



THE AGAPIAN



January 2019 — Agape Church of the Brethren
Todd Hammond, Pastor

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: A NEW YEAR'S LATIN LESSON

Calends is a Latin word indicating the first day of the month on the ancient Roman calendar. Then, as now, bills were often due on the first of the month, so an account book was kept, and it was called a *calendarium* (sometimes 'C' words were spelled with a 'K'; thus *kalends* and *kalendarium*). The English word "calendar" comes from the name of the Roman account book.

January is named after the Roman god Janus, the god of comings and goings. Janus, unlike the other pagan gods that were adopted from the Greek pantheon, was uniquely Roman. The name Janus (*Ianus* in Latin, as the alphabet had no 'J') is related to *Ianua*, the Latin word for door. Janus himself was the 'Janitor', or doorkeeper, of the heavens. As such, Janus' divine duties included beginnings and endings, entrances, exits and passageways. Drawings of Janus were often found on doorways and courtyard gates and often carved on entrances to Roman homes. Janus was always depicted with two faces looking different ways.

So, perhaps it's appropriate that we understand New Year's Day – January 1st on the calendar – as a time when we look forwards and backwards and take stock of what we've paid and what we still owe in the coming year.

What are the disappointments you've had in the past year? The loss of a job? The death of a loved one? The disintegration of a relationship? What are the hopes you hold for the coming year? The new career opportunity? The birth of a child? An upcoming wedding?

It is always surprising how refreshing it is to come upon New Year, how important the idea of starting over always is! The promise of the New Year isn't a metaphor or a delusion. It is part of the cycle of promise and renewal. The turning of the calendar doesn't erase the past, but serves as a reminder of the opportunities that lay ahead. We can face the year ahead as we look to the year just past with confidence knowing that our past and our futures are in God's good hands.

As we face 2019, let me share a prayer for the New Year by Rabbi David Walpole:

*May we believe deeply without despising difference;
hope extravagantly without being crushed by failure;
take our shortcomings seriously without being discouraged by them;
do good for others without calculation and may we love:*

*love without fear,
love without narrowness,
love without limit.*

Dear God, help our world to heal and our hearts to grow. Amen.

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SERMONS COMING IN JANUARY, 2019

Date	Sermon Title	Scripture	Preview
Jan. 6	Where Do We Find Jesus?	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matt. 2:1-12	Epiphany Sunday. Bread & Cup Communion. The Magi set out to find a King born to bring Light to the nations. This was the same Light of which the Prophet Isaiah spoke. This Light still shines in our world today, but sometimes we have a hard time perceiving where It comes from. It emanates from the lives of the ordinary people doing extraordinary acts of kindness; from simple things like the bread & the cup that becomes the Body & the Blood of Christ; sometimes It even comes from people like us.
Jan. 13	What's in a Name?	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Licensing Service for Ronda Mendenhall. As we acknowledge God's call on Ronda's life, we'll look at the topic of calling. When I was a kid and I heard my mother call my name, "Todd," I knew I needed to come to her. When I heard her call my name, "Todd Robert Hammond!" I knew I had better come NOW! Isaiah says that God will call His people by name. What does it mean when God calls us? How do we respond?
Jan. 20	What Are the Signs?	John 2:1-11	We all know that a red octagon means "Stop"; a yellow triangle means "Yield"; a yellow diamond means, "Caution". The first sign that Jesus performed was turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. What does that sign mean?
Jan. 27	What's the Good Word?	Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4:14-21	Most people associate 'Watergate' with Richard Nixon rather than the Prophet Nehemiah. When the faithful remnant returned to Jerusalem they found their home town in ruins. It would become a time of rebuilding – both physical and spiritual. They began by reading the Word of God at the water gate in the crumbled wall. In the same way Jesus would begin His ministry centuries later in His home town.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! by Joyce Musser

Fortune cookie say: "Resolutions cost nothing, but be worth everything."

Every New Year's Eve, millions of folks make resolutions or set goals of hope for the new year, but most are long forgotten and never make it the six weeks to see the wilted flowers on Valentine's Day. Many folks seem to feel resolutions are like opportunities set up for failure, but why not pick only three resolutions to work on in 2019? Nine members of Agape were asked to share their choices for the new year:

SMILE more	EAT unsalted nuts	STICK to a budget
EAT dark chocolate	HAVE faith in tomorrow	GET more sleep
GET outside	VOLUNTEER	WALK the dog
HAVE hope	EXERCISE regularly	DONATE regularly
TRY new things	STRIVE to be happy	TRAVEL to new places
LOWER blood pressure	RETURN items to correct places	LISTEN more/talk less
BE more active	EAT better	JOIN the Y
SEE the good	READ my Bible	KEEP in touch with old friends
SAY "I love you," more	SCHEDULE family time	COMPLETE unfinished projects
CHALLENGE yourself	PAY off credit cards	DO random acts of kindness
SORT and purge old photos	SPEND more family time	LAUGH
ENJOY today	BECOME your best	EAT more veggies
FORGIVE more	COUNT your blessings	SPEND less screen time
LEARN a new hobby	MANAGE clutter	READ more often

May the start of your new year feel like the first day of a new school year, full of hope and promise for what is yet to come! Instead of thinking I might fail, remember Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Know that you are not expected to be perfect, just that you try your best and depend on God.

