



A Note from RA

Who can believe it is 2025 already? Right? January is typically a time of new beginnings; you will see lots of New Year Resolution promotions at gyms and weight loss places. This year, on December 29 we introduced the idea of using a word to guide you this year. In 2024, my word was "balance" and that did help influence some of my choices. In 2025, my word will be "Christian" as I want this part of my identity to be more representative of my life. How will that look this year? It will take the whole year of discovery to know! I would love to chat with you about this topic if you are interested! This January, we will spend some time planning for this year; see the dates for Vision Task Force and Lent Worship Design. Think about what is important to you and let me know!

I want to thank everyone at Skyline for the wonderful Christmas gift! We are a great family of faith, and I love how we are here for each other.

As always if you have an idea or want to connect, let me know! The best way to reach me is to call or text my cell: 302-333-2135.



Remember we only plow the upper lot so only use this entrance in the event of snow or ice!



Also, one of the good things Covid taught us is that when the weather is bad, we can still meet on Zoom! Check with your class or committee leader to learn more!

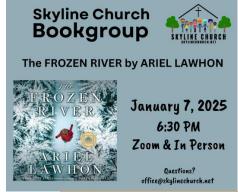
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Bookgroup!

Here is a bookgroup fun fact! A couple of former Skyline members that moved away have started up bookgroups in their new home towns! Karen Roof and Karen Steenhoek both modeled their book groups after Skyline bookgroup!

January and February reads:









Missions!

Join Us for a Missions Planning Meeting!

Skyline Church has a long history of making a difference in our community by focusing on key areas of need: addressing food insecurity, supporting those facing inadequate housing, and helping survivors of human trafficking. These efforts reflect our commitment to serving God and our neighbors in practical and meaningful ways.

As we look ahead to 2025, it's time to plan how we can continue to have an impact. On Sunday, **January 12**, after Worship, we'll hold a **Missions Planning Meeting** to map out mission activities for January through August. This one-time gathering is your chance to share ideas, provide input, and help shape Skyline's mission efforts for the upcoming months.

Do you have a passion for working with organizations we've partnered with in the past, or is there a new cause or group you'd like to explore supporting? Together, we'll decide how to make the most of our time, energy, and resources to support the causes that align with Skyline's mission.

We'll also identify who might be interested in planning and coordinating these opportunities as part of our collective effort to serve.

If you have any questions or ideas ahead of the meeting, feel free to reach out to Kim McWatters. Let's come together to build a plan that helps us live out our mission in 2025!

Clark House: January 18

Meals on Wheels week: 12/27 to 12/31





Save the Date! Meal packing event 5/4/2025 Fund raising is complete! Thank you everyone!



Warm things collection to benefit DE clothing bank! Last Call! Clean out your closets and share with those in need. New or gently used warm things, like socks, hats, gloves, blankets, coats; you get the idea. Collection began on 12/1 in the foyer and will go to the Clothing Bank of Delaware. The first load has already been delivered to them!





Upcoming Worship Themes!

Jan 5	Re-Membering the Body:
	We gather together
Jan 12	Re-Membering the Body:
	I will be with you
Jan 19	We bring a sacrifice of Praise!
Jan 26	As is our custom

Worship Design Team

Lent planning meeting Sunday January 26 after worship! Let begins with Ash Wednesday March 5th and we have traditionally offered Ashes to Go! Palm Sunday will be April 13 which begins Holy Week and then Easter will be April 20. Bring your ideas and visions for this important church season!

Bible Studies!

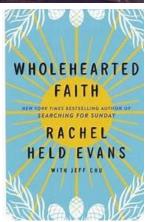
Tuesday 7PM fellowship hall Disciple Bible Study with Pastor Tom!



Wednesday 6PM, office & zoom (and always zoom on bad weather Wednesdays!)



Wednesday January 8 we will have fellowship, games and lots of laughs! Bring your supper and plan to enjoy! Then Wednesday January 15 Kim will lead a 6-week study based on this book:



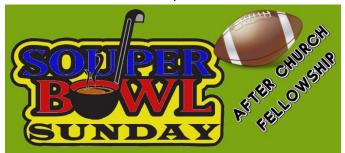
Financial update

A brief summary of our income/expenses paid-to-date for this fiscal year will be sent out with the Jan 5 bulletin. If anyone has any questions concerning the report, please email Emily Ilyas at treasurer@skylinechurch.net. If you have any questions

<u>treasurer@skylinechurch.net</u>. If you have any questions about your specific gifts, please email Rosie Wolfe at financesec@skylinechurch.net.

Statements for tax purposes will be sent out in January!

