

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

January 2026

Don't Stop

As I have been thinking about the new year and all that it may hold, I think about how people often make resolutions for the new year. These are usually things they want to begin doing or be better at than they have been. A lot of times these goals center around health; better eating, more workouts, weight loss, etc. Sometimes they center on better habits or actions or improving ourselves in some other way. All in all, most of these resolutions usually involve us adding to our “to do” list.

As I ponder this, a line from a song keeps coming to my mind: “Don’t stop praying.” This is a song about not quitting, about not giving up, even when you are not seeing the results or answers. What if instead of looking forward to the new year with a list of all the things we need/want to be better at, we look with a different focus? What if we look at the things we are already doing; praying, loving, helping, seeking, and telling ourselves to keep it up! Instead of the new year holding a bunch of expectations we put on ourselves, we can be glad or even proud of the things we are already doing. We can make a plan to simply keep on keeping on!

I am quite sure that even our chaplains can come under the stress of, “I need to do better, or more, or whatever.” What if instead they say, “I am going to continue loving, continue caring, continue sharing.” It puts such a positive spin, instead of adding to our already full plates.

So as we look to 2026, we want to wish you joy and peace and fulfillment in this new year! We want to thank you for your continued commitment to this ministry. We want to encourage you to keep on doing the good things you are already doing. Your support, whether it be financial, service or diligent prayer, is invaluable. Please continue, and as the song says, first and foremost, “Don’t stop praying.” We need your prayers, this ministry needs your prayers, the world needs your prayers.

Jan Richards

Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Hosea 6:3 “So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD.”

Philippians 3:12-16 ¹²Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible, 1995
Al Walter

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