

# January 2026 - Volume 7, Issue 3

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GRANT CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Impacting the World With the Word*

*Rise Up & Sing!*

### Encouragement for the New Year

Dictionary.com defines “encourage” this way: “to inspire with courage, spirit, or confidence,” while UrbanDictionary.com defines it this way: “being positive about a person’s abilities.”

Still, a Google.com search for encouragement for the new year yields the following *Ai Overview*: “For 2026, **embrace gentle growth, self-compassion, and intentional action**; you’re stronger and more capable than you think, ready to turn challenges into stories of resilience, create your own joy, and step into your potential with renewed focus, believing that starting now, with small positive steps, leads to big changes and a more fulfilling, meaningful year.”

These all sound great, I suppose, and we want people to be encouraged as we head into a new year. The fact of the matter is that only God knows what this New Year holds. The blessing is that God holds our present and our future. And that’s a great place to be held.

It should not surprise you that the Bible is replete with passages that encourage the believer (and non-believer alike).

There’s the familiar 1 Thessalonians 5:11 where Paul writes, “Therefore **encourage** one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

There’s Acts 16:40 where it says, “After leaving the prison they went to Lydia’s home, and when they had seen and **encouraged** the brothers and sisters there, they departed.”



Continuing “until the need no longer exists,” our local WMS is collecting canned goods & non-perishables to assist the KS Food Bank feed those in hunger.

**Pat Grimmett, President.**

Those are great, but I like what it says in Isaiah 41:7 “The artisan **encourages** the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer **encourages** the one who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, ‘It is good,’ and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.”

I like this last one because it shows the unity of the people at work. The artisan isn’t upset because they aren’t a goldsmith. No. One encourages the other no matter what their talent or gift is. When they work together, the work is effective.

Let us take that example in 2026. Let us encourage each other in the work God has placed our hands to. Let us not be *discouraged*, but *encouraged*.

**- Pastor Glenn**

### REVIVING OUR YPD!



The YOUNG PEOPLE’S DIVISION (YPD) of the Women’s Missionary Society is the official youth ministry of the A.M.E. Church. This year, we are attempting, with God’s help, to revive our YPD. Missionary Wanda Brown has been elected our Local YPD Director and several have joined her team as advisors.

Join us on Youth Sunday, January 25, at 12 Noon (following worship) for our first meeting with youth from the ages of 2 through 26. This will be a time of introduction to the YPD mission, fellowship, and future planning. Snacks will be provided.



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Ra Mon Darnell  
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Pastor Gordon Glenn  
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# January

2026

[www.GrantChapelWichita.org](http://www.GrantChapelWichita.org)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Rise Up and Sing! Acts 16:25-26</b>						
5		7 Bible Study: 6:20 pm Zoom/FB	8 Youth Choir 5:30 pm	9 Adult Choir 5:30 pm	10	11
12 Official Board 7 pm via Zoom	13	14 Bible Study: 12 Noon (in person) 6:20 pm (Zoom/FB)	15 Youth Choir 5:30 pm	16 Adult Choir 5:30 pm	17	18
19 MLK Jr Day 	20	21 Bible Study: 12 Noon (in person) 6:20 pm (Zoom/FB)	22 Youth Choir 5:30 pm	23 Adult Choir 5:30 pm	24	25 YOUTH SUNDAY YPD Meeting, 12p
26	27	28 Bible Study: 12 Noon (in person) 6:20 pm (Zoom/FB)	29	30 Adult Choir 5:30 pm	31 Second Quarterly Conference 11 a.m. via Zoom	



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### CHURCH SCHOOL CONTINUES WINTER QUARTER

There is a class for everyone. Sunday Church School begins at 9 a.m. and ends in time for morning worship. Carol Smart is our Church School Superintendent. *Join us!*

In **January**, we'll continue our Winter 2025/26 Quarter, "Enduring Beliefs of the Church" with Unit 2: "Grace & Reconciliation," which will expand on the apostle Paul's teaching that humans are in a state of sin (see Rom. 3:23). We are reminded in the letter of 1 John, "that no one can claim to be 'without sin' (1 John 1:8; see lesson 5). However, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has become our advocate and the 'atoning sacrifice' for sins (2:1-6). Christ's defeat of sin on the cross introduces us to the gracious gift of new life. We are invited to respond to this gift through repentance, seeking forgiveness for our sins (Acts 2:38-39; see lesson 6)."

We will further see that "Our reception of God's gracious gift of salvation leads us to 'walk in the light' of new life (1 John 1:7). We walk in this way as we become disciples of Jesus Christ, following him with obedience, worship, and humility (see lesson 7). The journey of discipleship will not always be easy—the life of the apostle Peter demonstrates the ups and downs of discipleship (see lesson 8)! However, we don't have to go on this journey alone. In Christ, we are reconciled to God and one another, called into the covenant community: the church." (*Standard Lesson Commentary*)

- **Jan 4** - Sin & Repentance (1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6)
- **Jan 11** - Repentance & Faith (Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39)
- **Jan 18** - Prayer & Humility (Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14; John 5:14-15)
- **Jan 25** - Christian Growth (Matt. 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John 21:15-18; 2 Pet. 3:14-15, 18)