



## **FIRST CHRONICLES**

**January, 2025**

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***“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*** – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

How’d we do? At the beginning of 2024, I encouraged us all to read through a chapter of Proverbs a day—to seek God’s wisdom like King Solomon did at the beginning of his kingship. True wisdom can only come from God. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 says, “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” Christ is the wisdom of God. When we pursue godly wisdom, we are pursuing Christ. We are seeking to know Him and to be like Him.

So... how’d we do? More than a legalistic, check-the-box judgement on whether or not we read a chapter a day, did we actively engage in reading God’s Word? Did we pursue becoming more like Christ? I’m sure if we looked back over the year, we could identify the things that got in the way—life circumstances, worries, temptations, anxieties, relationships, and more always contend for our attention. Pursuing Christlikeness is difficult. But God is not unaware of this fact. He understands what we go through. Hebrews 4:15 says, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Jesus understands the difficulty. He’s lived it. He successfully overcame it. Now, He calls us to draw near to Him to find help to do the same.

How do we draw near to Him? How do we become equipped to pursue Christlikeness? Through His Word. Look at the verses at the top of the page. Specifically, look at the last phrase. Because of God’s Word, we are equipped for every good work. It is the Bible that equips us. Through the absolute truth that it gives us, we gain the necessary tools to engage in good works—not just some good works, but every good work. If we want to be more Christlike—if we want to be the hands and feet of Christ in our relationships, workplaces, and community—then we need to be in God’s Word. Our pursuit of godliness will rise and fall depending on how often we are engaging the Bible.

Of course, we still find this difficult to do. But we need to remember that whatever temporary gain (crossing an item off the task list, watching TV, getting rest, etc) we may get from leaving the Bible on the shelf doesn’t compare with what we’ll gain from the time we spend in God’s Word. Through Scripture, we’ll be trained and grow in our spiritual maturity. Nothing else holds that promise.

The encouragement is to start our year out right. Get into God’s Word and read it daily. There are Bible reading plans available to pick up at the Greeter’s table to help give us some structure. Commit to being in God’s Word so that we can be equipped to pursue Christlikeness. That is our call this year.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
<b>Sunday, January 5</b> Henry & Joan Boneschans	<b>Sunday, January 5</b> Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, January 5</b> Rachel Kramer
<b>Sunday, January 12</b> Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	<b>Sunday, January 12</b> Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, January 12</b> Kayla Reck
<b>Sunday, January 19</b> Greg & Sharon DeBoer	<b>Sunday, January 19</b> Alyssa den Hoed	<b>Sunday, January 19</b> Abby Kramer
<b>Sunday, January 26</b> Doug & Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, January 26</b> Judy Eben	<b>Sunday, January 26</b> Sarah Gruis



January	2	Kody denHoed
	5	Greg & Lesli Kramer Jesse & Breanna Schrick
	7	Sharon Arends
	10	Amber Kooiker
	12	Clinton DeBoer
	13	Presley Schneidermann
	14	George Winter
	17	Stan deBoer
	18	Brenna Kramer (Daniel)
	20	Graham DeBoer
	22	Charlotte Jurrens
	23	Miriam Sternke
	24	Lucas Kooiker
	25	Alan Wagenaar
	27	Jason Christians

# Thank You So Much

I would like to thank the church for the gift certificate to the Little Rock grocery store. It is such a practical gift. - Janice Schneidermann

We received an anonymous Gideons donation and want the donor to know that we really appreciate it! So many thanks go out to you for the \$1033.89. This will purchase many Bibles and who knows, maybe someone will be saved through your generosity! Thanks again! - Gideons NW Camp

Marcee and I would like to say "thank you" for the many blessings you have showered us with during this time of honoring the birth of our Savior. We are so thankful to be a part of a caring church family. - Blessings, Lena and Marcee

We would like to thank FBC for the wonderful food brought to us. We appreciate the gift of food so much. But we appreciate even more the expression of love they showed us from the people at FBC. We want to say thank you to those who remembered our anniversary as well. Thank you again. - Dave and Rita Busse

Thank you to all who helped with setting up and taking down the tables and chairs for our wedding. We appreciated all the help! We hope you had a blessed and Merry Christmas! - Steve & Anna Jean

Thank you for the care package that I received! I really appreciated it!  
- Ryan Schneidermann



From Scott and Colleen Burdsall serving in London:

Continue praying for Asha attenders who have made faith decisions recently or who are close to making those decisions. Pray for one individual who is asking about baptism. Pray for this person to grow in understanding of faith and for their team as they disciple these individuals. Praise God for His working in these lives. The Christmas experience for a local primary school that they hosted at Asha went well. They had about 55 kids and 6 teachers hear about the birth of Jesus. A couple of teaching assistants were especially interested in seeing the Bible in Sytheti. Pray for continued open doors with this school.

The English classes have had about 35 students each week and of those about 15 stay to hear a Bible story. Pray that they would understand what they hear and want to also come on Sundays to learn more. Scott has about 3 different classes for men. Pray the men come consistently and for Scott to be able to build relationships with them outside of teaching time.

Continue to pray for rest for this family as it has been a very busy past few months.

Mission Board



- All Boards Meeting Night will be Sunday, January 5, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall and is for everyone on a Board for 2025.
- Advisory Board Meeting will be Sunday, January 12, at 5:30 pm.
- The Soup & Pie Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 19, following the morning service. Group 5 will be working in the kitchen and will need to bring 1 doz prepared buns. The congregation can bring a pie or any kind of dessert.

## January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  5:30 PM All Boards Mtg  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  5:30 PM Advisory Board Mtg  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  11:00 AM Soup & Pie Luncheon Annual Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	