



Hebron Community Church

January 2026 Newsletter



Christian to the Core: Diving Deeper in Discipleship in 2026

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” – 2 Peter 3:18

A new year always brings a sense of fresh beginnings and new hope. As we step into 2026 (just writing that is really hard to believe), our invitation as disciples and as a church is simple, but profound: to dive deeper in our relationship with Jesus and our discipleship and become Christian to the Core. This is not about doing more activities or adding spiritual busyness to our lives. It is about allowing Christ to shape who we are from the inside out.

Jesus never called people merely to believe ideas about Him; He called them to follow Him. We are good at believing, but not always so good at following. In Matthew 4:19, He says, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Discipleship is a lifelong journey of transformation—walking closely with Jesus so that His life is formed in us. The apostle Paul gives us a powerful image in Colossians 2:6–7: “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Going deeper means strengthening our roots so that our faith is not shallow (an inch deep and a mile wide), fragile, or seasonal (ever-changing, based on our circumstances), but resilient and growing.

This season you’ll be hearing more about the International Leadership Institute and their 8 Core Values, which help us live out a faith that is authentic, mature, and Christ-centered. They are:

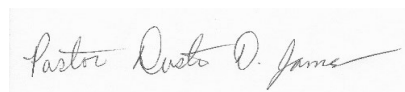
- Intimacy with God – Discipleship begins with knowing God personally, not just knowing about Him.
- Passion for the Harvest – A heart that reflects Jesus’ compassion for the lost and a commitment to making Him known.
- The Power of Vision – God-given vision provides direction, hope, and purpose for His people.
- Culturally Relevant Evangelism – Sharing the unchanging gospel in ways that connect meaningfully with today’s world.
- Multiplication of Disciples – Healthy disciples make other disciples, reproducing faith and leadership across generations.

- Family Priority – Honoring God by nurturing strong, Christ-centered families and healthy relationships.
- Faithful Stewardship – Using our time, talents, and resources wisely for God’s glory and kingdom purposes.
- Integrity – Living with consistency and honesty, allowing our character to reflect Christ in every area of life.

ILI has partnered with the GMC and for good reason: it has some of the best and most relevant tools I have seen for truly becoming Christian to the Core (which is the name of the study we’ll be starting the year with on Wednesday nights) and for evangelism. It is all about having a passion for seeing lives changed by the power of God’s love and grace, just as ours have been. It comes down to multiplication. If we can share the love of God with one person today, and then we both share the love of God with one person each tomorrow, the gospel would spread exponentially. That’s why the Christian movement spread so quickly in the New Testament world. They didn’t just expect evangelists to share the gospel at some mega event, they each had a passion for sharing the gospel, and that actually spreads the gospel faster than any other way because God can take what we do and multiply it. If we just give something to God, He can take whatever it is and multiply it. The only thing He can’t multiply is nothing. If you can just get people to church, I will help introduce them to Jesus. As a church family, 2026 is an opportunity to move beyond surface-level faith and embrace a deeper walk with Christ. This may mean setting aside more intentional time with God, committing to spiritual growth in community, or courageously stepping into obedience where God is calling you. Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:46, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Being Christian to the core means aligning our lives fully with His lordship—our thoughts, our habits, our relationships, and our mission. We’ll be hearing more about this in our study time on Wednesdays, in our worship for the next several weeks and we’ll also have a training time February 23-25 that will be open to all the people of our churches in the Southern Circle and in the Burlington District. I hope you will take advantage of these teachings and opportunities.

May this year be marked not just by resolutions, but by transformation. We can have all the information in the world, but without transformation, it is meaningless. Let us dive deeper together, rooted firmly in Christ, and live as disciples who reflect His love, truth, and power to the world around us.

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,



Pastor Dustin D. James

Methodist Women
Friendship Circle

Women of the Friendship Circle look forward to a new year of worship, fellowship, and service in 2026. All women of the church are welcome to join us and be a part of this special group. Our typical meeting time is the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Betty Albright. If you have any questions, just ask any of us, we will be glad to help.

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

November 30, 2025

The Hanging of the Greens service signified the beginning of the Advent Season and set our hearts right to experience much joy in the weeks thereafter. Thank you to everyone who took part in making it happen, from the beginning when many folks gathered on Saturday to decorate and set the scene for Sunday's special worship service, to the ending with those who participated in the service itself.

