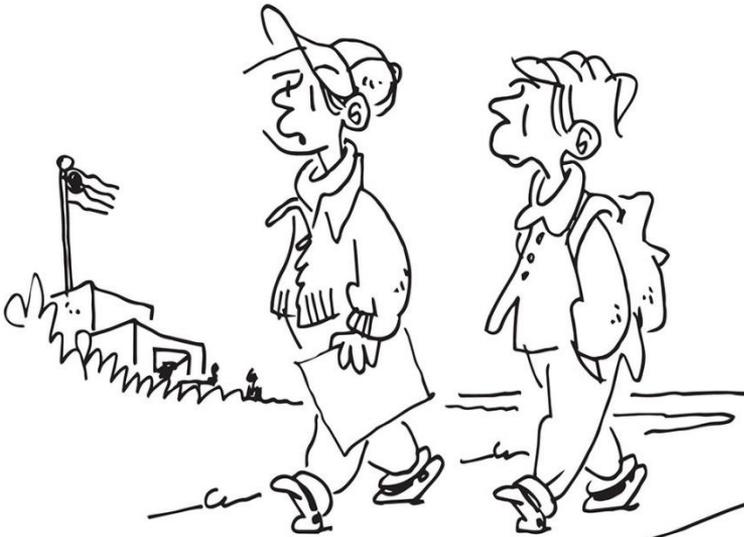
January 4: Dollie Trant

Archer Wilkinson

January 5: Gabriel Belcher

January 7: Brelyn Blizzard

January 8: Peggy Radford



**"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli.  
If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."**