Fellowship Events!



Sunday February 9th Details coming soon!

Prayer Circle!

Thanks be to God so many of you are called to be prayer warriors! We exceeded the iPhone group size, so we are trying this app:



If you want to be part of this vital ministry, please let me know so I can add you to the group! I do apologize if you already let me know and somehow, I missed that! And if you feel called to lead this effort, I would love to know that too!





Church Leader Board Update

The Leadership Board met in November and December 2024. Below is a summary of key updates. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact any Board member: Deanna Cordova, Bill Everitt, Jim Ford, Tom Good, Mark Hufford, Nora Kohn, Debbie McCauley, Kim McWatters, Scot Stetka, or Pastor Ruthann Turner.

- · Corner Sign: The Board approved a vendor to replace the corner sign. The installation timeline is pending. Once completed, responsibilities for system access and content management will be determined.
- · Safety Walkthrough: A recent walkthrough identified needed improvements. An emergency door has been repaired, and fire extinguishers are being recharged.
- Elevator Repairs: Ongoing costly repairs are needed for the elevator, which has outdated parts from a now-defunct manufacturer. Two Board members will compile a list of issues and explore options with other companies.
- **Website**: The Board is considering outsourcing management of the church website. Next steps are under discussion.
- End-of-Year Giving Statements: We confirmed with the Financial Secretary that giving statements will be sent in January.
- · Nominations and Leadership Development: The Nominations Committee will meet in January to begin planning leadership roles, including filling three Leadership Board positions needed by July 1, 2025.
- **Missions Planning**: A one-time meeting open to all will be held in January to plan mission activities for the year.

• Employee Policy Manual: A draft has been shared with Board members for review. It will be finalized in the first quarter of 2025.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we continue to guide Skyline Church forward.

Vision Task Force

Remember the Vision Task Force? The Leadership Board thought that we could have a couple of meetings in January to come up with some ideas of things to work on for:

- How to get them in the door (Outreach)
- Once in the door (Discipleship)

When we meet, let's try to generate 5-6 ideas and the Board will select 2-3. To join this effort, let Kim know (kimmcwatters@gmail.com)! And thank you!

Monday 1/13 and Monday 1/27 at 7:00pm, zoom.

Decluttering at Skyline

Skyline Church has been working to declutter and make better use of our space. As part of this effort, we've identified items in the church that are no longer needed and plan to give them away or sell them on Facebook Marketplace at the end of January. During January, Room 17 will serve as a temporary holding area for these items. We invite you to take a look and see if there's anything you donated in the past that you'd like to reclaim. You're welcome to take those items home. Additionally, if you notice something you believe the church should keep, please contact Kim McWatters at kimmcwatters@gmail.com so it can be pulled aside and saved.

This is a great opportunity to clear out unused items while ensuring that anything of sentimental or practical value is preserved. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to Kim. Thank you for helping us make this project a success!





Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a transforming experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. It begins with a 3-day (72 hour) short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

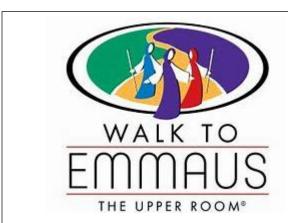
The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with an invitation from a sponsor who previously has been on the Walk to Emmaus. After one accepts the invitation, they complete an application. In God's time, the person is invited to attend the three-day experience.

The experience begins on a Thursday evening at the Camp Pecometh Retreat Center, near Chestertown, Maryland, and concludes with a closing service Sunday afternoon. Transportation to and from the Retreat Center is provided by the sponsor.

The Walk to Emmaus is meant to represent the post resurrection story of two disciples going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As they were walking a stranger joins them along the way who is later revealed to be Jesus (Luke 24:13-35). Hiking boots are not necessary as you will be taking a spiritual journey that hopefully will draw you into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. You will experience Christian fellowship, meaningful conversation, prepared meals, and fun in the natural surroundings of Camp Pecometh.

The weekends are held twice a year, fall and spring. There are separate men's and women's weekends. The next men's weekend is March 6-9, 2025, and the women's weekend is March 27-30, 2025. There is also a youth expression of the Walk to Emmaus called Chrysalis. This is for youth, second semester 9th grade through college freshmen. The next girl's weekend is March 14-16, and the boy's is April 11-13.

For more information or questions, please reach out to Pastor Tom Edwards, at edwards-edwards-edwards-edwards-ed



The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. We would love to encourage you to consider this experience! See Pastor Tom with questions

Here are the next dates:

- Women's Walk #78
 March 27-30, 2025
 - Men's Walk #78 March 6-9, 2025

