

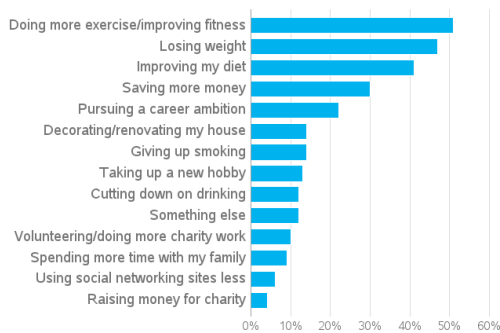


The Center Chronicles



January 2025

Most Common New Year's Resolutions



As we enter 2025, I found myself hoping to refresh my yearly resolutions of trying to exercise, lose weight, and manage my finances. It is kind of creepy how someone or something must be listening because the algorithms of social media seem to reflect what I hope to do for 2025. It seems I am getting all kinds of advise ranging on how I can excercise at 65 to improving my diet to how to be more frugile with my finances.

As noted by Mike Ashcraft, from his book, My One Word, “The topics on my list ranged from health maintenance to home maintenance to car maintenance. I was informed I need to eat certain foods every day: four veggies, three fruits, two proteins (preferably chicken or fish), and I think a partridge in a pear tree. I also need to get enough fiber, calcium, Vitamin D, B, C, and Beta-something-or-other.

I need thirty minutes of cardio a day (but apparently with the right exercise product this can be done in ten), fifteen minutes of strength training, and ten minutes of stretching. Plus, some extended time for meditation so that my body and mind could align. I’m told a germ-resistant mat is needed for that. I need to bust my stress, nurture my creativity, and improve my posture.

I need to pay attention to my finances. Save and invest. Spend frugally – yet somehow also buy the cool gadgets they review on the show. Apparently extreme couponing is the way to afford it all, but it takes a lot of time to save 80 percent on your grocery bill. I need to check my credit report regularly. Shred important documents. Back up my computer. Meet with my financial planner. And read the information that comes with our kid’s (underfunded) college fund. That, by the way, is forty pages of legal and financial mumbo jumbo in eight-point font, single-spaced. I suppose I need to meet with my attorney to understand it. And that creates two prerequisite tasks to add to the list: find an attorney and find a financial planner. They assume every regular Joe has a CFP, a CPA, and a JD on speed dial. I have Domino’s on mine.”

Add to that all of my schedules things to take care of ranging from remodeling to repairing things that break down to rekindling relationships with church family and friends to researching on how to make God’s Word relatable to everyday life today, In short 2025 seems overwhelming and we are only 4 days in.

But there is one things in this New Year Resolutions graph above is missing..... God. Maybe as many of you made your New Year’s resolutions, you too have been discouraged by how often you failed to fulfill your resolutions. If so, then is it possible you and I need to, as

Ashcraft put it, “When I decided to drop my list of ways to get the most out of my life. I realized I needed to find a new way to approach personal change.”

Each year, Ashcraft opened the Scriptures and focused on one word for the year. For instance, at the time of his book, he focused on the word “FLOW” which comes from John 7:38, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’. Going with the flow would become his resolution goal for that particular year. As you begin the New Year, I encourage to consider opening God’s Word and find one word that can carry you through the year. The following are a few suggestions:

- **Renew-** Create in me a pure heart, O God and RENEW a steadfast Spirit in me. - Psalm 51:10
- **Refuge-** God is our REFUGE and strength, an ever-present help in trouble, - Psalm 46:1
- **Run-** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power to the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will RENEW their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will RUN and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah 40:29-31
- **Light-** You are the LIGHT of the world. - Matthew 5: 14

What is that one word that will help you in 2025?

Happy New Year,
Jon



Annual Congregational Meeting- January 5

On January 5 following worship, Center Presbyterian Church will be having its annual Congregational meeting. The three items on the

agenda are as follows:

- Renew our corporate standing as Center Presbyterian Church
- Hear the report of the Nominating Committee who will present their slate for officers. If anyone wants to nominate someone from the floor, that person must be asked prior to the Congregational meeting.
- Annual review of the Pastor’s compensation package.



