

West Shore Baptist Church

Newsletter

January 2026



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

I don't do New Year resolutions. I figure if I've been completely unsuccessful in motivating myself to 'improve' on April, June or December 1, January 1 probably won't be any different. And, besides, all of the dark chocolate I was gifted for Christmas will still be around by then, so I'm *definitely* not starting any new diet or exercise plan that early in the year. ☺

So, no New Year resolutions. But I do, each year, take an End of Year evaluation.

At some point next week (I'm writing this on Dec. 23), a few days before 2026 officially begins, I'll go for a walk with Jesus and we'll talk about the last year. I'll ask Him to remind me of what He's done, how He's shown me His love and power in a new way, where He is bringing light into my darkness. We'll talk about how He's working in the lives of the people I love.

And then I'll ask Him the Big Question: 'Do I look more like You at the end of 2025 than I did at the beginning? Am I less short-tempered and more long-sufferingly patient? Do I worry (even a little bit) less and trust you (even a mustard-seed worth) more? Are my lips increasingly honoring You? Is my life reflecting Your authority & lordship in new areas?'

That one is a little scary. But, wow, is it ever important. Because looking more like Jesus is how we give Him Glory.

Thousands of years ago, our Father God made a promise to Moses and His chosen people. He said to them, 'See, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people whom you are among shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you' (Exodus 34:10).

Do you see what He promises? Our Father says that *He* will change us – He, through His goodness and mercy, His love and power, will accomplish marvelous works in us that other people around us can see! That means He'll make us look more like Jesus. And I believe it's His glorious intention to deepen our reflection of Jesus each year we have breath, so that we look more like His Son on December 31, 2025 than we did on January 1, 2025.

That's why I take an End of Year evaluation. I want Him to show me where He's growing me up in Him *and* where I need to allow Him to do so next year.

This New Year skip the resolutions. You can't make yourself 'better' anyhow. Instead, go for a walk with Jesus, let Him tell you how He's making you new and ask *Him* to make you look more like Him this year. Then do the things He's asking you to do or to be, as you draw closer to Him.

Love ya,
PK

ANNOUNCEMENTS



January Meetings

Advisory Council Meeting: Mon, Jan. 5, 6:30PM

Board of Trustees Meeting: Mon, Jan. 12, 6:30PM

Board of Deacons Meeting: Tues, Jan. 13, 6:30PM

Mission Board Meeting: Tues, Jan. 20, 7:00 PM

Christian Ed Board Meeting: Tues, Jan. 20, 6:00PM



Men's and Women's Breakfast: January 17th

Men's Breakfast 8:00am at West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant

Women's Breakfast 8:30am at First Watch



BIRTHDAYS

1 – Ashley Bottiglia	11 – Kristine Zoll
4 – Cheryl Vulich	13 – Carol Wittle
5 – Abi Adeyemi	14 – Beth Ice
6 – Audrey Wincovitch	16 – Judd Brouse
8 – Maura Bihl	17 – Steve Sleboda
10 – David Carr	19 – Calliope Smeltzer
	23 – Keith Dionne

ANNIVERSARIES

6 – Ron & Carol Keeney
11 – Conni Mooney
11 – Jesse & Megan Barth
28 – Steve & Rose Sleboda



Church Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Kelly Legg

(610) 755-8203

pastorkdl@gmail.com

Children's Ministry Director:

Maura Bihl

(267) 949-6064

maura.bihl@gmail.com

Choir Director:

Carol Saltzer

(717) 383-9740

carolsaltzer@hotmail.com

Office Manager:

Donna Hess

(717) 761-0942

wsbcmail@gmail.com

The Deacon Board



Benevolence Fund:

Managing the church's Benevolence Fund is an important part of the deacon board's responsibilities. We are grateful for the many people in our congregation who contribute to this impactful ministry. Your generosity allows us to feed the hungry in our community and help struggling families get through tough times. **Our next collection will be held January 11.**

Fellowship/Coffee Café:

Do you have a favorite item or treat you'd like to share on Sunday mornings for our coffee café? Donations are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Ministry:

Our trained prayer ministers, identified by their yellow buttons, are happy to pray with you at any time and will be at the front of the sanctuary at the end of the service. You may also submit prayer requests for our prayer team on our church center app.

Church Center:

Have you visited westshorebaptist.churchcenter.com or downloaded the church center app on your smart phone or tablet yet? You'll find event sign-ups, group registration, online giving, prayer request submission forms, our pictorial directory (please opt-in) and much more!

Baptism:

Baptism is a significant step in the life of every believer. By faith, we symbolize our rebirth into Christ. By obedience, we follow the command to publicly declare our new life through the water. If you are ready to take your next step, please contact Pastor Kelly to begin baptism classes.

Spiritual Disciplines:

During 2025, the Diaconate identified four spiritual disciplines to assist all of us in further deepening our faith and spiritual life. These four align beautifully with our current vision as follows: Believe - Praying Scripture; Belong - Intercessory Prayer; Bridge – Justice; Become - Prayer Partners.

