

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

January 2026

## The First Month of the Year

*By Pastor Ricky Kurth, Berean Searchlight, January 2012*

**E**ven a child knows that January is the first month of our calendar year.

For the ancient people of Israel, however, the first month of the year was the month of Abib, which roughly equates to our month of April. Speaking of Abib, God said, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2). If you are wondering why God chose April as the beginning of months for His chosen people, we learn the reason in the next chapter: "Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt....This day came ye out in the month Abib" (Exodus 13:3,4).

God wanted His ancient people to "remember" that their birth as a nation marked a new beginning for them, so he instructed them to "observe" this month as something special unto the Lord (Deut. 16:1).

God's people today often do the same with their spiritual birthdays. Many who can tell you the exact date they were saved consider the day worth remembering each year. But what if you can't remember the day you trusted Christ as your Savior? There are many believers who grew up under the sound of the gospel and were saved at an early age.

Occasionally we hear from these dear saints, who tell us they are troubled by the fact that they cannot remember the day they were saved. Since they can't remember the date, some even wonder if they are truly saved.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



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**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.**

**Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims**

**Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

**Sunday Messages available on website:**

**([www.avalongracechurch.com](http://www.avalongracechurch.com))**

**Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**"And to make all men see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world  
hath been hid in God, who created  
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

**- Ephesians 3:9**

## The First Month of the Year (Continued from Page 1)



When we hear from believers like this, we like to point out that while we can't remember the day we first understood that we were born an American citizen, now that we know it to be so, we know that all the rights promised to citizens in the Bill of Rights are ours.

In the same way, while you may not remember the day of your spiritual birth, now that you believe, you can be sure that the promise of eternal life and all the other blessings found in Paul's epistles are yours.

The point is, of course, that it doesn't matter when you first believe something; what matters is what you believe right now. If you believe you can get to heaven by something that you yourself can do, you are not saved. If you rather believe you are going to heaven because of what Christ did for you on Calvary, we'll see you someday in glory!

**A**s we venture into a brand new year, and packing up all our Christmas decorations and putting them away until next Christmas, no doubt 2026 will be busy and there may be new goals to reach or challenges that test our faith for each of us. It's like that every New Year—nothing is really new under the sun! In the rush of our busyness and just living life, let's remember our true citizenship is in heaven: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." - Philippians 3: 20-21

From the entire McClellan family, we wish you a very Happy New Year filled with mercy, joy, and good health!! God bless you all, Pastor Phil

### ***TICK TOCK*** ***By Joanna Fuchs***

I'm writing this in a state of shock,  
Watching the clock—tick tock, tick tock,  
Advancing, approaching, relentlessly,  
A brand new year; Oh, can it be?

The calendar says the same thing, too  
Time races, vanishes for me; Boo hoo!  
No, wait! If time flies, I'm having fun!  
A year of fun! It's gone! It's done!

I now embrace the blur of time,  
Because it simply means that I'm  
Too busy with pleasure, joy, delight  
To mourn the passing days' swift flight.

So I'm wishing you fast, happy days,  
Pleasing you in myriad ways,  
Filled with happiness and cheer,  
Oh Happy, Happy Bright New Year!

God does not lead me year by year,  
Nor even day by DAY;  
But step-by-step my path unfolds  
My Lord directs my WAY.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know;  
I only know this MINUTE  
But He will say, This is the way,  
By faith now walk ye IN IT.

And I am glad that it is so  
Today's enough to BEAR;  
And when tomorrow comes,  
His grace shall far exceed its CARE.

What need to worry then, or fret?  
The God who gave His SON  
Holds all my moments in His hand  
And gives them one-by-ONE.

(Author unknown)

## December 14, 2025 Christmas Program . . .



This year's - well actually last year's Christmas program - was awesome! What a joy to have our youth (and some of our older folks) participate in music, song, voices, and worship, as we chronicled Our Lord's birth by everyone reading the Scriptures, followed by a delightful luncheon and fun in Fellowship Hall. It was the best Christmas Program ever!!! Here are some pictures:



More pictures on Page 4



**December 14, 2025 Christmas Program . . . (continued)**

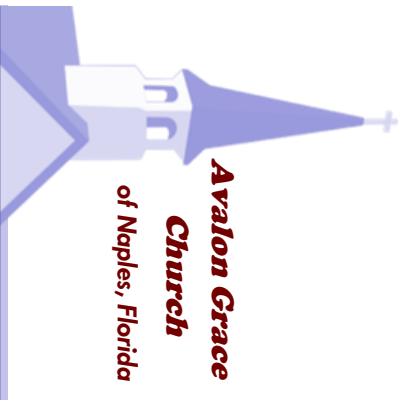




# Coloring for Jesus



Happy New Year !!



# January 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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1  
2  
3  
**HAPPY  
NEWYEAR**



8th Doris Rhoden  
11th Richard Bean

4 9:45 Sunday Breakfast  
10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

5 6 7 8 9 10

1 1 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7

10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

1 8 1 9 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3 2 4

10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
The LORD'S Supper Observed  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

2 5 2 6 2 7 2 8 2 9 3 0 3 1

10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

**COMING IN FEBRUARY  
2026**  
1st 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast