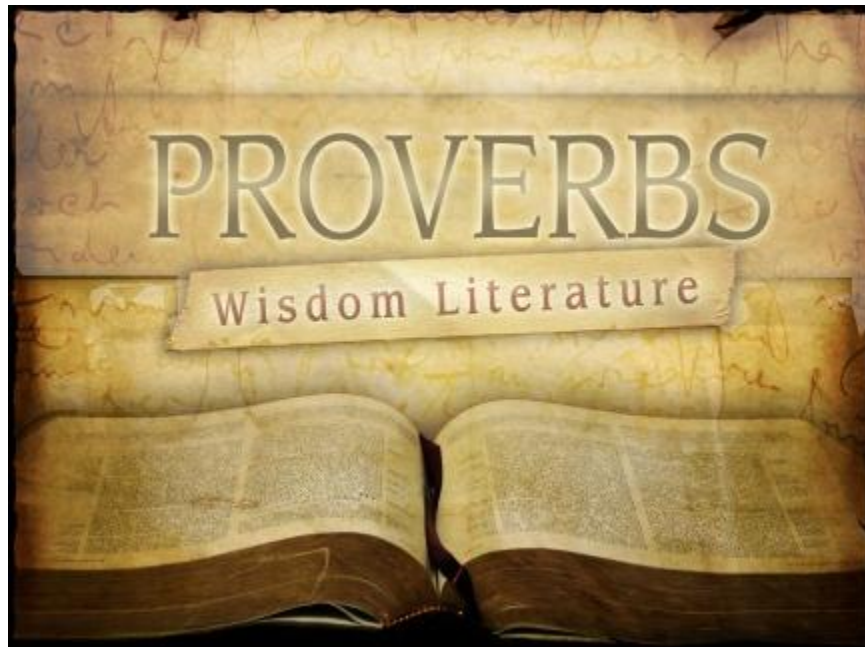


ST. MATTHEW'S U.F.W.B. CHURCH
400 Dixwell Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

21 Days of Consecration



January 5 - 25, 2026

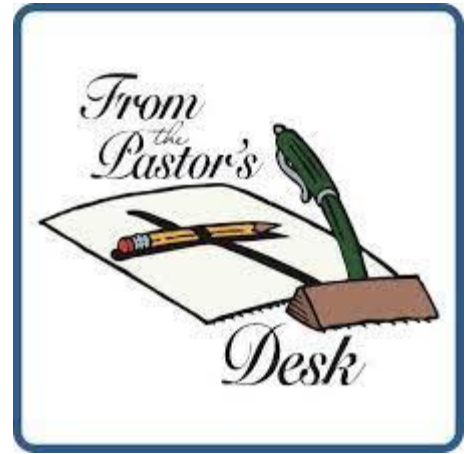


Elder Kevin C. Hardy, Pastor

December 28, 2025

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It brings me joy to greet you in anticipation of our time of consecration. Consecration 2026 allows us the opportunity to meet God daily, spend time with God daily, and to Go with God in deeper depth through collective study and prayer.



Our theme for 2026 is **“Be the Church: Intentionally Living and Learning from God’s Word”**. Just as with last year, our identity as disciples of Christ and as the Church of Christ is in the forefront. We are focusing on our relationship with Christ and our sacred and secular communities. This is both individual and collective. God gives us His supernatural grace to imitate Him while He also calls us to accountability, submission and partnership with Him in this divine process. We are called to do it with purpose and on purpose.

One of the most important ways is to prioritize the reading, study, meditation and application of God’s Word. Scripture guides our steps and directs our path. It is our standard above opinions, culture and feelings. It is both our compass and our light. With scripture comes knowledge and wisdom. During these next 21 days, we set our hearts on God through the books of Psalms and Proverbs. It is my hope and prayer that our daily time with God will make us wiser and more willing in the Word and ways of God. Enter in with expectation.

This guide is arranged to be easy to read and easy to follow. Be committed and trust God to produce the fruit.

May this time exceed your expectations and may you find it to be a journey of self-discovery and growth. I encourage you according to the scripture found in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they might see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”.

