



December 26, 2022

Dear Church Family:

Well, in the last three years we have been through Covid and hurricanes, and now we enter a brand-new year – 2023! During this time, we have also reached out to our First Responders in the community, gotten more involved in various mission organizations in our area, and added a new missionary. Through our Fellowship Team we have met together here at church and have gone outside our walls for activities that help us build relationships within and without our congregation. Our Prayer Team has grown and actively lifts up praise and petitions to God weekly. What awaits us in 2023? What will God accomplish through FPC? One thing I want to focus more on is what it means to be a disciple. There are two main ways, besides the Worship Service & Bible Studies, that we are adding for this new year.

The first is that I challenge us as a church body to read through the Bible in one year. R.C. Sproul reminded us that “Disciples of Christ abide in His Word. Those who abide in His Word know the truth and are free.” As we seek to make disciples at FPC, it is important that we are students of the Word. But as the Epistle of James reminds us, we want to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

Again, reading the Bible together not only encourages us with the truth of God’s Word each day, but it also provides one more means of fellowship and connection as we read and are able to discuss the same passages of Scripture with one another each week. (The sermon series for the year will be based on one of the weekly readings.)

In order to keep us on the same ‘page’, we are going to be using the One Year Chronological Bible published by Tyndale House, we will have these Bibles available for \$15 in the church lobby. Or, if you prefer to use your own Bible, we will have the reading plan printed, and it will be listed in the church bulletin weekly. Or, you may go online and read it at: <https://oneyearbibleonline.com/weekly-chronological-readings/> So, whether you’ve read through the Bible many times before or are determined to read it through for the first time ever, we hope you’ll read with your church family in 2023.

Second, we will have weekly devotions from our elders posted on our website and Facebook page to encourage you in your walk with Jesus. Again, as we read and meditate on the same passages, we will grow as disciples and in our fellowship with one another.

Consider joining us in 2023 and we eagerly look for what God will do through FPC.

In Christ,

*Barksdale*