Hebron's first Hanging of the Greens Service was introduced in the year 2009 by choir director, Agatha Johnson. Subsequent services were held in 2010 and 2011, using the same script each year. However, this year an addition was made in which the service was dedicated to Tootie and Daffie Riley. The following tribute was given, and a candle was lit in their memory to burn throughout the service.

"Our responsive reading says that the purpose of this morning's service is to prepare this house for the coming of the King by hanging of the greens in which we present cedar, pine, and evergreen, and wreaths of holly and ivy. What a JOYFUL thought to prepare this house (and our hearts) for the coming of the King!!! Maybe this was the thought of Tootie Riley as she prepared all of these beautiful decorations, most likely assisted by Daffie and some others. Tootie and Daffie are great examples of leading a joyful Christian life as they served our Lord, their family and this church. Whether it was serving food at the fall festival or playing their comedy roles in the Hee Haw shows or just saying good morning, how are you they did it with joy in their hearts. Tootie and Daffie not only made and donated these decorations, but they also donated the Christmas tree on which our lovely Chrismons are displayed and the beautiful nativity scene. And so, it is with much love and respect for them that we most appropriately dedicate this service to Tootie and Daffie as we light this candle in their memory "

The worship service was opened by Pastor Dustin with prayer, prayer concerns and a responsive reading. Scriptures were read by Linguist, Ellen Willaims and Narrator, Deanne Greeson read the meaning of each Chrismon ornament presented by many of our lovely and handsome children participants and she read explanations of the items placed at the altar by adult participants. Joannie Wilson and Rachel Lankford assisted the children with the Chrismon ornaments and Judy and Allan Hall and Sylvia Price were "waiting in the wings" (of the vestibule) to make sure that all participants appeared in a timely manner. Cicero and Markie Sykes conducted the Advent Reading and lighting of the Candle of Promise. A beautiful rendition of the song "Mary, Did you Know?" was given by Robin Sykes, soloist accompanied by Todd Dixon. Pianist AnnGayle Thomas provided soft background music throughout the service, rounding out a very enjoyable experience for all.

January Birthdays

8th	Mike Gregory
9th	Adam McCauley
12th	Emily M. Vermeer
13th	Randy Lineberry
15th	Patty D. Ross
18th	Billy Williams
22nd	Melissa Holliday
24th	Catherine Freshwater
25th	Todd Barker
26th	Kate Creekmuir
27th	Sue Creekmuir
	Michelle Lee
29th	Cindy Cook

Up Coming Events in February

- 1st Isaiah Café open 9:55 to 10:25 Quilt Hallway
- 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 11th 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 15th 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- 17th Newsletter Deadline
- 21st Set up for Spaghetti Lunch
- 22nd Spaghetti Lunch following Worship
- 5 pm Roar Youth Meeting in the Hut
- Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the Prayer Room
- Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
- Pastors Meeting every Tuesday at 10:00 am.

Missions and Outreach Committee – January 2026 Newsletter

A huge “thank you” to everyone who purchased gifts for our three Angel Tree families. There were 6 children with a total of 36 gift tags on the Angel Tree. Every single request was fulfilled! In addition, Food Lion gift cards were purchased for the three families. Gifts were delivered to Garrett Elementary for distribution by their delightful social worker, Ambraya Timmons.

As we enter 2026, our goals will be to serve Hebron, our local community, our State, and world beyond. We will meet as a committee on our Day Apart on January 24, 2026, to discuss and suggest new or existing missions and outreach.

Helping Hands, Sunshine Baskets and the Ride Mission will continue in 2026.

Happy New Year and may we all share our love for one another and share God’s blessings this year!

The children’s library could use more books suited for youth. We have a good selection for younger children but not as they get older. If you have any books you are willing to share, they may be placed in the children’s Sunday school room in the lower level of the education building or given to Martha. Thank You!

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
December 14, 2025

Present:

Pastor Dustin James Jay Wilson Sandy Dixon Ben Boney
Betty Boney Buster Albright Robin Sykes Martha Graham

Also in Attendance:

Ellen Williams Lois Dixon Joannie Wilson

Pastor Dustin opened our meeting with prayer and a reading from Ephesians 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." For the Council, as leaders of the church, how we lead affects the whole church. We are to not only guide but live in harmony and align our works and actions with God's will.

The Minutes, from the November meeting, were previously approved online.

NOMINATIONS

The nominations for 2026 were approved at Charge Conference. We do need to have in place one or more individuals to serve as communion stewards.

