

The Lamplighter

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others" Mathew 5:16

June 2022 Volume 26 Issue 6*

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Hello New Salem Church!

I don't know about you but July 3, 2017, seems so LONGGGGG ago!!! In case you don't know, that was the first day that I became the Presiding Pastor for New Salem UMC. And now, five years later, on June 26, 2022, I will share my last message as your Pastor. To say these five years have been a blessing to me would be a **HUGE** understatement! Yes, we have experienced challenges none of us ever imagined (COVID Pandemic is at the top of the list), but we have also shared in ministry experiences with which God has blessed us richly (Soul Food Monday is one of many that comes to my mind). In all of these times I do believe that God has blessed us in areas where we have been faithful and corrected us in areas in which we have been unfaithful.

Though much has taken place at New Salem Church in these five years, one of the most consistent experiences has been *Change*. As I sat down to write this Pastor's Note, the changes you and I have experienced these past years kept coming to my mind. Changes in worship, leadership, ministry outreach, members who have passed to the church eternal, etc. etc. As I found myself in deep reflection on these changes, my mind wondered back to July 2017 and what it was that I might have shared with you in that first "Pastor's Note". Thus, I pulled the file from my digital archives and discovered that I had shared with you the following words:

Change is not easy, and sometimes in the church, it is even more difficult. As United Methodists, you would think we would be used to this Itinerant Appointment System we have, but familiarity doesn't always make things easy. As I thought about this "Change" that we all are experiencing, it brought to my mind one of my favorite prayers. Many people are familiar with *The Serenity Prayer* as written by the great American Theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr. Most people know the first part of that prayer which reads: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

What many people don't know is that there is a second part to that prayer which reads: "Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen."

I share these words with you once again because I feel they are appropriate words to consider as you and I experience *Change* once again. Please consider praying Mr. Niebuhr's words over these next few months, as a means of asking God to help us bend our will and desires to match His. And may God grant us serenity in this change as we work and live for the glory of Jesus Christ! Though I am leaving from your physical presence be assured that my New Salem Family will always be in my thoughts, my prayers and forever on my heart. It has been my honor to serve beside you!!!!

With the love of Christ,

Pastor Johnny

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY: June 5th, 10:00 AM - On this Sunday we will worship our Risen Savior, Jesus, and we will honor and remember the nine church members who have passed to the Church Eternal in the last three years. Afterward, we will gather in our Fellowship Hall to share a delicious "Potluck Lunch". So bring yourself, your family, and a delicious dish or two that you wish to share with your New Salem Family!

FIGURE IT OUT!

The Bible Code

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using clues R=I and M=T, to complete

Psalm 111:10, (NIV):MYL CLOQ ZC MYL PZQN RV MYL

HYLDRFFRFD ZC GRVNZU OPP GYZ CZPPZG YRV BQLTLMBV YOKL

DZZN JFNLQVMOFNRFD MZ YRU HLPZFDV LMLQFOP BQORVL

Write the Bible Code answer here: _____

Soul care through studying

Summer isn't often associated with studying, but it can be an ideal time to dive into God's Word. Just keep in mind: Studying the Bible involves more than merely reading the words. The process begins with a humble spirit to not only gain information but to let Scripture transform you.

I've heard about various practices for Bible study. Some people set aside a special place, with multiple concordances and commentaries at their fingertips. I thrive on a bit more variety. Comparing a couple of Bible translations and paraphrases proves helpful for my studies.

Renovaré, Richard Foster's institute that aims to help people become more like Jesus, advises: "It is vital to study not only books but also those things around us such as nature, relationships, events and cultural values." What are the most meaningful ways for you to study God's Word?

—Janna Firestone

Origins of Fathers Day

The Campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm— perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nations first event explicitly in honor of fathers, on a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, Shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington Sate celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19,1990.



6th Kaitlyn Garner
8th Debbie Beeson
13th Ann Yates
14th Rita Bischer
16th Gavin Poupore
17th Sandy Whitehead
17th Aidan Apple
18th Bob Day
23rd Brian Vaughan
24th Lynne Schlein

5th Randy & Brenda Russell
14th Tommy & Ann McDonald
19th Pastor Johnny & Angie Lord

JOIN US

in

Prayer

Concerns: People involved in the Ukraine/Russian war. Betty Whitaker, Ann Yates, Tommy Garner, Elaine Wilkinson, Jim South, Sue Hayes, Ralph Wood, Evelyn Ellis, Joyce Campbell, Jim Campbell, Betty Barker, Christine Richardson (Sharon Walker's mom), Ted Goslen (Ben's brother), Patsy Russell (Angie Garner's Aunt), Stephanie Smith (Aubree Smith's Aunt), Tammy Overman, Donna Holder, Heath Loveland

Praises: Sue Hayes (negative biopsy), Jimmy Hayes (in remission)

WORSHIP

with us

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet each Sunday at 9:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall, and at 11:15 AM in the Susanna Wesley Classroom for Sunday Bible Study Groups.

GIVING & CONTACT INFORMATION

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10:00 A.M.

Our Worship Services are live each Sunday Morning in our sanctuary and on our YouTube Channel. You are also invited to view the recorded service at a later time at the link found below.

NEW SALEM YouTube CHANNEL

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHWYqOsR5oLamk6gMUWW5yQ>

Deadline for information for the June 2022 edition of "The Lamplighter" is Thursday, June 23rd

