



Gaines Chapel
AMEC
Grounded, Growing and Glorifying God

Grounded and Connected
January 7, 2024

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2024

Praise the Lord Saints! Happy New Year!
2024: The Year of Moving Forward in Faith and Flowing in the Favor of God
Psalm 5:11-12

When David wrote the words of Psalm 5, he shared moments of distress, confusion, and lamentations but rather than stay in a place of sadness, he chose to worship and trust God.

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;
In fear of You I will worship toward ⁴Your holy temple.

⁸Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;
Make Your way straight before my face.

But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You ¹⁰defend them;
Let those also who love Your name
Be joyful in You.

¹²For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;
With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield

Therefore, as we enter January, our **Month of Habakkuk** (Embracing and Wrestling with God on behalf of others) we are urged to be like David and first wrestle with God on behalf of self. Let's press for relief of what is causing us distress and dysfunction so that we can break the chains that bind us and then be free enough to intercede on behalf of others.

Consider consecrating at least four hours of fasting each week by Wednesday noon, before we gather in the garden to pray.

In this month of consecration, we will devote ourselves to fasting and prayer. I am asking everyone to consider fasting in one way or another—be it food, sweets, drinks (alcohol—let' keep



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it real!)) unnecessary shopping, or even TV or aspects thereof. If possible, please commit to a minimal fast of at least 4 hours weekly, preferably prior to noon day prayer on Wednesdays. However, any day or time and any amount of time that you commit to fasting and prayer will be profitable for you and us as we stand together. During your time of fasting, please make sure you pray, study the word of God, meditate, or spend time in worship.

If you can't fast—NOT a problem! –Just pray!
Let's move forward in faith and flow in the favor of God!

As always, please use our online [prayer requests option](#), email, or text your prayer requests and praise reports to Rev. Verna Queen. [We are starting a new prayer list](#). Please make sure your concerns are included.

Wednesday: Noonday Prayer: Prayer calls are on our conference line: 605-313-4121 PIN 138584

Reminders:

Bible Study resumes on Jan 17: Topic—PRAYER

Third Quarterly Conference Date TBD –Please start preparing reports. Tentative due date
January 25

Official Board/Churchwide Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 6PM

All Tax Forms and stipend statements will be distributed to all persons by the last Sunday in January. We are unable to accommodate special requests for statements prior to that day.

2024 Calendar

ALL Organizations and Ministry dates, even meetings (except for Stewards/Trustees) need to be added to the 2024 calendar. Please send your tentative meeting and ministry dates to me and copy Rev. Tonya McCleary and Sis. Linda Harvey. The tentative plans or proposals are due February 5.

Join us in the Sanctuary!
Church School at 10AM (also on ZOOM)
and Worship at 11AM (also on Facebook Live)



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(Unless weather prohibits or advised)

January 2024	
Sunday, 14th	Children's Church during 11am service Celebrate – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King – Sunday
Monday, 15th	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
Wednesday, 17th	Bible Study resumes 7pm via Zoom
Thursday, 18th	Senior Moments @ 12 noon via zoom
Tuesday, 23rd	Official Board, Churchwide Meeting 6:00PM via Zoom
Wednesday, 24th	Quarterly Reports—Tentative Due date
Friday, Jan 26	Gaines Clean – Up day
Monday, 29^h	YES Ministry – Prayer Board Party – start on Zoom and will conclude in person in February
Tuesday, 30th	Class Leaders Meeting @ 6pm via Zoom