Church Officer Training- January 11 @ 10am

Newly Elected Deacons and Elders will train on Saturday, **January 11 at 10am**. On **January 12** during worship, they will be installed and ordained for service.

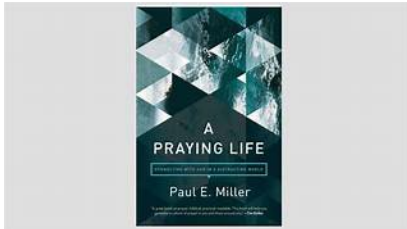




Men's Bible Study on Revelations

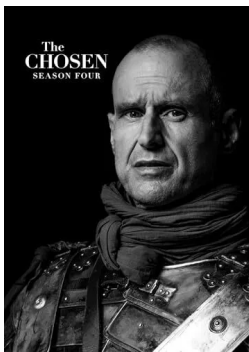
Saturday's at 9am

Have you ever wondered about the end times, God's judgement, or how Jesus Christ will come to judge the "quick and the dead"? You are invited to join us for a study in the hope of Revelation as we use BSF's study guide to help us process John's visions recorded in Revelation.



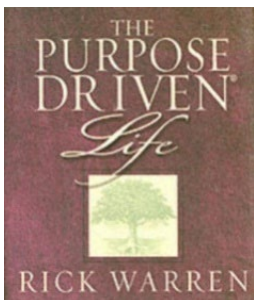
Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6pm

We invite you to join us on Wednesday night at 6pm as we study how to develop a praying life using the book, The Praying Life, by Paul Miller.



Youth Group on Sunday at 4:30pm

Both youth and anyone else who might be interested are invited to come and watch and discuss each episode of the Chosen, Season 4. We will meet in the fellowship hall. There are 8 episodes.



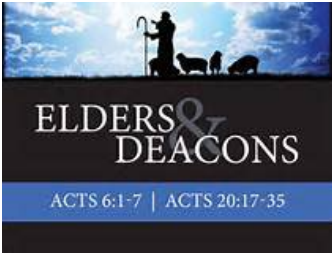
Adult Sunday School Update

Donald Bivens continues his class studies on Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.



Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876



Session and Deacons will meet Together.

January 16 @6pm

For our first meeting, I am asking the Deacons to join the Elders at the Session meeting scheduled for January 16 @ 6pm. The goal is for the Deacons and Elder to get acquainted and then for the Elders to give guidance on how the Deacons will serve in 2025.



Mission trip in March

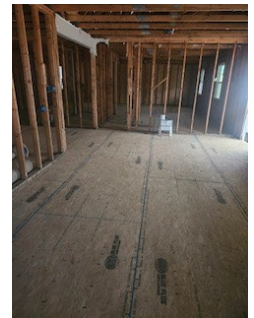
With a new Year comes new opportunities for missions. Last fall, we led a mission team to help those in Newport impacted by Hurricane Helene. In the process we adopted Samantha Hurst (a single mom with one child) who lost her father a week before the flood. Her father's house where she was living was damaged by the flood. God led us to helped her to clear debris and took up the subfloor in order to take out the mud that washed under the floor and she lost all vehicles to flood.



With your financial support, we purchased a car for her, and she began to rebuild her life. Three months later, I caught up with her to see how things are going. A ministry from Kentucky



helped her to repair her garage, replace her subfloor and put up Tyvek wrap on the exterior. Unfortunately, someone told her that she had to replace all the wiring in the house. So she removed all the wiring only to learn it was only breakers and receptacles that had to be replaced.



With all that said, Samantha sent me a material list of things she will need help with. I do not know who is donating the material, but I do know that when the material comes in, she will need help putting it up. She will need help putting up insulation in the exterior walls. She will need help hanging 104 12' foot sheets of sheetrock and begin the finishing process. She will need help replacing her decks. She will need help putting up siding on the house. In time, she will be replacing cabinets, bathtubs, sinks, HVAC unit, etc.

Let us be prayerful in how we can support her in this long recovery process. No dates have been set for the trip. I am simply seeing who would be available to do a trip. I will figure out housing when I get a head count of how many are interested in going.

If interested, please contact me at either 423-253-2303, 270-705-2914 or email at jfaraone@bellsouth.net

