

# FAITH



# FORWARD

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord,

A new year and a new beginning! Those words sound great to our ears but is it possible to have a fresh start? The answer is YES. With a new or renewed faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord all in reality can become new. Putting the past behind us we move forward with new strength and vigor with our faith fixed on Jesus who has promised to always be with us. Let us prayerfully purpose with the Apostle Paul, "But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 3:13-14](#)

The following poem states it well:

### A NEW YEAR

A new year has dawned and what shall it be,  
A year lived for God or a year lived for me?  
A year with hours wasted in foolish regretting  
O're all the mistakes I have made.  
Or a year like a garment made useful by mending  
That the seams no further be frayed?

The past year is gone it can never return,  
Opportunities gone with chances to learn—  
But still, I sit grieving my eyes fully blinded  
To visions of service ahead?  
There are numberless people needing food of soul comfort  
From God's store of the true living bread.

NO! Forgetting those things which today lie behind  
I shall reach for the new things with heart and with mind.  
Grasping new opportunities lying before me  
I shall run with true patience the race  
Pressing on toward the mark for the prize in Christ Jesus  
'Til by Him I'm made perfect through grace.  
Grace B. Renfrow

I wish all of you a most blessed wonderful new year of spiritual growth and development. May we all grow forward in 2021 and reflect Jesus in our thoughts, in our attitudes, in our words and in our actions.

In Christ's Love and Service,  
Bob Hinckley  
Interim Pastor

## From the desk of the Deacons...

As the glorious Christmas season is over, we start to look forward to the new year. It's time for a fresh start. I think we could all agree that a less-eventful year is what we look forward to. COVID may have turned 2020 upside down but nothing lasts forever. In the book of the [Lamentations 3:22-23](#), "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed because His compassions fail not, they are new every morning. Great is YOUR faithfulness." The writer wants to impress upon us that God's mercies truly are new every morning. That is His promise to us.

Imagine getting a refresh every single day? We do. It's one of our best gifts under the tree after first unwrapping our free gift of salvation which is given to us through our belief in Jesus Christ. We know that our heavenly Father sent Him to us to free us from our sins and reconcile our relationship back to God. ([Colossians 1:19-22](#)) He is faithful, patient, gracious and forgiving. That promise is for every day as long as we walk this earth.

So, as we look towards 2021 let's bear in mind the great opportunity, we have to take a fresh-perspectives on our relationship with God. Let's think of those things we would like to have a fresh start with. Are there attitudes or actions toward others we need to change? Do we use our gifts to love and care for those around us? Is our relationship with God our first priority, or are we self-serving? Are we in God's Word enough? Do people around us know we love and serve the living God. They can seem significant or insignificant things, but they all matter to God.

Here is something I will leave you with. It is something I heard from a pastor that inspires me every time I hear him preach. David Jeremiah spoke about our prayer life. Do we pray without ceasing or is our prayer life on the back burner? [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#) says... "pray without ceasing." He said, think of your hand when it comes to praying. We have 5 fingers. One represents praying before we get out of bed, next is for praying at breakfast, and then, praying at lunch followed by praying at dinner and finally praying when we go to bed. So simple., right? But something so easily forgotten.

Let's pray unceasingly in the new year and see what the Lord has in store for us. I believe it is great things! Remember, each day is a new beginning, a fresh start. No one else can give that to us but God. How will we know if we don't ask? How will we know if we don't seek? How will we know if we don't knock first?

[Matthew 7:7](#).

2021 is a new year, a fresh beginning.

Happy New Year

Grace and Peace

Anna Maria Salvatore



# Kids' Korner



[sermons4kids.com/new-beginnings](http://sermons4kids.com/new-beginnings)

## New Beginnings

### Theme

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his ministry. Our baptism marks the beginning of our new life in Jesus.

### Scripture

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." [Luke 3:21-22](#) (NIV)

January is an exciting time. It is the beginning of a brand- new year. Some people like to make New Year's resolutions or promises to themselves about what they plan to accomplish in the new year. The number one resolution that people make is, "I am going to lose weight." I don't think too many people succeed, since it seems to be the number one resolution year after year. I know that it usually makes my top ten list of things I would like to accomplish in the new year.

Even if you don't make any New Year's resolutions, this is an exciting time. It is a time that we can forget our past mistakes and look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is a time of new beginnings.

Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in his life too. One of those times was when he was baptized. There were a couple of very important things that happened when Jesus was baptized. First of all, the Bible tells us that the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and landed upon him. The second thing was that God spoke and said, "You are my Son. I love you and I am well-pleased with you."

This event marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry here on earth. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God upon him, Jesus began to perform great miracles. From this new beginning, many people began to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and they began to follow him.

Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. When we are baptized, it shows the world that just as Jesus rose from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we also live a new life in him. (Romans 6:4) God may not always be well-pleased with us, but I think that He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus.

New beginnings — God gives us opportunities for new beginnings. Let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.

### Let's Pray:

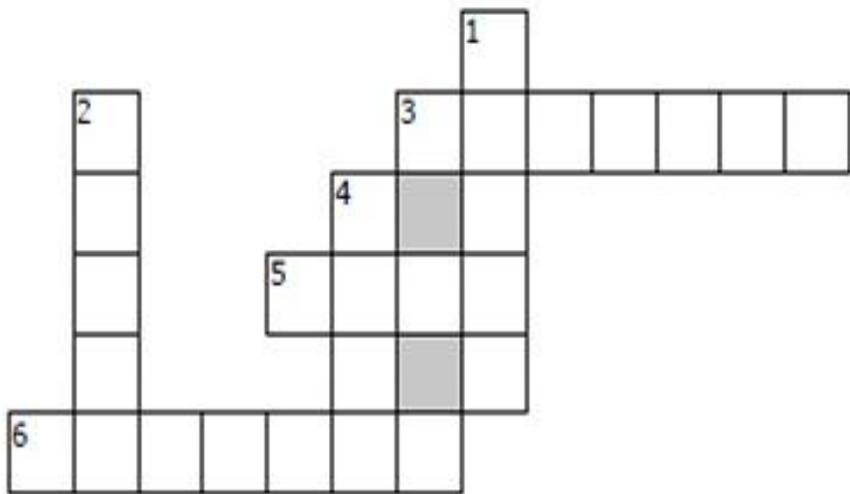
Dear Father, thank you for new beginnings. Help us to make the most of them — not through our own strength — but through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen

# The Baptism of Jesus

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. Luke 3:21 (NIV)



## ACROSS

3. Shoes that are fastened to the foot by straps.
5. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When Jesus prayed, the \_\_\_\_\_ opened.

## DOWN

1. The liquid that John used to baptize people.
2. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
4. The name of the man who baptized Jesus.

John  
dove

voice  
sandals

water  
heavens





# MAINE NEEDS

*a community effort*

WE ARE A  
GRASSROOTS  
NONPROFIT  
POWERED BY A  
GROWING  
COLLECTIVE OF  
VOLUNTEERS.

We know how resilient people are, but not all of life should be about overcoming adversity. We aim to meet people on the hill they climb and ease stressors by rallying the heart of the community to provide basic needs.

We strive to help individuals and families in Maine meet their basic, material needs by providing donated clothing, hygiene products, household items, and other necessities. We focus our work on those starting life over from scratch: domestic abuse survivors, asylum seekers and those facing financial hardships. We partner with schools, caseworkers, nurses and nonprofits to provide these material resources.

As of October 2020, we became a 501c3 and opened a free community donation center in Portland Maine.

If you'd like to support our efforts, we would be incredibly grateful. Send donations to the address below or go to the website [www.maineneeds.org](http://www.maineneeds.org) and click on **Support Our Efforts** to make a donation and you'll receive a tax-deductible receipt via email when you donate on line.

Physical Address: 332 Forest Avenue, Portland Maine 04101

Mailing Address: P.O Box 4174 Portland Maine 04101

## Kits

"These kits allow children to create, moms to rest, they help keep the unhoused warmer and nurture those in quarantine. So many families are going without essential items, but what if they didn't have to?"

