

Lamplighter

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Exalting the Savior by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints



Real Change

"I called out of my distress to the Lord, and He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice." (Jonah 2:2)

With each New Year come thoughts of change. The possibility for change is conceptualized in what we call New Year resolutions. These resolutions reflect changes that we will work toward in the coming year. Unfortunately, experts tell us that for many people the hope of change is abandoned by the end of February.

Truth be known, with every second comes the possibility of change. The opportunity to change the way we think, feel, or act is always with us. What is lacking is a real desire to change. Let me give you an illustration found in the Bible.

Jonah was a prophet to the ten northern tribes that comprised the nation of Israel. Although it was a time of peace and prosperity; it was also a time of poverty and perversion spiritually speaking. The nation was bankrupt spiritually, morally, and ethically. So God decided to punish the nation by allowing their captivity to the Assyrians. Jonah was told to go to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and preach repentance to the Assyrians. But Jonah did not want them to repent. He wanted God to destroy them. So he ran away rather than follow God's instructions.

Only, after Jonah had been swallowed by a huge fish did he change his mind and do what God wanted him to do. It took a desperate situation to facilitate a change in Jonah's plans. Notice that Jonah's heart toward the Ninevites did not change—he still hated them. The book ends with Jonah being angry over the repentance of the Ninevites **(Jonah 4:1)**.

What can we learn from Jonah's change of direction? Many times we will not change our direction until we are afraid our circumstances may consume us. While that type of change can be beneficial, it is not ideal. Your plans can change without your heart changing—Jonah preached and people were spared, but his heart was still hardened toward the Ninevites. Changing the way you live without first changing your heart leads to legalism. Which can lead to a form of godlessness based on human effort alone.

Real change begins with a new heart. God desires we serve Him because we love Him, not because we don't want to be disciplined by Him. When we give Jesus all of our heart, our affection will change our direction. When that happens, we will be on a path that is pleasing to God and a blessing to us.

Thanks for reading this article. I pray each one of you will have a prosperous New Year!

Pastor Larry

Ladies Bible Study

Sundays, January 11—Feb. 22

4:00-5:30pm

Heaven

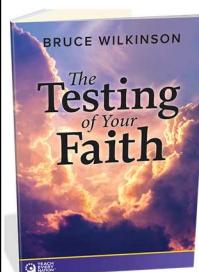


By Jennifer Rothschild
Study Book: \$20.00

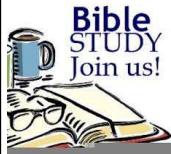
Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next? In this 7-session video-based study, Jennifer Rothschild explores the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective.

Sign-up Sheet on the Bulletin Board outside the church office.

Evangelism/Mission Development



Rocky will be starting a second round of the Bruce Wilkinson course, **'The Testing Of Your Faith'** - an 8-week course. We're going to do it like last time, with learners using Right Now Media to go through the videos on your own time and join us for the discussion sessions Sundays from 4-5:30 pm beginning on January 18. We have 23 workbooks for those interested in taking the class (whether or not you choose to join the discussion session - but those from the first round agreed that the discussion sessions helped them get more out of the course). You can sign up and pick up a workbook from the Church Office (requesting \$4). If you want to join the discussion sessions, please go through the first video PRIOR to our first discussion session, filling in the workbook as you go. If you have questions, please contact Rocky, 276-224-0979.



N O T I C E
Tuesday Morning
Bible Study with Pastor Larry
10:00AM SonShine Classroom

In Sympathy:

Tommy Williamson, Sr., father of Terri Williamson
Linda France, mother of Jonathan France

Loving Hands Ministry
Will resume meeting on
Thursdays
January 8, 2026



Associate Pastor Search Committee
January 15

5:00pm—Agape Classroom

Please keep these Committee members in prayer as they diligently strive to seek out the person God has chosen for FBCC.

The Ladies Card Ministry
Monday, January 12
12:00noon
SonShine Classroom



VBS Preview @ Ridgecrest

January 30-31, 2026

Anyone interested in attending this meeting,
Please see Rebecca Vernon

YEAR END EXPENSES

Committee and Ministry Leaders: If you have any **outstanding expenses for 2025**, please make sure to turn them in to the church office by **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**.

