



### **First of the Month Letter January 1, 2026**

Happy New Year!

I do not know if you are one to make resolutions this year or not. I have done them on occasion in the past, probably will not do them this year. I do, whether I make resolutions or not, use the new year as a time to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. In this spirit, I am wondering if some of you might be willing to help me with an upcoming (Spring) sermon series.

I will be preaching about themes like living with gratitude, giving generously, and receiving graciously.

Would you please share your stories about such things with me? You can call or text to set up a conversation or email me a story if you prefer to write.

I just saw someone share a meme on Facebook that read: "If 2025 was a drink, it was a colonoscopy prep."

While I admit that 2025 is a year that historians will probably look back on with some degree of fascination, and I experienced my own difficulties within it, I am able to look back with gratitude for a great many things.

I am grateful for this congregation, all the people that make it up, the ministries that made a positive difference in the world, and in general the sharing of life, laughter, and love.

While I admit that there are some things about 2026 that I am concerned about, I do look forward with curiosity and hope.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that each of you is able to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. Thanks for allowing me to share this path of life with you.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,  
Pastor Sean