We love and appreciate you all,

Pastor Kevin C. Hardy
Lady Valerie L. Hardy

ST. MATTHEW'S U.F.W.B. CHURCH - 21 DAYS OF CONSECRATION

THEME:

“Be the Church: Intentionally Living and Learning from God’s Word”

1. Our Individual and Collective Confession: I’m Willing.

The month of January 2026 will be a journey through Psalms and Proverbs

SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 4:20-23 NIV

My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Psalms 51:12 NIV

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Pre-Consecration Prayer – January 3 at 10:00am

Women Only – Lloyd Taylor Fellowship Hall

Men Only – Robert J. Gay Building

PRAYER CALL (10-15 minutes)

Via Zoom - 779 777 579 (Passcode 260588)

**(Tuesdays 6:00am & 6:45pm)
(Thursdays 6:00am & 6:00pm)**

**January 6
January 8**

**January 13
January 15**

**January 20
January 22**



January 5-25 FASTING RESTRICTIONS

No Fried Foods

No Soda

Decrease Social Media

Avoid Negative Self Talk

No Desserts

No Junk Food

Decrease Electronic Screen Time

Avoid Negative Talk about Others

January 24-25 ADDITIONAL FASTING RESTRICTION

No Bread

This year's Fast is more fluid and personal: feel free to add things as the Lord directs you.

This year we want to give God more time, above all else.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAST

Prepare Your Mind & Body:

1. Proper sleep
2. Hydrate (drink plenty of water (flushing out toxins) it also decreases your cravings)
3. Start to eat smaller meals (begin decreasing your sugar intake)
4. Develop a plan (put yourself on a schedule. Set aside time for prayer, bible study and fasting)

Prepare Spiritually

1. Set goals - Be strategic and purposeful (what are you looking to achieve? What are you seeking God for? What do you want to do personally, what do you want to gain from fasting and prayer)
2. Journal - "God said to write the vision and make it plain upon tablets; that he may run that readeth it" Habakkuk 2:2

Prepare Your Heart

1. Confession, Repent, Ask for Forgiveness and Be Forgiving
2. Meditate on God's attributes (wisdom, power, glory, majesty)
3. Have an expectant heart (BELIEVE that what you ask shall be done in earth as it is in heaven)

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS ALL ABOUT?

Wisdom. We all want it! But do you know what it is? And where do you find it? Well, is Proverbs the book for you! It's part of what we call "The Wisdom Books" in the Bible, along with Job and Ecclesiastes. Proverbs comes first and sets the stage for the other two.

God has given us his law. We read his Ten Commandments, and they're pretty black-and-white, aren't they? Murder is sinful. Coveting is wrong. But there's a problem: God's law is blackand-white, but this sinful planet is often gray. And there isn't a command for every single situation in life. This doesn't mean that something is missing in God's law, it just means that we are often unsure what obedience to God looks like in a particular situation. So we need wisdom to live in this world as the Lord's people. The key theme of the book of Proverbs is "the fear of the LORD," which is the discipline to obey God in gratitude as his child. And you must have the fear of the LORD before you can live wisely.

Proverbs opens with a father teaching a son about life and wisdom. And the father is telling his son the differences between Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. Proverbs is meant to cause a response, and the response the father wants his son to have is 4 YOUR MONTH of WISDOM to follow and love Lady Wisdom while rejecting the advances of Lady Folly. Wisdom must be acquired; none of us are born with it. It grows and forms a person, often in a way that is not spectacular to our eyes. And we have to work for it.

Chapters 10–29 are mostly two-line proverbs, and this is probably the section we think of the most when we consider this book. A critical element to understand Proverbs is that it gives us wise principles, not hard-and-fast rules or promises that are always right. Wisdom helps us know how to glorify God in a particular situation. Wisdom enables us to obey God's law even in a confusing world that often is more gray than black and white. This is a way to live as a child of God by reasoning through things in the midst of life's difficulties and puzzles. Different times and situations call for different responses, which we can see in passages like Proverbs 26:4–5. Should we or should we not answer a fool according to his folly? It depends on the circumstances. And Proverbs wants us to think deeply about these things.

In Proverbs there is the idea that if you do certain things then you will have certain outcomes. You must live in this world according to the way the Creator has set things up. Basically, Proverbs establishes the general principle that doing good leads to good things and doing bad leads to bad things, and this is how the world works because God designed it that way.

