

# Happy New Year

# january 2026

## A Message from Rev. Park

Happy New Year, St. John's Friends!

We have entered 2026, the Year of the Horse in Asian culture. The first day of the New Year, called Seollal (설날) in Korean, signifies something new, unfamiliar, or a bit strange. New things are often different from what we know and feel comfortable with.

Yet we easily move into the new year by continuing our daily lives much as before. Still, many people make New Year's resolutions as they begin the new year, hoping for new experiences and fresh beginnings. Starting something new can feel uncomfortable at first—like eating unfamiliar food—but as we try it in various ways, we gradually grow accustomed to it.

I pray that this new year, 2026, will bring many new things to all of us, and that we may welcome them positively, making them feel comfortable and friendly in our lives. Amen.

Thanks,  
Sungsoon

**Join us Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> for our  
Blessing of Chalk Service.**



### CHALKING THE DOOR

#### The Epiphany House Blessing

"Chalking the door" is a centuries-old custom in which Christians gather on the feast of the Epiphany to ask God's blessing on their home.

A traditional way of doing this is to take a piece of blessed chalk and inscribe above the entrance door to the home.

**20+C+M+B+26**

The "20" and "26" refer to the actual year. The "+" between the letters symbolizes the cross of Christ.

The "CM B" initials have two meanings:

1. The initials represent the three Magi: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar.
2. Also, the initials abbreviate the Latin "Christus mansionem benedit" (May Christ bless this house).|

A big thank you to Jacki Kunec for her beautiful work on the quilt titled "Canoe Lake", a perfect size for cuddling up with on a summers night. This quilt is being raffled to raise money for our churches ongoing operating expenses.

Tickets go on sale **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, the draw for this scenic quilt will take place **March 1<sup>st</sup>** following Sunday Service. It will be on display at the church until the draw date. If you would like to get your hands on tickets, please contact Bim Bowers or Jacki Kunec as they sell out Fast!



Bible Study will begin again starting **January 20<sup>th</sup>**.

We will be studying the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Two session times will be offered so members may choose the time that works best.

**Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am & Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm**



Both sessions will cover the same material

**UCW January Meeting**  
**Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm**

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