Beginning in January, the first two, praying scripture and intercessory prayer, will be introduced through bulletin inserts, Connections emails, and the monthly newsletters. We encourage every individual and family to make these first two disciplines part of your daily devotional time with God. We also encourage each community group to implement these disciplines as part of your regular meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Diaconate member.

Parents' Prayer Group:

The role of a parent in shepherding their children (and grandchildren) toward Christ never ends. A prayer group, facilitated by Stan LeQuire, meets to 1) grow in prayer and wrestle together as we 2) lift up our children who are not yet following and living for the Lord. This group meets on third Sundays at 5:30 pm in room 201.



2025 Volunteer Thank You

The Deacons want to show our appreciation for ALL of our 2025 ministry volunteers at a luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 25th following the service. Please watch your email inboxes for an RSVP.

2026 Volunteer Training

The Deacon Board will host a training for all our 2026 volunteers serving as scripture readers, greeters, ushers and communion team members on Sunday, January 4 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Pray Like You Were There:

Your Deacons encourage spiritual growth within our congregation. To this end, we challenge you to adopt a spiritual practice called “praying Scriptures.” Each month, you will be provided with a story from the life of Jesus for you to incorporate into your prayers and meditations. Read each story prayerfully and with a listening heart. Try to find some way to insert yourself into each story: perhaps you can become one of the characters; perhaps you are a bystander or an observer who is watching from the sidelines. You are there.

You watch as the events of the story unfold. As you read, don’t worry about coming up with great theological insights; just be present. Reread the story, perhaps several times and in different translations. Listen for what God might say to you or reveal to you and then share this with others at home or in your community group. Each month of the year, we will focus on a new story. Each prayer focus will be included as a Sunday bulletin insert. God bless you in this prayer journey!

FOR JANUARY . . .

Luke 2:25-35 | The Story of Simeon and the baby Jesus

Simeon takes Jesus into his arms. Imagine that! Jesus is in your arms. Simeon says some powerful things in that moment. He says some troubling things as well! What would you say? What would you think about with Jesus in your arms? Remember: silence and awe are both okay in such moments.

In addition, the Deacons ask you to pray, to intercede for these folks during the month of January:

- 1) Tayo and Abi Adeyemi, with Glory, Victor and Bella
- 2) Alice Chin
- 3) Jorrie Gentzler
- 4) Ron and Carol Keeney
- 5) Steve Mazzacua
- 6) Ken and Carol Saltzer
- 7) Sue Sweigard
- 8) Bob Zoll



Board of Christian Education

Community Groups:

Community Groups are small groups who gather to apply the Bible to their lives, pray and build relationships. If you are interested in joining or launching a new group, contact the church office for more information.

Kids' Club:

Kids' Club meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm. Open to students in grades 1st – 6th. See Maura Bihl or Pastor Kelly for details.

Sunday School Classes:

The Searchers class led by Tom Kennerly meets on the top floor of the education wing. Beginning on January 11th, Pastor Kelly will facilitate a discussion-based class called "I've Got a Question". Together we will discuss (and debate) how we live our faith out loud as we tackle the questions congregants submitted.

Pizza & Pottery:

Families with kids 18 & under, mark your calendars for Family Pizza & Pottery Fun starting at noon on Sunday, Jan. 11th. More details and registration info to come soon. See Maura Bihl with questions.



The Mission Board

Clothes Closet:

The clothes closet will be open this month on Saturday, January 10th from 9am – 12 pm. Thank you to all who donated clothes to refill the closet. Volunteers are welcome and needed both mid-week and one Saturday a month. Please contact Dawne Strock for details.

Little Free Pantry:

Don't forget about our outdoor community pantry. Thank you for answering the call to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked. Next time you are shopping, consider buying an item or two to place in the pantry on your way into church.

Red Cross Blood Drive:

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held at WSBC on **Friday, January 30th from 12pm-6 pm**. If you wish to donate, visit their website at www.redcrossblood.org.

Blessing Bags:

Filled bags can be found in the lobby. Please help yourself to have one on hand to share whenever there is someone in need.

All Donations:

Just a reminder the food donation location is now in the closet in Fellowship Hall near the education wing exit on the 21st St. side. The shelves are labeled for your donations:

- New Hope Ministries Food Pantry (top shelf),
- Little Free Pantry (middle shelf),
- Blessing Bag (bottom shelf and floor).

Thank You:

Thanks to your generosity we were able to fill every need on the LINK 4 Youth wish list this Christmas. Thank you for blessing them!



The Trustee Board

Lower 21st Street Door

The lower 21st St. door will be locked until 10 AM on Sundays. For those individuals needing the elevator, please use the RING doorbell located on the side of the mailbox. Otherwise, please use the upper 21st St. door.