HOW WILL PROVERBS POINT ME TO JESUS?

Ultimately only Christ perfectly obeyed God's law and acted in complete wisdom at all times. And through the gospel, God forgives even our foolish and unwise decisions because of Christ's work for us. We are in "Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As you journey through Proverbs this month, we want to encourage you to keep the gospel in mind. You will read one chapter a day and the accompanying prayer, which is meant to keep you on track and focused on Jesus every step of the way. It's easy to read the Book of Proverbs as a set of instructions on how to lead a wise and godly life, but that's not the goal of this challenge. Here, we want to draw you nearer to Christ to experience for yourself how the gospel and grace fits in even the most unlikely of places.

In this month of wisdom that you are about to embark on, our utmost prayer is that you'll come away with Jesus.

Monday, January 5, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 1

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, as I start this challenge for the next 21 days, teach me that true wisdom comes from you so that I might use it to love you and others with my whole heart, mind, and strength. As you taught us to pray in the gospels, forgive me of my sin and lead me not into temptation, or in the company of evil doers. May your name be proclaimed among all people. And enable me to remain steadfast in my faith and the reading of your Word. Amen.

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

PRAYER CALL

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 2

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, lead me in the way of righteousness. Though the way of evil is well traveled, keep me on the narrow path by way of the Holy Spirit. As I set out to read and contemplate your Word today may it strengthen my faith, teach me ways to live righteously, and give me a better understanding of the role grace plays in my daily life. Amen.

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 3 & 4

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, I know that true wisdom can only come from you. In this journey through Proverbs, lead me to trust you with my whole heart, dedicating myself, my abilities, my possessions, all I have to you and your glory – for your grace is more valuable than silver and gold. Instead of placing my value in earthly possessions or prestige, may I treasure above all the peace, security, and confidence that you freely give to those who love you. In this way, I hope to live in step with the wisdom that comes only from you. Amen.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

PRAYER CALL

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 5

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, sin abounds in this world. This is evident in many of the most famous leaders we read about in Scripture. And yet you still love us. Thank you that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me. May I never lose sight of the consequences of sin, and may you teach me to be faithful – be it in my marriage, my relationships, my work, my community, or even the stranger I pass on the street. And give me a desire to do what pleases you, as you have shown us in the example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, January 9, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 6

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, this passage of Scripture continues to remind us of the consequences of sin and the beauty of your grace for sinners. You know my heart. Please forgive me when my tendency for sin wins out and also give me the strength to be motivated by your grace and Spirit in the future. Teach me to honor your law and institutions, just as I appreciate your grace and mercy. May wisdom help me live a life worthy of your holy calling. Amen.

Saturday, January 10, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 7 & 8

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, I am confronted with the fact that sin carries with it great consequences, and that your commandments are not merely a set of rules but a guide toward the life-giving way of purity and faithfulness in Christ. Please plant your Word in my heart so that my motivations are led by your Spirit rather than what is pleasurable or convenient. May I always live by your light and truth. Amen.

Sunday, January 11, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 9

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, when I am at the crossroads of wisdom and folly, please lead me to choose wisdom every time. May I always respond in faith so that I might grow more like you. Save me from the folly going on in my life right now. Give me a discerning mind. Make me wise to the truth of your love. Amen.

Monday, January 12, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 10

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, it is not lost on me that you are the great provider who supplies all that we need. Thank you for being the fountain of life who delivers us from death. May today's passage be a reminder of the power my words have to give life or stir up hatred and division. Give me the wisdom to avoid gossip, slander, and lies in favor of prudent words that reflect your saving love and forgiveness. And when I face challenges in life – as we all do – bless me with stability, joy, and the promise of everlasting life. Keep me from straying from the path you've set before me and renew my hope in you. Amen.

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

PRAYER CALL

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 11

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, I sometimes find it hard to distinguish between righteousness and wickedness. May this month of reading your Word help me live in a way that expresses your grace and goodness in matters of money, community, and how I treat my neighbor. Give me the courage to shine your light through every aspect of my life, no matter how small, doing all things for your glory. By your grace, help me be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world," as you've called me to be so that others might come to know you. Amen.

