



From the Pastor's Desk

The new year always brings with it a sense of expectation and excitement. It's an opportunity for fresh starts, clean slates, and endless possibility. It's a time of renewal.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

1 Corinthians 5:17

But the success of all new things depends on a strong foundation. It's important to make sure we have the basics right.

“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.”

Matthew 7:24

So, we as a congregation are going to take those words to heart in the new year and go back-to-basics, exploring what we believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, humanity, the Church, the Bible, and God's reign in a new worship series: “Adventures in the Hundred Acre Wood.”

Yep. Winnie the Pooh is coming to church.

Why Winnie the Pooh? Because whether you grew up reading A.A. Milne's books or have watched the Disney movies or have never met these characters before, the stories are warm and inviting and (for most of us) familiar. There's nothing scary about a “cuddly chubby ole bear.” And isn't that what we want faith to be? Inviting rather than intimidating?

Pooh and his friends teach us about friendship, loyalty, courage, community, and love – the very things Jesus taught us about! Our faith isn't centered on rules or rituals, but the relationship we have with God and with one another.

But this isn't just about nostalgia for a simpler, gentler time in our lives. It's about going back to basics, so we can move forward in our faith. It's about strengthening the foundations of what we believe, so we can spring into new opportunities of ministry in the coming year.

So in this time of new year resolutions, I'm asking you to make one commitment that could change everything. Join me for worship these first seven Sundays of 2026 to rediscover what you believe and why it matters. Bring your questions and your doubts. Invite your neighbor who's been curious about church, the friend who's been seeking something more, and the member who stepped away from faith long ago. family

New year. Fresh start. Back to basics. Forward in faith.

Let's go!

Pastor Denise