### Art Therapy Kits

- coloring books
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue sticks
- play doh
- construction paper
- stickers
- water paints with brushes

\*assemble in a large unsealed zip lock bag

### A Minute for Mom Kit

- a handmade soap
- tea and chocolate
- a candle or essential oil
- facial mask or cleanser
- moisturizing lotion
- headband or hair ties
- loofa, wash cloth, razor
- rice pack warmer
- mini plant

\*you don't need everything on this list  
make it your own  
\*package in a zip lock bag

### Mini Warmer Kit

- chapstick
- hand warmers
- tissues
- mini hand lotion
- dunkin gift card
- toothbrush
- mini toothpaste

\*package in a zip lock bag

### Covid-19 Care Kit

- thermometer
- disinfectant wipes
- soap
- kid's shampoo
- tissues
- baby wipes
- juice or Gatorade
- vitamins c or d, zinc

\*package in a zip lock bag

### \$10 Cleaning & Toiletry Kit

- all purpose spray
- toilet bowl cleaner
- dish soap
- package of sponges
- laundry detergent
- hand/bar soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- toothpaste and toothbrush
- trash bags

\*assemble in a bag or a kitchen trashcan

# Bible Lesson for Adults

## New Beginnings

blog.biblesforamerica.org

As Christians, we desire a closer relationship with God. Whatever our experience was last year, thank the Lord, we can freshly give ourselves to daily pursue Christ this year. At the beginning of this new year, we thought we'd share seven ways for us to have a new beginning with the Lord.

The points below include inspiring and motivating quotes from well-known Bible teachers, preachers, Christian workers, and authors.

### 1. Love the Lord Jesus

*"If you would learn to appreciate Christ more, read this book [the Bible], frequently and prayerfully."  
—H.A. Ironside*

To have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, it's essential that we love Him. And our love and appreciation for Him issues from our knowing Him and what He's done for us. The more we know Him by reading His Word, the more we love Him. We can start this new year by asking the Lord to renew our love for Him and to give us a deep longing for Him in His Word so that we wouldn't be satisfied until we find Him, see Him, and touch Him in His Word. This is a prayer the Lord will gladly answer.

### 2. Spend time with Him

*"I never have seen a man or woman who spent fifteen or twenty minutes alone with God every day that didn't have the dew all the while. I have never known one to backslide, either."—D.L. Moody*

We simply need to spend time with the One we love. There is no substitute for quality time spent alone with Him, free from distractions, especially early in the morning. By spending time with Him first, before we get involved with the affairs of our day, we'll experience Him as the refreshing dew in our fellowship with Him. It's only by taking time to be with Him that we'll know Christ, grow in our relationship with Him, and grow in His life.

### 3. Feed on Him in the Word

*"The 'good food' is...the food of the Word of God, for as food builds up the tissues of the body, repairs waste, and preserves us in health, so the Word of God is the complete food of the soul."—W.H. Griffith Thomas*

The Bible is our spiritual food. In [Jeremiah 15:16](#) the prophet said, "Your words were found and I ate them, and Your word became to me the gladness and joy of my heart." We must daily come to the Word hungry to taste and enjoy God, to eat and drink Him, and to be nourished and satisfied by Him. Feeding on His Word in this way imparts His life into us. If we don't have an appetite for God in the Word, we can simply ask Him to give us one.

### 4. Come to Christ in the Word

*"Points of truth however interesting, scriptural knowledge however profound and extensive, Biblical criticism however accurate and valuable, may all leave the heart barren and the affections cold. We want to find Christ in the Word; and, having found Him, to feed on Him by faith."—C.H. Mackintosh*

When we come to the Bible merely for knowledge or guidance, it's very possible to miss the Lord. The Lord Jesus said in [John 5:39-40](#), "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. Yet you are not willing to **come to Me** that you may have life." When we come to the Bible, we must come to contact the Lord Himself and turn our heart back to Him. We should not separate the Word from Christ, but come to find the Lord in His Word.

As we find the Lord in the Word, we can talk to Him about what we're reading. We can also confess our sins to Him as His light in the Word shines on us. We can sing to Him, praise Him, and worship Him with what we find in the Word. Our time reading the Bible should be a time of fellowship with the Lord.

### 5. Linger on small portions

*"For all reading should be joined with meditation and prayer. Read a little, pray and meditate much."  
—John Wesley*

Often, we try to read too much at one time, or we read His Word too quickly. This isn't the healthiest way to take in the Word, just as eating a huge meal too quickly isn't so healthy for us physically. As with physical eating, it's much better spiritually to take a small portion, chew it, and even digest it by prayer. When we chew on the Word in this way, it nourishes us and "sticks to our ribs" throughout the day.

