

February Link

“Esteem Found in Christ”

We have been truly blessed by our Advent Bible Study Book, which both churches have shared in studying. The book is “Down to Earth” by The Reverends Michael Slaughter and Rachel Billups. It describes the difference Christ of Advent and Christmas makes, and should make in our lives. “Jesus is the Gift!” The Magi gave their gifts to The God-Gift! Questions like: “Whose Birthday is it really?” and “What does Jesus the major gift bring to my life?” are addressed.

In “The Epilogue” Chapter, is an emphasis on “God Esteem”. Here is part of God’s Wisdom in Michael Slaughter: **“Being Born Again as Christians means discovering our true identity and being empowered to accept our full birthright as Children of God. Too many of us have allowed our self-images to be shaped by other people. Their negative perceptions and statements about us at first wound us and then start to serve as fuel for the negative self talk in our own lives. Maybe you’ve heard these statements: “You’re not as smart as your sister.” “You’re overweight!” “You’re too skinny!” Perhaps a coach told you, “You’re not good enough to make the team.” Some of us are still struggle from damage inflicted by our parents’ rancorous divorces when we were kids. All these experiences help shape our self- image.**

Mike says: “In first grade, the powers-that-be determined that my human potential was to be in Group C, which was the lowest group you could be in and still take College Preparatory Courses in junior and senior high school. C Group became my identity. It’s no wonder I struggled academically until I finished high school, at which time I was able to join my real group: “Children of God.” As a member of that group, I gained a new self-image by meeting Jesus and then went on to graduate magna cum laude from The University of Cincinnati.”

“We are always looking for love in inadequate places.”

“Some of us have been caught in a shameful situation in our lives, whether inadvertently or because of poor choices. Others may be harboring dark secrets that we are trying to cover up, and we feel ashamed. Many of us have had our understanding of God distorted because of a religious encounter that left us feeling judged and condemned.

Whatever situation you find yourself in, Jesus didn’t come down to earth to give us religion; Jesus came to restore right relationships, first and most importantly our relationship with God. Perhaps the best gift you can give yourself this season is to accept that GOD LOVES YOU!”

When that happens, and you really believe it, you can “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS JESUS HAS TAUGHT YOU TO LOVE YOURSELF.” Our American neighbors need the Jesus’ Alternative to hatred. It is His unique, forgiving, miraculous love for everyone.

---Pastor Lee D. Gangaware.

PS: I have 4 or 5 copies left, if you would like to have one and read it! It will do your soul a world of good!



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEW YORK EPISCOPAL AREA

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January 23, 2019

Dear Pastor and church leaders,

I was so pleased to recently see that you were able to meet your connectional responsibility by paying 100% of your Conference Apportionments. Congratulations!

I want you to know that your faithful support to the connection of the church has not gone unnoticed. I know that these are challenging days for all of our churches as we attempt to make ends meet, engage in meaningful ministries, and do all we can to fulfill the call of Christ to go and make disciples throughout the world. To do that requires deep commitment, good planning, and sacrificial giving.

Throughout my life in The United Methodist Church, I have celebrated the reality that when we are faithful in our apportionment giving, the church has the ability to extend our witness through global mission, engage in strategic advocacy for justice, and provide meaningful opportunities to grow and equip excellence in our clergy and lay leaders. Your apportionment dollars, combined with the faithful contributions from your sister churches, enables The United Methodist Church to be a presence for peace, healing, recovery, and evangelism on four continents. We are indeed stronger together than we are apart.

I just wanted you to know how very much I appreciate what you have done. Please know as well that I will keep you in my prayers as you continue your faithful witness throughout this year in the name of Christ our Lord.

The Journey Continues, . . .
Peace and Joy,

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Sermon Titles for February

February 3rd: Jeremiah 1:4-10 "Jeremiah's Call"

February 10th: Isaiah 6:1-13 "Isaiah's Call"

February 17th: Jeremiah 17:5-10 "You're Trusting Whom"

February 24th: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 "How to Forgive"

February Schedule

Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24	<u>Nursery Care</u> Pat Allen & Volunteer Pat Allen & Volunteer Pat Allen & Volunteer Pat Allen & Volunteer	<u>Cleaners</u> Klein Millahn Millahn Collins	<u>Ushers</u> Shelley & Evan Bailey Steve Shaw & Judy McKay Bonnie Slater & Bertha Weih Barney Connors & Shirley Green
Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24	<u>Counters</u> John Baum & Wayne Roberts Barbara Bailey & Chip Simons Emil Klein & Steve Bailey Gail Klein & Barbara Sherwin	<u>Greeters</u> Steve & Barb Bailey Margo Fenn Renfrew Family Volunteer	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Jennie Peck & Dawn Renfrew Pat Allen & Janet Lee Janet Lucas & Barbara Bailey Beth Lambert & Shirley Green
Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24	<u>Lectionary Readers</u> Bonnie Slater Karen Dietz Tom Lucas Jonah Gerber	<u>Children's Message</u> Pastor Lee Ticia Tubman The Baums Pastor Lee	
Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17 Feb. 24	<u>Lectionary Reading</u> Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30 Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11 Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 6:17-26 Genesis 45:3-11; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38		