AWANA Schedule for January

Sundays @ 4:00—5:30pm



Jan. 04: Awana (Bring 1 item for Warming Center)

Jan. 11: Awana Jan. 18: Awana (Beach Night)

Jan. 18: Awana

Sundays @ 4:00pm

For children ages 2 Yrs. thru 5th grade

2025 Contribution Statements

Your 2025 Contribution Statement will be mailed to you as quickly as possible before the end of January. If you include your contributions as deductions for tax purposes it is important **not to file your 2025 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement from the church of your contributions**. If you need your contribution report before it is mailed, you can contact Sandy Moses in the church office to request a printed copy.

FBCC Food Pantry Donation

If you would like to contribute to the FBCC Food Pantry you may do so. We will be collecting items each month. The items for January are:

Beef Stew (20 oz. can)
Chicken Noodle Soup (10.75oz. can)
Tomato Soup (10.75 oz. can)

You can leave the items in the FBCC Food Pantry bin outside the church office.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 28

6:45pm—SonShine Classroom

Valentine Couples Dinner

Saturday, February 14



5:00pm

FBCC Social Hall

\$40.00 per couple

You can choose between steak or chicken. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. It will be limited to the **first 35 couples** to sign up.

Grace Network

JANUARY ITEM

Dish Detergent

JANUARY FEATURE ITEMS

Toilet Paper, Deodorant,
Feminine Products

Women on Mission—*By His Love*

What we have done:

During the month of December, each WMU group met together at restaurants or at church to celebrate Christmas together. We also participated in a few outreach mission action projects:

- Each group collected and delivered Christmas presents to our shut-ins. We visited with each one and enjoyed spending some Christmas time with them.
- We also baked and delivered treat bags to the Bassett High School Faculty and Staff to enjoy during their Christmas break.

What we are doing:

In January,

- we will be cooking meals for the Warming Center the last week of the month. Each group will prepare a part, and we will deliver to the Center for them to serve to the people staying there.
- we will also be collecting needed items to take to the warming center. The list will be in the bulletin each Sunday for collection during the month, and we will deliver Friday, January 30.

Just a Note

A Note from the Choir Director

The choirs will be taking a little time off during the holidays but will start back up in January:

- Adult Choir - Wednesday night, January 7
- Handbells - Sunday afternoon, January 11
- Praise Team - Sunday afternoon, January 11

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

We would like to Thank You for all the gifts, cards, words of appreciation and other acts of kindness shown to us during this Christmas Season. Our prayer for you in 2026 is good health, happiness galore, peace on earth and God's unconditional Love. We feel blessed to work for you!

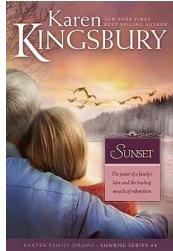
Pastor Larry, Sandy, Ruby, Penny, Kim, Paige, and Brittany

Happy New Year!

FBCC Book of the Month

Sunset (Sunrise Series #4)

By Karen Kingsbury



During a time of renewed love and hope for the future, the Baxters try to come together to establish the sacred ground of marriage and to chart a course for the future. Memories of times gone by meet with the changes of today in a story that proves only the support of faith and family can take a person into the sunset years of life.

Youth of the Month



Ethan Collins

Ethan Collins is one of the newest members in the youth group, as he just moved up in September. He is 11 years old and is in the 6th grade at FC Middle School. He lives in Collinsville with mom and dad, Paige and Jason and younger sister, Blayke. Their family dog's name is Tracker.

Ethan enjoys baseball, hunting and fishing. He is definitely an "outdoors kind of guy"!

He has been attending FBCC since birth and has a host of family members that also attend: Meemaw, Joan Collins, grandparents, Kenny and Beverly Inman, aunt and uncle, Denise and Jamie Collins and cousins, Cade and Colton Collins. Also, aunt and uncle, Suzanne and Scott Terry and cousins, Kemper Terry and Brittney Beverley. Ethan's favorite scripture is Psalm 23: 1-3, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Ethan plans to attend a trade school after high school and is currently considering welding.

Ethan's favorite food is sausage balls.

YOUTH NEWS

Summer Camp 2026:

The Summer Camp date for Camp Jubilee has been set for 2026. The date will be June 22-27. This is the week we are attending. We have some youth that are interested in going but wanted to make sure all the youth 6th-12th grade are invited. Sign up early, our registration count will be due to the Camp on February 1. We will have a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board. Chaperones will be accompanying youth.

For religion, the good is indeed real, for in the end nothing else is real.

-Bernard Bosanquet

