

The LAMPLIGHTER

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others"

February 2022 Volume 26 Issue 2

A publication of New Salem United Methodist Church ♦ Randleman, North Carolina

Dear New Salem Family,

I have a question I want you to consider this month: *"Why do you read the Bible?"*

Do you read the Bible to understand yourself better? Do you read to understand God more? Do you read it in hopes that it will help make you a better person? Do you read to find out God's will for your life?

There are many reasons for reading the library that we know as *The Bible*, so my main concern is not so much your reason for reading it. My biggest concern deals with the questions you might be asking of the scriptures when you read them. Whether we realize it or not, most all of us are asking questions of the scriptures when we read them. The most important thing though is to ask the right questions about the scriptures and not the wrong ones. An example of a frequently asked wrong question would be: *"What does this verse mean to me/you/us?"*

If you are wondering why that would be a wrong question just consider the fact that there is no verse in our Holy Bible that was written with you or me in mind. You don't believe me? Pick a scripture, any one you wish, and I can assure you that the writer of that particular letter/gospel/wisdom literature, etc. was not writing it with you or me in mind. If you consider the fact that the latest dated words that appear in our Bible today were written almost 2000 years ago, likely by the Apostle John, and it is easy to see that none of us were on the authors minds when they wrote what they wrote! Which is why the best question we can ask of the scriptures when we read them is this one: *"What did the inspired author of this scripture want to communicate to his original audience and how does that intersect with our lives today?"*

I hope you can see how the *wrong question* imposes us upon the scriptures, while the *right question* imposes the scriptures upon us. Approaching the inspired, God-breathed scriptures in this way can help us avoid a forced or unintended application of the text. And, as we ask this right question, we are even better served when we remember to read not simply one chapter or verse alone. Reading an entire section (book/letter) helps us to better understand the text in light of its immediate context and audience to whom it was written.

For the last two years, I have been challenging our church to join in a daily reading of scripture. Each month, I have provided a list of scriptures for you and me to read each week, as well as some questions to help provoke your understanding about them. I pray this has helped you develop a habit of joyfully reading *The Bible*! In case you have not joined in with us yet, consider this your personal invitation to begin.

This month we find ourselves in the middle of the writings and adventures of the Apostle Paul. These letters of his travels and experiences with the churches he planted across the globe, both Jewish and Gentile congregations, are fascinating! There is much to learn from Paul, and these churches, about the growth of our Christian faith and how even they never did it perfectly, but God always achieved His perfection through them.

So, as we read together this month, remember to keep this right question in the forefront of your mind:

"What was Paul trying to communicate to his original audience and how does that intersect with our lives today?"

And one additional question that is always good to ask from scripture is this:

"What does this text teach me about the character and nature of our God?"

See what you can learn when you read the Scriptures regularly **AND** you ask the right questions!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Johnny

"Walking with Paul": A Chronological Reading of the Apostle Paul's Life in the New Testament"

February 2022

Spend 15-30 minutes each day reading and studying the assigned scripture. Meditate on what the scripture is saying to you and write down your thoughts in a journal or notebook.			
2/7/2022	1 Corinthians 1	2/10/2022	1 Corinthians 4
2/8/2022	1 Corinthians 2	2/11/2022	1 Corinthians 5
2/9/2022	1 Corinthians 3	The Weekend: How does Paul guide the Corinthian Church in handling divisions within their church? What can we learn from his guidance?	

2/14/2022	1 Corinthians 6:1-20	2/17/2022	1 Corinthians 8
2/15/2022	1 Corinthians 7:1-24	2/18/2022	1 Corinthians 9
2/16/2022	1 Corinthians 7:25-40	The Weekend: What does Paul teach us about treating fellow believers differently within the church than those outside the church? Why do you believe Paul was having to address issues such as sexual immorality and marriage for the people in this church?	

2/21/2022	1 Corinthians 10: 1-11:1	2/24/2022	1 Corinthians 12
2/22/2022	1 Corinthians 11:2-16	2/25/2022	1 Corinthians 13
2/23/2022	1 Corinthians 11: 17-33	The Weekend: What are some of the main points Paul teaches us about The Lord's Supper, Spiritual Gifts within the Church and Christian Love?	

2/28/2022	1 Corinthians 14: 1-25	3/3/2022	1 Corinthians 16
3/1/2022	1 Corinthians 14:26-40	3/4/2022	Acts 19
3/2/2022	1 Corinthians 15	The Weekend: What does Paul teach us about worship and resurrection in these last chapters? What are some of Paul's accomplishments in Ephesus, found in Acts 19?	

Dear Friends at New Salem UMC,

Thank you for standing with our neighbors experiencing a natural disaster during this time. With your qualified charitable distribution donation of \$915.00 on December 30, 2021.

Your gift ensures that our Conference will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by tornados in Kentucky and Tennessee for years to come. Early Response Teams from our conference and across the United Methodist Connection may be requested to go into the affected areas. Please hold these teams in prayer as they minister directly with the many whose lives have been impacted by these recent storms and other disasters.

You can stay updated on the latest information at www.wnccumc.org/committee-on-relief. You will also find resources, news, and stories of those who are recovering.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and contribution.

Caroline Wood
Director of Mission Engagement & Connectional Ministries



New Salem United Methodist Church Community. I want to thank you for your generosity during the Christmas season. Opening your doors and allowing us to pass out gifts, served 33 families Christmas within the community. The funds collected allowed us to serve another 6 plus families. You are the reason many children smiled Christmas morning! Thank you!

Laren Little
SSW

**New Salem
United Methodist Church**

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The service will also continue to be live on YouTube or you can stream it at a later time.

NEW SALEM YouTube CHANNEL

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHWYgOsR5oLamk6gMUWW5yQ>

Deadline for information for the March 2022 edition of "The Lamplighter" is Thursday, February 17th..

For God So loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
But havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

We meet each Sunday at 10:00 a.m for worship. Due to the continuing presence of the Covid Virus we are continuing to follow all of CDC masking guidelines while indoors.

WORSHIP

with us

FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

BIRTHDAYS

1st Chris Apple
1st– David Cruthis
4th– Kylie Vaughan
6th– C. O. Hayes
11th– Fay Campbell
13th– Jackson Routh
19th– Cody Fogleman
20th– Marry Ann Trogdon
24th– Joey Dodd
24th– Martha Russell

ANNIVERSARIES

1st– Evan (Tuck) & Jennifer Strickland
20th– Bob & Shirley Day