

The Lamplighter

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

Dear New Salem Family,

Transform – The Webster Dictionary defines it as, *"To change in composition or structure; to change the outward form or appearance of; to change in character or condition."* When something or someone is transformed it means they have gone through a process called "Transformation". It is a process through which the character, condition, appearance and/or composition of a person is being changed.

Transformation is what should be happening to those who have chosen to follow Jesus as their Lord. Their character should be changing to match the character of Jesus. Their appearance (actions, words, thoughts and reactions) should reflect what we know of the appearance (actions, words, thoughts and reactions) of Jesus. My question for you is this, "Are your character and appearance going through a transformation that matches the character and appearance of Jesus?"

This is the question I am placing before our congregation this Lenten Season. For those of you who missed it, Lent began on March 2nd, Ash Wednesday. It is a Church Season of 40 Days, minus Sundays, that lead us to Easter Sunday. It is a time we are challenged to spend in reflection upon the state of our lives and thus, our soul. A time to consider, on a daily basis, where we have sinned (gone against God's will), and where we are being called to serve as God's Ambassadors in this world.

This Lent I am challenging our church to read together the book *Everything Can Change in Forty Days: A Journey of Transformation through Christ*, written by author Jean Watson. We are offering this book to all church members for free (or \$10 per book if you wish to help cover the cost). We are using the book to lead us in our Sunday Bible Study Classes, but the book can also be used as a daily devotion through Lent, as it has a reading for all 40 Days of Lent. If you have not yet picked up your copy, or you wish to buy one to share with a friend, you are welcome to come by the Church Office and pick one up. You are also welcomed to call or email and ask us to mail one to you.

Whether you decide to join us or not in reading the book, it is my prayer that during this Lenten Season you will take seriously how you would answer the question I posed earlier: *"Are your character and appearance going through a transformation that matches the character and appearance of Jesus?"*

How you truthfully answer will have much to show you as to whether you are moving toward Jesus or away. Transformation is not a onetime thing but is a lifetime process. It is my prayer that we both are moving toward Jesus! Please know you are welcome to contact me at anytime you might desire to discuss your "Transformation".

Grace and peace,

Pastor Johnny

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

March 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.

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| 3/7/2022 | Ephesians 1-2 | 3/10/2022 | Ephesians 5:21-6:24 |
| 3/8/2022 | Ephesians 3 | 3/11/2022 | Acts 20 |
| 3/9/2022 | Ephesians 4-5:20 | The Weekend: Look back through Acts 19-20 and consider the difficulties Paul ran into while in Ephesus. Compare these difficulties to Paul's challenge for the Ephesian church to maintain their unity in Christ. How do you believe we can apply these lessons in the Christian Church today? | |

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| 3/14/2022 | Acts 21:1-36 | 3/17/2022 | Acts 24 |
| 3/15/2022 | Acts 21:37-2:29 | 3/18/2022 | Acts 25:1-22 |
| 3/16/2022 | Acts 22:30-23:35 | The Weekend: Notice how Paul played both his "Jewish Heritage" card and his "Roman Citizenship" card while navigating the challenges he faced in Jerusalem and Rome. How might we do the same with our "Earthly Citizenship" and our "Christian Heritage"? This will not be an easy question to answer! | |

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| 3/21/2022 | Acts 25:23-26:32 | 3/24/2022 | Acts 28:1-16 |
| 3/22/2022 | Acts 27:1-26 | 3/25/2022 | Acts 28:17-31 |
| 3/23/2022 | Acts 27:27-44 | The Weekend: Where do you see God working during Paul's time before Felix, Agrippa, Festus and finally in Rome? | |

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| 3/28/2022 | Colossians 1:1-23 | 3/31/2022 | Colossians 3 |
| 3/29/2022 | Colossians 1:24-2:5 | 4/1/2022 | Colossians 4 |
| 3/30/2022 | Colossians 2:6-23 | The Weekend: Paul writes about the "Supremacy of Christ" and how to live a "Holy Life" based on that supremacy. What are the ways in which he challenges us to "Live Holy"? | |

“I No Longer Pray For Peace” - Ann Weems

On the edge of war, one foot already in,

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the “God talk”
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.



12th Jim & Fay Campbell
18th C.O. & Sue Hayes

1st Sue Hayes
5th David Campbell
11th Gracie Dodd
16th Anne Cruthis
19th Kelly Barker
21st Frankie Ingold
21st Justin Routh
28th Carol Wood Rich



IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

Ricky Barker, Tammy Overman,
Donna Holder, Jimmy Hayes, Carla
Macon, Louise Rickard, Henleigh
Gilmer, Ricky Barker, Betty Barker, JO
Meyers



FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

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.

**New Salem
United Methodist Church**

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Deadline for information for the
April 2022 edition of "The Lamplighter"
is Thursday, March 24th..

WORSHIP
with us



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>