

The Lamplighter

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

January 2023 — Volume 27 Issue 1

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

January has always been a month of fresh starts, resolutions, and goal setting as we head into the new year. It's also traditionally been a time of introspective and reflection on the events of the past year. As we look back while keeping an eye on the horizon of the new year to come, it is a perfect time to reflect on moments when we flourished as well as times when we struggled. By focusing on highs and lows of the past, we can glean attitudes and behaviors that helped as well as see what may have hindered us to get through life's circumstances. This kind of self-reflection has the potential to assist us in navigating the year to come and all that it will bring.

How is everyone doing on cultivating spiritual disciplines for the new year? I've shared previously that spiritual disciplines are a vital part of my life and how they have helped strengthen me throughout difficult times and circumstances. If 2022 was a difficult year for you, I want you to be encouraged that 2023 is a brand new year — even if circumstances don't change, or you are met with losses you can't imagine, you can get through them stronger by building a scaffold of spiritual disciplines to support you, such as prayer, journaling, fasting, and/or observing the Sabbath.

Although each year brings change, one thing we know is that God's love for us is steadfast and eternal. It never wavers. Although life and circumstances change, God's mercy is unchanging and forever. If you participated in Advent rituals, such as lighting candles, consider bringing rituals into the new year for spiritual support: things like lighting candles, breathing in the sweet smell of God's mercy (what does that smell like?), journaling as a way to connect with God and your own spirit, or maybe writing your prayers down on paper so you can see the places where God has met you, and where prayers have been answered. Let us also continue to love and support each one another, and welcome others into our church community so that they might also experience this encouragement.



Anniversaries

2nd Mitchell & Carla Macon
27th John & Elaine Wilkinson
31st Ralph & Audrey Wood

Birthdays

1st Ed Clise
4th Janet Routh
13th Shirley Flinchum
15th Jonathan Small
16th Hubert Allred
20th Mike Beeson
20th Ann McDonald
23rd Carol Slagle
29th Ronnie Flinchum

WHAT OF TOMORROW

I do not know what still awaits,
Or what the morrow brings;
But with the glad salute of faith,
I hail its opening wings!

For this I know—that in my Lord
Shall all my needs be met;
And I can trust the heart of him
Who has not failed me yet.

—Author Unknown

**“Fill the Wagons”
School Backpack Pals Program**

Bring your food items the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to donate money, make your check payable to “CIS Randolph County” with “Randleman Schools” on the memo line. Foods needed are:

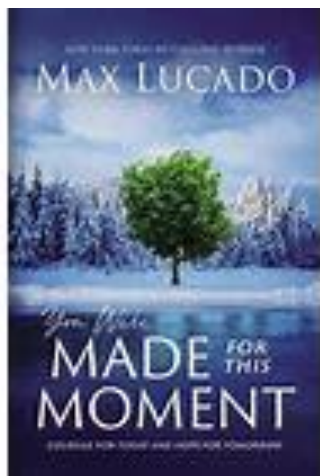


- Capri Sun Juice Pouches or Similar
- Single Serve or Small Boxes of Mac & Cheese or Similar
- Granola Bars or Cereal Boxes, Oatmeal or Similar
- Ramen Noodles or Similar
- Cans of Ravioli, Vienna Sausages

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

January 17th, 7:00 p.m. — Administrative Council in the Fellowship Hall

January 21st, 8:30 a.m. — Methodist Men meet at Olympia Restaurant



Join us for this Study by Max Lucado:

January 22nd—February 19th
Sunday Afternoons
3:00 p.m.



Please be in prayer for:

People involved in the Ukraine/Russian war. Tommy & Angie Garner, Jim South, Betty Barker, Ronnie Flinchum, Jim Reese, Becky Reese, Stephanie Ashby, Matt Tremble, Mary Ann Trogdon, Mary Ann Johnson, Shirley Day, Lorraine Yow, and those affected by senseless violence & disastrous weather.

Have a prayer request for the Neil Goslen Phone-tree? Contact the office at (336) 498-3936. Please leave a message.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the E. L.. Hayes classroom.

9:30 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.

GIVING & CONTACT INFORMATION

New Salem UMC

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NEW SALEM YouTube CHANNEL

LINK:

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

Deadline for information for the February 2023 edition of "The Lamplighter" is Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