Happy Valentine's Day



February

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
					1 Pastor Off	2 10:00AM Pastor in Canaan
3 Worship Service 8:00 & 9:00AM Holy Communion 11:00AM Canaan Worship Service	4 Pastor Off	5 9:00AM Pastor in Office 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Trustees 8:00PM AA	6 Pastor's Prayer Group 7:00PM Prayer Service 8:00PM Choir	7 9:00AM Pastor at Pop's Diner Canaan 6:45PM AA	8 Pastor Off	9 10:00AM Pastor in Canaan
10 Worship Service 8:00 & 9:00AM 11:00AM Canaan Worship Service 12:30PM Canaan Admin. Council	11 Pastor Off 6-8PM Food Bank	12 9:00AM Pastor in Office 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin Board 8:00PM AA	13 Pastor's Prayer Group 7:00PM Prayer Service 8:00PM Choir	14 9:00AM Pastor at Pop's Diner Canaan 10:00am Pastor's Prayer Group 2-4PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	15 Pastor Off	16 8:00AM UMM 10:00AM Pastor in Canaan
17 Worship Service 8:00 & 9:00AM 11:00AM Canaan Worship Service	18 Pastor Off	19 9:00AM Pastor in Office 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	20 Pastor's Prayer Group 7:00PM Prayer Service 8:00PM Choir	21 9:00AM Pastor at Pop's Diner Canaan 6:45PM AA	22 Pastor Off	23 10:00AM Pastor in Canaan 5:00PM Youth Group
24 Worship Service 8:00 & 9:00AM 11:00AM Canaan Worship Service	25 Pastor Off 6-8PM Food Bank	26 9:00AM Pastor in Office 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	27 Pastor's Prayer Group 7:00PM Prayer Service 8:00PM Choir	28 9:00AM Pastor at Pop's Diner Canaan 2-4PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA		



Church Humor:

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!"

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Okay Ryan, you be Jesus!"

February Announcements

****Mark your calendars****

Bean Hole Bean Suppers will take place on May 4 and October 5, 2019.

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Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. Pastor Lee is in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday (if he does not have a Pastor's Prayer Meeting). Pastor Lee is not in the office on Friday.

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Would you like to have your special dates (birthdays & anniversaries) included in the Link? If so, please send me the dates and I will include them monthly in the Link. You can either email me at pvumc@sbcglobal.net or call me at 860-379-2157. Please include the person's name, date and what special occasion it is.

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Coming Soon:

Some exciting planning went on at our January 15th Administrative Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley.

1. The United Methodist Youth had a very productive discussion and planning meeting on Saturday, January 5th. Nick Root and Matthew Civelli, were there along with Karen Civelli, Tom Lucas, Angela Root and Polly and Lee Gangaware. We talked about what types of events would the boys (Representing the girls too.) like to do? A bonfire event was one of these; an "Indoor Maze Game", which can be played at Bristol, CT.; Skiing; and then Music Events and Creation Fest 2019 at Agape Farm, Mt. Union, Pennsylvania, June 26-29th, which is a camping, outdoor Christian Woodstock Type Event with up to 100,000 young people (80-90 percent). There are youth speakers; current Christian singers, and bands; a Fringe Stage; water slides; Craft, College, t-shirt booths, Food vendors of all kinds; huge screens for the entire hillside. Pastor and Polly have gone since 1983.
2. They also talked a lot about using their funds to buy a projector and screen for our sanctuary. The guys showed an interest in running it for our services. Pray as we work on this project!
3. Our Next "BREAKFAST SERVICE" will be on St. Patrick's Day Sunday, March 17th! Invite your family and friends to this Fellowship Hall Service!
4. Communion "At the Rail Sundays will be: Feb. 3rd; May 5th; August 4th; and November 3rd.
5. Our Holy Week Schedule is as follows: April 14th, Palm Sunday; Holy Thursday: 6:30 Re-enactment of The Last Supper by the Men and Fellowship Meal; Good Friday: April 19th, Noon Service and 7:00 PM, Tennebrae Service of Candles and darkness with special music. April 21st is EASTER SUNDAY. Services that day will include: A 6 AM Community Breakfast Service at North Congregational Church; a 6 AM Service led by John Baum at an outdoor location; 8 AM; and 9 AM Services too.
6. We voted to have a Revival Series of Services on September 27-28 with a special speaker and musical group, or the date of October 25 & 26th.
7. Ash Wednesday Services with imposition of Ashes will be at Noon and at 7 PM.
8. The Board also approved the installation of Sanctuary Air Conditioning, since the money needed has almost all come in, including a generous amount in our Church Christmas Stocking.
9. A Family Game Fellowship Time on March 10th led by Carl and Jeanine at 3 PM was approved as well.

Join us for all these events and worship experiences!