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 12 & 13

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, your gospel teaches us not to store up our treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy. Help me avoid the temptation of seeking personal gain for its own sake by hoarding wealth. Give me a desire to be generous with what you have generously given me. I rejoice in your great blessings. Lead me to have confidence that you will provide all that I need, just as you feed the birds and clothe the lilies. As Jesus said, aren't your children more valuable than these? Thank you. Amen.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

PRAYER CALL

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 14

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, I am nearly halfway through Proverbs and am reminded that your people must fear you. Help me put away my negative notions of what it means to fear something. In lieu of terror, may my fear of you reflect my love, trust, and respect for you and your Word, for I know you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

Friday, January 16, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 15

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, the ways of the world are seductive. Give me the strength to not be gullible, reckless, careless, or quick-tempered, but wise to evaluate everything on the basis of your Word. Lead me to walk in faith my whole life, always expressing myself in gentleness and self-control that comes from above. As Jesus is gentle and lowly, may I live with 'the light of the eyes' that can bring joy to another's heart. Amen.

Saturday, January 17, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 16 & 17

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, I may not be a ruler of nations, but let me remember that any authority I possess in this life comes from you. May you give me wisdom in how I assert my own authority with my family, friends, and coworkers. I also pray that you give wisdom to the leaders who are above me, that they carry out their duties with justice and mercy. Amen.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 18

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, as much as I try to avoid sin and folly, I also know that growing to be more like Jesus is an ongoing process. Whether it be gossip or any sin of the heart, forgive me. And thank you for promising to put my sin as far from me as the east is from the west now that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Give me the strength to extend this same forgiveness to my neighbor. Amen.

Monday, January 19, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 19 & 20

PSALMS OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, sometimes it can be overwhelming to read all the ways we can be wise and foolish, righteous and sinful. Help me read these passages, not through a lens of legalism, but through the light of Jesus who leads me in paths of righteousness. Give me wisdom to be a good family member, child, friend, and neighbor. Amen.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 21

PRAYER CALL

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, just as wisdom does not come from studying hard in school, I am confronted with the truth that folly is more than mere stupidity. Please grant me the wisdom that flows out of trust in you and your Word, and deliver me from the consequences of folly in my own life. Help me grow to be more like the one who was wisdom incarnate in human flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 22 & 23

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, what does it mean to trust you with my whole heart, mind, and strength? I know because of today's passage that a life of faith is more than simply avoiding evil, which can lead to envy of sinners. And so please motivate me to grow in godliness, always reminding me that true righteousness is ours through Christ alone. Amen.

Thursday, January 22, 2026

PRAYER CALL

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 24 & 25

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, help me be just, to speak truth, and to do all things with a spirit of integrity. Though the world recognizes each of these as valuable behaviors, may I instead be motivated by something greater than human praise. Motivate me with the gospel that frees sinners to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. And help the world also recognize that the purpose of these honorable behaviors are not simply for the flourishing of society, but also because they reflect the heart of God. Amen.

Friday, January 23, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 26 & 27

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, whether I am a fool or wise in the eyes of others, help me remember that true wisdom comes from above. I know I will at times repeat my folly. I will occasionally be slothful and arrogant and unkind, but your hand guides me toward wisdom in the long run. Thank you for being patient with me when I am stubborn. Thank you for giving me the strength to follow you. Amen.

Saturday, January 24, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 28 & 29

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, tomorrow I will finish my month of wisdom, but can I truly say I am more wise? If there is any wisdom gained, remind me that it has not come from my diligence but your abounding grace. May whatever knowledge and wisdom I've been given over the past 30 days enable me to approach life in this world with confidence and gentility. For I know it's only through the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ that I and my neighbor can be raised up in the newness of life. Amen.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 30 & 31

PSALM OF CHOICE READING: _____

PRAYER:

LORD, my month of wisdom may have come to a close but may whatever I've gained over the past 21 days go on and on. I may not be able to live up to every standard in the book of Proverbs, but there is One who fulfilled every good and perfect standard, Jesus. I know he took on the sins of the world to fulfill your promise to redeem your creation. Over the coming days and weeks, may I continue seeking you, reading Scripture, and bringing hope to others by loving my neighbor as Christ first loved me. Thank you for your blessings, for your guidance, for your Word, and for the lasting love we experience daily. Amen.