SPRC

Sandy stated she would be working with Ellen, as Ellen will be the chairperson of SPRC in 2026.

FINANCE

The financial report for November was reviewed.

TRUSTEES

The Fire Marshall inspected our church and facilities. Everything is in working order. The occupancy rating for the Hut is 99.

The outside cameras are again in working order after being damaged from an earlier storm.

WORSHIP

There is nothing new to report. Lois is ready to take over as chairperson for 2026.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Hebron had a beautifully decorated float in the Mebane Christmas Parade. Several members of Hebron and some of Betty Albright's family braved the cold, damp, and foggy weather to ride on the float. Every participant said they had fun and even look forward to next year, if we continue to participate. Thanks to Michael and Renee McPherson for letting Hebron use their truck, trailer, and their shop to decorate and undecorate the float. All decorations were either supplied or purchased by committee members. The exceptions were vinyl Christian Christmas banners paid by funds collected for Missions and Outreach. In addition, 2 large Hebron Community Church banners, with the Global Church logo, were purchased. We have requested the church reimburse Missions and Outreach for these banners. They are stored in the Resource Room. Special thanks to Ann Marie Vosburg for preparing and printing the Waiver and Release forms for every participant to sign prior to riding on the float.

All Angel Tree gift tags have been selected, and gifts should be under the tree by now. Chris, Joannie, and Pat will deliver the gifts to Garrett Elementary on Tuesday, December 16.

Sunshine baskets have been delivered and will continue to be delivered in 2026.

Helping Hands provided refreshments for Pauline Holliday's family following her funeral service.

There have been no recent Ride Mission requests, but drivers are available.

METHODIST MEN

The men took in an estimated \$2600 from the December stew sale. The next stew sale will be January 17.

METHODIST WOMEN

The women enjoyed their Christmas lunch together following worship on December 14. After wrapping gifts for Springview Homes residents and treats for ALM, they met at Roma's for a delicious lunch.

A Financial Report for 2025 listing all receipts and disbursements was distributed.

PASTOR

There will be opportunities for training in 2026. We will join with the Southern Circle for ILI training which is evangelism. Dustin has participated in two of these studies and is very favorably impressed with the teaching. One session may be at Hebron February 23-25.

On Wednesdays, there will be a break in the current Old Testament Bible study for a discipleship training, "Christian to the Core".

Lenten services are being discussed among the Southern Circle pastors.

A Day Apart will be held Saturday, January 24, at 9:00 a.m. This is for all Hebron's church leaders and the committee members; more in attendance, more ideas.

We will have a service of Lessons and Carols on the 21st, our Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 and a New Year's Eve service will be at 5:00. The R.O.A.R. youth will have a combined Christmas and New Year's party on Sunday, December 28.

Discussion is underway for formation of a youth group to include the younger children in our church.

Our next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 3:00.

There being no further business, we were dismissed with prayer.

January 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday School Worship Hut 11:30 – 2 5 Roar Youth	29	30 6 Prayer Mtg.	31 11 pm New Year's Eve Party	1	2	3
4 Sunday School Worship Communion 5 pm Roar Youth	5 9-4 ALM	6 9-4 ALM 10 am Pastors Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg.	7 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	8 9-4 ALM	9	10 9 am Un-decorating of the Church
11 Sunday School Worship 3 pm Church Council 5 Roar Youth	12 9-4 ALM	13 9-4 ALM 10 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg. Newsletter Deadline	14 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	15 9-4 ALM	16 Stew Prep	17 Stew Sale / Bake Sale
18 Sunday School Worship 5 Roar Youth	19 9-4 ALM	20 9-4 ALM 10 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg. Newsletter Deadline	21 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	22 9-4 ALM	23	24
25 Sunday School Worship 11:30 K-5 th Youth Interest Mtg 5 Roar Youth	26 9-4 ALM	27 9-4 ALM 10 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.	28 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	29 9-4 ALM	30	31

Nursery Schedule / Children's Church

Greeters

Acolytes

January 4th

Bob Swanson

Marleigh Lankford

January 11th

Carlos Montejo

January 18th

Jr. & Robin Sykes

Peyton McBride

January 25th

Allan & Judy Hall

Annabelle Allred

January 4th Isaiah Café will be open from 9:55 am until 10:25 am with small pastries and juices available in the Quilt Hallway.