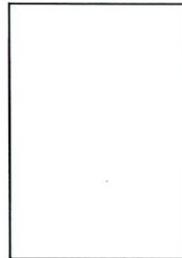




**Ministerial Staff**  
David Barron: [david.barron@cknb.org](mailto:david.barron@cknb.org)  
Interim Pastor  
Joshua Owen: Minister to Youth, Children and Families  
Jennifer Baker: [jennifercbcworship@gmail.com](mailto:jennifercbcworship@gmail.com)  
Worship Leader  
Church Secretary: [cbc829@gmail.com](mailto:cbc829@gmail.com)  
Financial Secretary: [cathy@centralbaptistparis.com](mailto:cathy@centralbaptistparis.com)

visit us at [www.centralbaptistparis.com](http://www.centralbaptistparis.com)  
Church Connect: [centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com](http://centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com)

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**Through month of December 2025 (Three Sundays)**  
Average Sunday School 114 Average Worship 196  
– both in person and online worship



*Messenger*

829 High St. • Paris, KY 40361

859-987-3951 or 859-987-5638

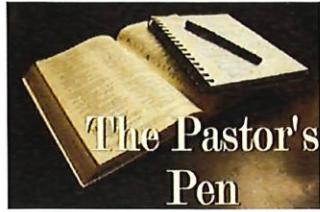
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*January 1, 2026*

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## Seeing Grace in Action

*From Galatians 2:1-10*

How good are we at spotting grace in action?

That question sounds simple, but it quickly becomes personal. It's easy to recognize grace in people who look like us, think like us, and live like us. It's much harder to see grace at work in people whose lives are messy, whose struggles make us uncomfortable, or whose sins don't resemble our own.

In Galatians 2:1-10, the Apostle Paul gives us a clear picture of grace on display. Years after his conversion, Paul travels to Jerusalem and intentionally brings Titus—an uncircumcised Gentile believer. Titus is living proof that salvation comes not by works of the law, but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Paul wanted the church leaders to see grace in action.

Grace, by definition, is the **unmerited favor of God**. It cannot be earned. If it could, it would no longer be grace. God does not wait for us to clean ourselves up before offering salvation. Grace meets us in our sin, not after we have conquered it. That truth should humble us, because grace is not given to good people—it is given to guilty people.

Yet even in the early church, there were those who tried to add to grace. False teachers insisted that faith in Christ was not enough; believers also needed to follow the law. Paul refused to give even an inch. The moment we add something to grace, we lose grace

altogether. The gospel is not Jesus plus anything—it is Jesus alone.

While we would never say “Jesus plus circumcision,” we still struggle with modern versions of “Jesus plus.” We say things like, “*I know they're saved, but...*” We quietly evaluate faith based on behavior, background, politics, or particular sins. Without realizing it, we add conditions to the gospel.

At the same time, Scripture is clear that grace does not mean sin no longer matters. Grace does not excuse sin—but it does change our relationship to it. We do not obey God in order to become Christians; we obey God because we are Christians. Grace saves us, and then grace transforms us. If God has truly changed our hearts, He will not leave our lives unchanged.

James reminds us that showing partiality—ranking sins or treating people differently—is itself sin. Grace should make us less shocked by sin and more amazed by salvation. If sinners feel uncomfortable in the church, it may be because we have forgotten what kind of sinners we were when Christ found us.

As we go about our week, may we look for grace in action—in our homes, in our conversations, and in the way we welcome others. People are watching, not to see if we are perfect, but to see if we are gracious. And when grace is visible, the gospel advances.

Bro David Barron

## SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES



January 13<sup>th</sup> we will meet at Giovanni's at 11:30 AM. Please sign up at the Registration Center if you plan to attend.



We will meet at 12 PM (noon) on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Healthy Habits-Healthy Life! Please sign up at the Registration Center.



Hello church family,  
Please join me in welcoming our new WMU director for 2026, Bette Edwards. Her heart for missions will inspire all of us to reach out to the community, state, our country and to the whole world.

I am looking forward to what she can help us to accomplish in 2026!

Blessings,  
Leisa Proctor



Open Every Tuesday of the Month from 11 AM-6 PM.

