



The Mission Briefing January 2024

One of my favorite lines in Mel Gibson's 2004 box office sensation, *The Passion of the Christ*, is when Jesus falls to the ground after carrying His cross to the site of His crucifixion. His mother, Mary, sees him suffering with the cross and reminisces about comforting and holding her sweet son when He was hurt as a child. Her presence encourages Jesus with His awesome purpose. He musters His strength, grabs the cross and says, "See, mother, I make all things new." When I first watched this film, I did not appreciate this scene because it is not found in any of the gospel accounts. Yet, over the years of watching this every Good Friday, I learned to really embrace it because the idea is scriptural. Our renewal is directly tied to Jesus' atonement for our sin on the cross. Jesus' incarnation was the beginning of the new. His ministry was saturated with the new, and the cross is the place and time Jesus changed our destiny by ransoming us from sin, substituting Himself to sin and death for us. Because Jesus died for us, He also rose for us. He reigns for us and gives us the unifying power of the Spirit. When we place our trust in Him, we are made new creations. We receive a spiritual rebirth. Because of Jesus, we become united to the newest work of God. We really are the only thing new under the sun. We are the new only when we are connected to Jesus.



Yet, Jesus is making all things new. That line is not spoken at the moments prior to the crucifixion, they are spoken by Jesus at the end of our story. In Revelation 21, the Spirit reveals that Jesus is making a new heaven and a new earth. The old heaven and old earth are completely gone, rolled up, thrown away never to hurt us or haunt us. It is all replaced with the new. Tears are wiped away and there is no death, no mourning, no crying, and no pain. For the One seated on the throne says, "I am making all things new!" It is marvelous that the end of the story is complete newness and Jesus is the agent of all that is new. Jesus gives us this vision of the future so we can live with that knowledge today. old earth are completely gone, rolled up, thrown away never to hurt us or haunt us. It is all replaced with the new. Tears are wiped away and there is no death, no mourning, no crying, and no pain. For the One seated on the throne says, "I am making all things new!" It is marvelous that the end of the story is complete newness and Jesus is complete newness and Jesus is the agent of all that is new.

Jesus gives us this vision of the future so we can live with that knowledge today. So many times, I wished I could have known the future, so I could invest \$100 and watch it turn into a million or two. So many times, I wished I could have known the future, so I could stop myself from doing something I regret. So many times, I wished I could have known the future, so I could improve my life and the lives of those around me. I think that is a common fantasy and in the case of prophesy it is reality. God wants to improve our lives and the lives of those around us so He gives us a glimpse of the future. As with all of God's grace, we can embrace prophesy or ignore it. Our paths can divert toward God's good or remain as they are.

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What do you think God wants you to do in this new year, knowing that He is making all things new? Don't worry. Let go of the yesterday's hurts. Let Jesus separate you from the guilt and shame you carry. Don't hold on to this world and the things here because they won't last. All things will be made new. Instead walk with boldness in Christ. Embrace His forgiveness. Devote your life to what is eternal, namely love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. Do the work of Christ as His agents of the new. I pray in 2024 we can do just that. John's disciples testified to John about Jesus' new work: "the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor" (Luke 7:22b). It's a new year, be new.

Happy New (Jesus) Year,

Pastor Kyle



Sun

Sat

	1.	2. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	3. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	4.	5.	6.
7. Communion	8.	9. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner <i>Diaconate Board</i> 6:30	10. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	11. Lady's Prayer Luncheon 12:00-Church	12.	13.
14.	15. <i>CE Board</i> 5:30pm	16. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Trustees Board 5:30pm General Board 6:30pm	17. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	18.	19.	20.
21. Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Following Worship	22.	23. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	24. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	25.	26.	27.
28.	29.	30. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	31. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana			

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ella Mefret	1/1	Jacque Knowles	1/22	AmAsie Willison	1/29
Grace Mefret	1/1	Tammy Walker	1/25	Janet Weis	1/31
Addie Penner	1/3	Stan Zook	1/25		
Norm Taylor	1/5	Joyce Barlow	1/29		

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December Fund Report

Total Income- \$ 30,078.80

Online Giving- \$ 8,480.80

Expenses- \$ 27,374.93

Budget Needed \$282,950.00

Budget/year \$340,934.12

Average Worship Attendance 130



SHEILA HAD A VERY NICE BIRTHDAY PARTY!

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED!