### 6. Read the Bible with prayer

*"The vital connection between the word and prayer is one of the simplest and earliest lessons of the Christian life."—Andrew Murray*

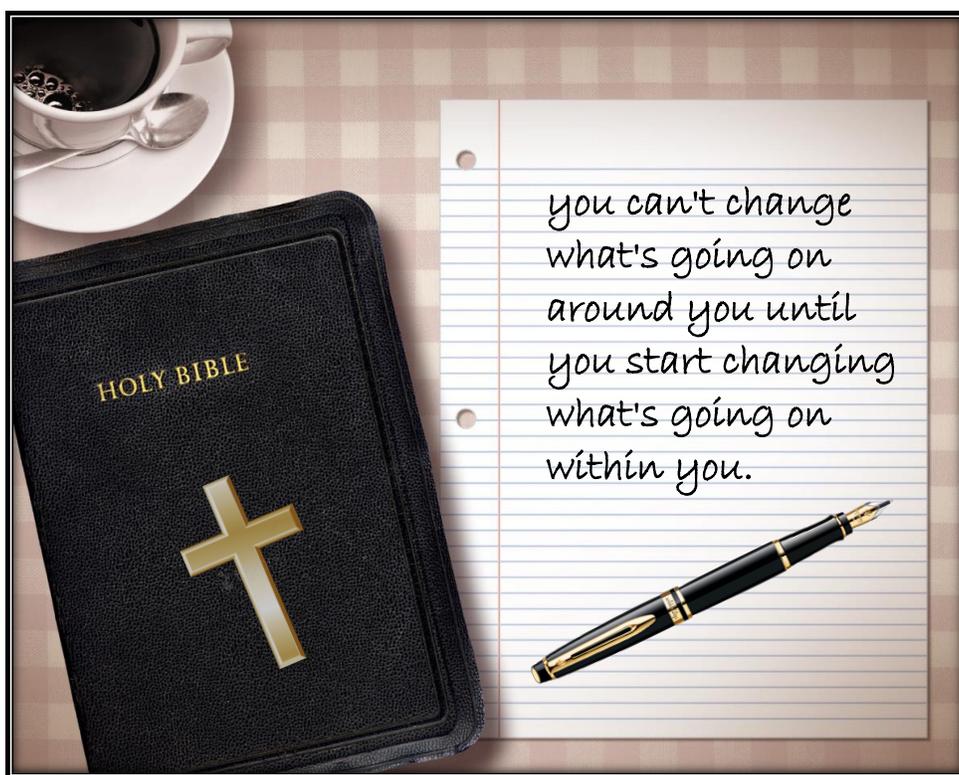
Our time with the Lord in His Word should be filled with conversational praying and the audible reading of the Scriptures. As we read, we can pray over the Word, even using it as our prayer. In this way, speaking the Scripture becomes our prayer to God and reading it becomes our listening to Him.

### 7. Focus on contacting Him, not on carrying out a duty

*"The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, or how I might glorify the Lord: but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished."—George Mueller*

Rather than being a cold routine or duty, our time with the Lord in His Word is a time to delight ourselves in the Lord. This time should make our hearts happy in Him and come out of our single and pure desire for God Himself. Instead of seeking for biblical knowledge or answers to prayer, in this time we must learn to linger in His presence to enjoy Him in an intimate way.

This year, may we all have a new beginning with the Lord and continue to develop our personal relationship with Him by spending time with Him. May we learn how to nourish ourselves in His Word ever more deeply and renew and enrich our daily, personal times of fellowship with Him.





# Take Out Lunch

Choose One Sandwich and One Soup

All meals include dessert



Chicken Salad Sandwich

Ham Slider Sandwich

Haddock Chowder

Tomato Florentine Soup

## January 13, 2021

### Bar Mills Community Church

13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton, Maine / [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org)

To Place Order Contact:

Judy @ 929-5555 / [judysjul@gmail.com](mailto:judysjul@gmail.com)

Place Order By: Monday, January 11, 2021



### *New Beginnings*

*A fresh start, new beginnings not just for today . . .  
but, all year through.*

*If you let Jesus, be your resolution  
He will bring to you a glorious restoration.*

*Putting behind the past, pressing into the goal believing in God...  
with your whole heart and soul.*

*Letting Him change you, from the inside out . . .  
pushing back your fears giving Him your doubt.*

*A fresh new start, is waiting for you . . .  
oh, the mighty things Jesus wants to do!*



#### **Psalm 51:10**

*“Create in me a clean heart,  
O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”*

[poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com](http://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com)

