

JANUARY 2026

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A BRAVE NEW YEAR

I sincerely hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and that as the page is closed on 2025 its many cherished memories will remain. As always, we hope that the year to come will be an even better one. Of course, we may have certain hopes and dreams for 2026, but none of us can know for sure how it will unfold or what it contains for us. Nevertheless, we will celebrate it as a gift from the Lord. Every day He gives us is a precious gift we must never take for granted, but live to the full and with careful examination.

In reflecting on the past year and projecting out, I'm reminded of a number of issues that are on people's minds that make them wonder and rightfully give them cause for great concern. For some, these concerns haven't even registered on their radar yet, but ought to be taken seriously. Whether they realize it or not, their lives are already being influenced by them and will only continue to be even more so.

One of these has to do with **AI** or *Artificial Intelligence*. Over 2025, I've had a number of conversations with some of our young people and college aged students and folks just beginning their careers, and many express their reservations about AI and how it is likely to make the job market shrink or make their skills obsolete. I'm concerned about this too. Isn't it interesting how human advancement, particularly in technology, is like a double-edged sword; it can be used for incredible good while at the same time produce terrible (even evil), unforeseen consequences. I'm reminded of the warnings broadcasted years ago by Aldous Huxley in his novel, ***A Brave New World***. Although a secularist, his predictions seem to be coming true.

AI has a close cousin that not only is shaping our work – it's shaping us or aiming to change us as human beings. It is called

Transhumanism. Now, AI and Transhumanism sound like two heady and esoteric topics that don't affect the average person. This could not be further from the truth however! It's affecting us even now in detrimental ways, even though we might be unaware. And the intentions of some proponents of AI and Transhumanism are anything but benevolent.

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As believers, in particular, we need to spend some time understanding these two life-impacting phenomena that are now spreading with rapid and far-reaching influence. Does The Bible have anything to say about these? How ought Christians approach or make use of these? Should we even have anything to do with them? I believe it is worth our exploration. And – yes, The Bible does have insights into these important current issues. So, I invite you to begin 2026 by joining us for Sunday morning worship as we spend a couple of weeks understanding how these trends may impact us and how we as followers of Jesus may respond in a clear-headed and gracious way.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Paul



Contact Us

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Pastor Paul McCullough
pastor@bellpointchurch.com

**Connect with us on
Facebook!**
facebook.com/bellpoint

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

January 16
Worship & Prayer Night
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

Traditional Service - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service - 10:30 a.m.

K-4th graders, come join us in Bible Adventures during second service, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Bellpoint Community Church Groups

(all groups meet at church unless otherwise stated)

- **Adult and Youth Sunday School:** Sunday Mornings, 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **Men's Bible Study:** Every other Monday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Paul for additional information.
- **Sunday Women's Bible Study:** Every other Sunday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the McCullough home. Contact Lori McCullough for additional information.
- **Monday Women's Bible Study:** Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Location varies.
- **Bible Study Book Group:** The second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Teen Disciples** (6th - 12th grades): Sundays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

January Birthdays

Jan 3	Shayla Ellerbrock
Jan 6	Hayden Tiller
Jan 7	Ron Spessard
Jan 8	Vicki Kidd
Jan 19	Jodeen Miller
Jan 20	Elliott Kidd
Jan 24	Angie Ellerbrock
	Ryan West
Jan 25	Emily Carpenter
Jan 27	Mia Maxim
	Jordan Kelleher
Jan 30	Gracie Willis
Jan 31	Jody Kelleher

Sisters in Faith Chair

We are looking for a **new chair or co-chairs for SIF** as Kelly Williams has decided to step down after filling this position for several years. The chair(s) would be responsible for the following:

- ◆ Set up meetings at least quarterly, including a meeting early in the year to organize activities, missions, projects, etc.
- ◆ Type up meeting minutes or find someone to do so and email them out to the group
- ◆ Send information in for the Peal

Please prayerfully considering doing this and let Kelly know.

Sisters in Faith

We had 24 ladies at the Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange on December 4th.



Prayer Requests

- ◆ **Family of MaryAnn Karabuno** – MaryAnn passed away (Sayer)
- ◆ **Titus** – recovering from a very complex surgery after a motorcycle accident (VanGundy)
- ◆ **Denise Jones** – had a ball fall and suffered a fracture (Dennis)
- ◆ **Janet Artz** – undergoing radiation treatment, please pray that they're able to target the tumor and surrounding area as needed without causing any damage
- ◆ **Hannah** – breast cancer (Kapraly)
- ◆ **Margie West** – her sister is having some health problems and she would appreciate prayer for an anonymous request as well
- ◆ **Cord Lehman** – going through a transition and needs prayer
- ◆ **Leslie** – needs a job
- ◆ **Stacy Sayer** – her father has shingles
- ◆ **Gary Davis** – recovering from surgery
- ◆ **Zhang** – laid off and needs a job
- ◆ **David** – radiation treatment
- ◆ **Nancy** – recurrence of cancer (West)
- ◆ **John** – struggling with homelessness
- ◆ **Colt** – little boy with stage four liver cancer
- ◆ **Doreen** – in hospice care (West)
- ◆ **Jerry** – stage four cancer (May)



Prayer Chain

Are you looking for a way to serve Bellpoint Community Church and our community? Prayer is a powerful way to make an important difference in someone's life. The Prayer Chain is always looking for new members for this vital ministry, so please call the church office if you are interested.

If you hear of a concern or praise there are multiple ways to share the information with our Prayer Chain:

- ◆ Complete a paper prayer request located on the back of each chair and drop in an offering plate or one of the clear boxes in the entrances to the fellowship hall and sanctuary.
- ◆ Contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager, by phone at 740-369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointchurch.com.
- ◆ Post to the online prayer wall at bellpointchurch.com/prayer-wall.

Caroling

Eight members of our congregation went caroling throughout the Bellpoint community on December 17th. We spread the Good News through song and invited the recipients to our Christmas Eve services.



Thank You

On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters, THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting our mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

This year's Wreaths Across America program reached an extraordinary milestone. Together, we served 5,598 participating locations, sponsored more than **3.1 million veterans' wreaths**, and mobilized millions of volunteers, nearly a third of them children, across all 50 states and abroad...

Karen Worcester

Wreaths Across America's Executive Director

Jamaica Hurricane Relief

For those looking to give financially to those impacted by the hurricane in Jamaica, please visit <https://w3cu.com/give> and select "Jamaica Hurricane Relief" from the dropdown menu. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Nursey Volunteers Needed

We are seeking additional volunteers to serve in the Nursey during second service. If available, please contact Jody Miller or Pastor Paul. In compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy, we do ask that all volunteers complete a short, free online training from our GMC Conference called Ministry Safe. Free background checks will also be requested.

The Peal

If you do not have access to the internet or email, or simply prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you each month, please contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager at 740-369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointchurch.com.

Just a Reminder...

Please email all articles, pictures, and content for the February Peal to Rachel Kapraly at peal@bellpointchurch.com by **Friday, January 23rd**. Thank you in advance for your assistance!