** **West Union Baptist Church**

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*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” John 14:6*

***January 2025 Newsletter***

Dear Members and Friends of West Union Baptist Church,

Happy New Year! As we enter 2025, I am excited to journey with you into a new year filled with opportunities to grow in our faith. Our theme for this year is simple yet powerful: “Fix Our Eyes on Jesus.” In a world filled with distractions, it’s easy to lose focus. Work, family, health, and endless news cycles can distract our attention from what truly matters. This year, let’s commit to fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. As we begin this new year, let’s focus on Him, knowing He alone will guide us, strengthen us, and carry us through every season.

The book of Hebrews encourages us: “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*”. (Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV) These verses remind us that our faith journey requires focus. Just as athletes stay focused on the finish line, we must keep our eyes on Jesus, our goal, and the strength that empowers us to run the race.Consider Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33); when Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he walked on water, but when he became distracted by the wind, he began to sink. Jesus immediately saved him, asking, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” Similarly, think of the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34), who believed that Jesus could heal her despite her years of suffering. She pressed through the crowd, focused on Him, and received healing. Her faith, grounded in her focus on Jesus, changed her life. This year, no matter how rough the waters may get, let’s keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, approaching Him with the same faith, believing that He is the answer to our deepest needs.

As we begin this new year, we have some exciting events ahead. We will offer a New Believers Class during Sunday School in January. This class will run for four weeks, beginning on **January 5th, 2025**, and is designed to help new believers grow in their faith and understand what it means to follow Jesus. Whether you are new to the faith or have been walking with Christ for a while, this class will help deepen your foundation in Him. We will be celebrating a **Baptism Sunday** **January 26th, 2025**. This is a powerful time for those who have decided to follow Jesus to declare their faith publicly. If you have been considering baptism, please reach out so we can walk with you in this crucial step of obedience.

So, how can we fix our eyes on Jesus in practical ways this year? Begin each day with prayer and reading His Word. Let His truth shape your thoughts and actions. Be faithful in attending church, where we can worship and encourage one another. Remember His promises when life gets complicated—He is with us and will never leave us. And look for opportunities to serve others, just as Jesus served us. As we fix our eyes on Jesus in 2025, we will experience greater peace, joy, and purpose. Let’s make this year a time of renewed focus, growing closer to Him in every area of our lives. In Christ’s love, Pastor Adam