I woke up with a roof over my head. I have clothes to wear. I have clean running water.

I have food to eat. Life is good and I am thankful. When things go wrong, as they sometimes do, (like hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, shootings, and refugees walking north) take a moment to be thankful for the many things that are going right.

I am grateful to wake up and know I have another chance. A new year is God's gift. The year ahead is empty. Help me fill it with good things. Help me live the way I should.

Don't let things that matter least to God rob time from the things that matter most.

Amen.

Women's Fellowship Reorganizational Meeting

Hey Ladies—young and old, Agape member or not... we want YOU to spend time with us at the annual Women's Fellowship Reorganizational Meeting on January 26, 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We eat breakfast, plan the year's events, talk about charities we want to sponsor and fundraising events, brainstorm projects around the church, and spend time together. All women are welcome!

Soup Off Coming!



Get those recipes out, and plan for lunch on Sunday, January 20 after worship! We look forward to a variety of soup dishes to enjoy, and again we'll be voting on favorites! Bring your bowl, we'll furnish the drinks, and if your soup has a special extra (crackers, toppings, chips, cheese, etc) bring that, too! Side dishes are also welcome if you'd rather furnish something other than soup. There will be a signup sheet so you can commit to a specific soup or make it a surprise! Mark your calendar and plan now to participate!

Komets Hockey Game

A group of 32 Agapians will have the opportunity to attend the Komets Hockey game on **Sunday, February 17, 2019** at 5:00 P.M. Thanks to Ruth Weigmann, who works for the Komets for the **COMPLEMENTARY** tickets for this game and the opportunity to enjoy the Hottest Game In Town! Tickets will be distributed in early



Sunday School for ALL AGES



What are YOU DOING at 9:00 on Sunday morning? Well, if you're not sitting in one of the classrooms at Agape, perhaps that should be your New Year's resolution – participate in Sunday School!

Jerry Brenneman is leading a group in the book, Hell? Yes! by Robert Jeffress, and if there is interest in a second group to meet and discuss the Upper Room weekly devotions, we have the materials and Joanna Eastes would be the one to see!

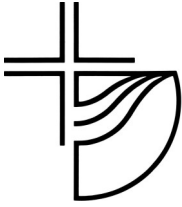
Children ages 4-youth are also meeting in several age groupings studying Bible stories and life lessons from a variety of sources. Thanks to Joan Sievers, Vicki Welch, Diana Spurgeon and Becky Morris for leading these classes and we're always grateful for those who will fill in whenever there is a need.

**WHY GET DRESSED UP FOR JUST ONE HOUR?
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUNDAY MORNING
AND JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!
YOU JUST MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING NEW!**

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2 Senior Moments: lunch @ Ziano's Judy Frederick	3 Jennifer Warner	4 Men's Bfast— Sunrise Café 8a	5
6	7 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	8 TOPS 9a Chair Yoga 2-2:45p Crafty NG	9 Choir 7:3-8:3p	10 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	11	12
13	14 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	15 TOPS 9a Chair Yoga 2-2:45p Ann Wagner	16 Board Mtg 6:3p Choir 7:3-8:3p Ann Pepple Diana Spurgeon	17 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	18 Men's Bfast— Cosmos 8a	19
20 Soup Off—After Worship	21 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	22 TOPS 9a Chair Yoga 2-2:45p	23 Choir 7:3-8:3p Noa Spurgeon	24 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p	25	26 Women's Fellowship Reorg Mtg 9a Steve Cormany
27	28 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p Josh Warner	29 TOPS 9a Chair Yoga 2-2:45p Gerry Charvat	30 Choir 7:3-8:3p	31 Aerobex 6:3-7:3p Deb Wetzel		

* Denotes an event held outside the church. Contact the person in charge of that event for details. [Blue](#) = Birthday [Red](#) = Anniversary



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Continuing the Work of Jesus—Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Love Fund Needs YOU!

The Deacon's Love Fund is a resource for those who need assistance in emergency situations and with funding food vouchers from the Community Harvest Food Bank. Thanks to end of year donations and a generous estate gift, the fund is doing well at the present time. You can help by designating any amount to the Love Fund beyond your usual giving to the church. You can also help by dropping quarters into the bank in the narthex.

2018 year end update - we have helped over 60 families with almost \$1200 through the Community Harvest Food Bank this year. We have also helped in a variety of ways with over \$2200 in giving assistance including the Puerto Rico mission trip. Your giving is appreciated so this outreach of Agape can continue.



Milestone Celebrations

The Deacon board recognizes those people celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary.

- * Birthdays are acknowledged at age 75, 80, 85, 90, etc.
- * Anniversaries are recognized at year 50, 55, 60, etc.

Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in the back of the Directory and in the Newsletter and Bulletin. We encourage you to send cards, or just say "Happy Birthday / Anniversary".