### LIFE HOUSE NOTES

Dear Church Family,

Our first Christmas Store was held on December 12 and December 16. Fifty-one families participated and were able to select items for 90 children ages 4 and below. God blessed us abundantly with donations of gently used clothing and toys. Parents were given 25 points per child to choose clothes and/or toys. Shoppers also received a stuffed animal and a book of their choice for each child as well as a sleeper or Pj's. Santa's elf (Sharon Arcari) showed up in full costume on December 12<sup>th</sup> to help out and add to the fun. Lisa Allison and Candy Beauman volunteered along with Life House Board Members.

In November we had 151 shoppers with 71 being unique. We gave 99 dozen diapers away.

### Bible Drill

Please have your youth age 4-9<sup>th</sup> grade get involved in this LIFE altering activity. Youth Speakers-10-12<sup>th</sup> grade, scholarship possibilities.



AWANA meets on Sunday nights at 6 PM. Starting back up on January 11<sup>th</sup>. All Children age 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend this great program. They will learn to be a Worker Not Ashamed.

### Willing Hands Quilters

Monday mornings at 9 AM. All are invited to join us.

### Minister to Youth, Children and Families

Welcome to our new Minister to Youth, Children and Families, Joshua Owen. He and his family are moving from North Carolina and are planning to be here in January.

Blessings to Brother Joshua, and the rest of his young family.

### In Memory:

Church Members who passed away in 2025:

Phyllis Lenore Carpenter Flynn Grant - 12/30/2024  
Carroll Biddle – 2/1/2025  
Joyce McDonald - 5/28/25  
Woodrow (Woody) Berry – 6/27-25  
Mina Welch Vaughn – 7/24/25  
James Million – 9/12/25  
Christine Hash – 9/28/25  
Mabel Robb Pena – 11/23/25

### HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

We are all sinners by nature and by choice: *Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NIV)*

We receive eternal life as a free gift: *Romans 6:23 When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death. But God gives his people a free gift—eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)*

God demonstrated His love for us, His enemies: *Roman 5:8 But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much he loves us. (NIV)*

We must trust and surrender to Jesus as Lord: *Romans 10:9-10 If you openly say, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from death, you will be saved. Yes, we believe in Jesus deep in our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we openly say that we believe in him, and so we are saved. (NIV)*

Our assurance of salvation through Jesus: *Romans 10:13 Yes, “everyone who trusts in the Lord will be saved. (NIV)*

A sinner's prayer for forgiveness:

*“Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, I know my sin deserves to be punished. I believe Christ is the Son of God, who died for me and rose from the grave. I want to turn from my sin and trust Jesus Christ alone as my Savior. Thank You for forgiveness and everlasting life I can now have through faith in Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.”*

# 2026

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 Sisters in Christ 11 AM First Baptist 8th Street
4 12 PM Deacons Meeting 6 PM Prayer Time/Youth 6:30 PM Bible Study	5 9 AM Willing Hands Quilt- ers	6 11-6 Life House Minis- try	7 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Minis- tries	8	9	10
11 5 PM Church Council 6 PM AWANA Prayer Time/ Youth 6:30 PM Bible Study	12 9 AM Willing Hands Quilt- ers	13 11-6 Life House Minis- try 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Bourbon Bar- rel	14 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Minis- tries	15	16	17
18 6 PM AWANA Prayer Time/ Youth 6:30 PM Bible Study *Accutran Col- lection—Adult SS classes	19 9 AM Willing Hands Quilt- ers	20 11-6 Life House Minis- try	21 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Minis- tries	22 NEWSLET- TER Deadline	23	24 Winter Jam
25 6 PM AWANA Prayer Time/ Youth 6:30 PM Bible Study	26 9 AM Willing Hands Quilt- ers 6 PM Caregiv- ers Support Group	27 11-6 Life House Minis- try	28 10 AM Staff Meeting 6 Pm Wednes- day Night meal 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Minis- tries	29 Young at Heart Fellowship Hall 12 PM Healthy Habits- Healthy Life!	30	31

## Our Ministries Opportunities

### Sunday:

9:30 AM Sunday School for ALL Ages  
10:45 AM Worship and Children's Church  
6:00 PM Prayer Time/AWANA/Youth  
6:30 PM Bible Study  
**Wednesday:**  
6:00 PM Music Makers  
6:30 PM Wednesday Night Ministries all  
ages

Church Connect can be activated by visiting  
[www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com/connect](http://www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com/connect)  
You can also scan the QR code below with your  
phone's camera to be directed to the link.

