

# Chepachet Union Church

## Our Church Life



Volume 64 Issue I

January 2022



### A New Year, a New Covenant

Pastor Phil Curtis

The New Year is a time when people traditionally make new resolutions. But this year, I want to encourage you to focus on a new resolution that God has made for us! Yes, God himself made a new resolution in Jeremiah 31:31-34. He calls it “the new covenant.” The people of Israel had found it impossible to fulfill the conditions of the *old* covenant, which were summarized in the 10 Commandments. Though the LORD had taken Israel by the hand and led them out of slavery in Egypt and though he had become their spiritual husband, they were unfaithful to him. They failed to keep their “resolutions” and disobeyed the 10 Commandments. So, God made a *new* covenant with his people Israel.

So often, like Israel, we fail to keep our resolutions. For example, in the New Year, we might make promises to love God more fully and to love others more faithfully—but time and again, we fail to keep these resolutions. This is where God’s new covenant comes in. This covenant consists of a series of resolutions or promises that God has made for us: (1) “I will put My law in their mind, and write it on their hearts”; (2) “I will be their God, and they shall be My people”; (3) “they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them”; (4) “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jer. 31:33-34 NKJV). Aren’t these wonderful promises?

In 2022, I want to encourage you to focus more on what God has resolved to do for you than on what you might resolve to do for him. This passage in Jeremiah 31 is quoted in full in the New Testament, in Hebrews 8:8-12. (In fact, this promise of a new covenant is the longest single Old Testament quotation found in the New Testament.) These resolutions or promises of the new covenant are not only for Israel but for Christians also. God has promised to make *us* his people and has given *us* the privilege of knowing him. He has written his law on *our* minds and hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. His final promise is the foundation of all the rest: God promises to remember our sins and lawless deeds no more. This promise of complete forgiveness is based on the sacrifice of God’s Son on the cross—Jesus Christ paid the full penalty of all our sins.

For 2022, why not make your resolution a decision to focus on God’s new covenant promises to you? Thank him every day for the privilege of knowing him and being one of his people. Rely on the Holy Spirit living in you to enable you to love God and love others. And thank God for the sacrifice of his Son that provides complete forgiveness for all your sins.



Chepachet Union  
Church

Annual Church  
Business Meeting,  
Monday, January 17,  
7:00 pm



## Puzzle!

Match each clue with the correct biblical dreamer.  
Use the Scripture hints if needed.

1. This person’s brothers were irritated to hear of certain dreams.
2. Angels went up and down a ladder in this person’s dreams.
3. This person dreamed about skinny cows eating fat cows.
4. After an unpleasant dream, this person warned a loved one to avoid Jesus.
5. This person saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.
6. A dream warned this person (plus family) to flee to Egypt.
7. This person saw a vine produce grapes, with juice squeezed into a cup.
8. A dream warned about Herod’s evil plan.

- A. Pharaoh (Genesis 41:17-21)
- B. The Magi (Matthew 2:12)
- C. Jacob (Genesis 28:12)
- D. Pharaoh’s cupbearer (Genesis 40:9-11)
- E. NT Joseph (Matthew 2:13)
- F. OT Joseph (Genesis 37:9, 11)
- G. Pilate’s wife (Matthew 27:19)
- H. Daniel (Daniel 2:31-35)

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*Our Vision: Chepachet Union Church  
brings glory to God in worship as we  
welcome, witness, and nurture each other.  
We share the joy of God's love as one  
family in Christ.*

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### IT'S WINTER TIME!

Bad Weather? Don't know if Church or Sunday School is cancelled? The Chepachet Union Church will post on the television if we cancel church or other events. So check your local station, or favorite internet station, email and Facebook for notices.



### Adult Bible Study Class

In January we look forward to new beginnings and new things of life. We resolve (make New Year resolutions) to start anew usually to become better. By the end of the month we invariably have given up on any new beginning.

God, however, is not as fickle as we are. When He starts a new thing first it is really a new thing and second usually better than whatever existed before and it gets done!

For example Genesis 1:1 tells us that *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* This was a new beginning because God also tells us that before He did this there was nothing but His Word (John 1:1-3). John and Genesis also tell us that all God did was speak and the physical and spiritual things we know of came into existence.

Likewise, God has assured every believer that trusts in Christ Jesus that we will be made new (1 John 3:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27). God also tells us that

the world we will live in will also be totally new (Isaiah 65:17, 66:22; Revelation 21:5). So when God makes a resolution to do something He does it without fail.

We unfortunately, fail every new year usually before February. It is because we put our trust and faith in our own effort instead of relying solely and completely on God.

There is one New Year resolution that we should all try to achieve with the help of the Lord and that is to learn all we can about His Word. For everything, from the heavens and the earth including our very life, comes from that Word. We should at least understand the source of all things.

Make a New Year's resolution to regularly attend a bible study and make that the one resolution you keep. In the words of the sneaker company "Just do it."

