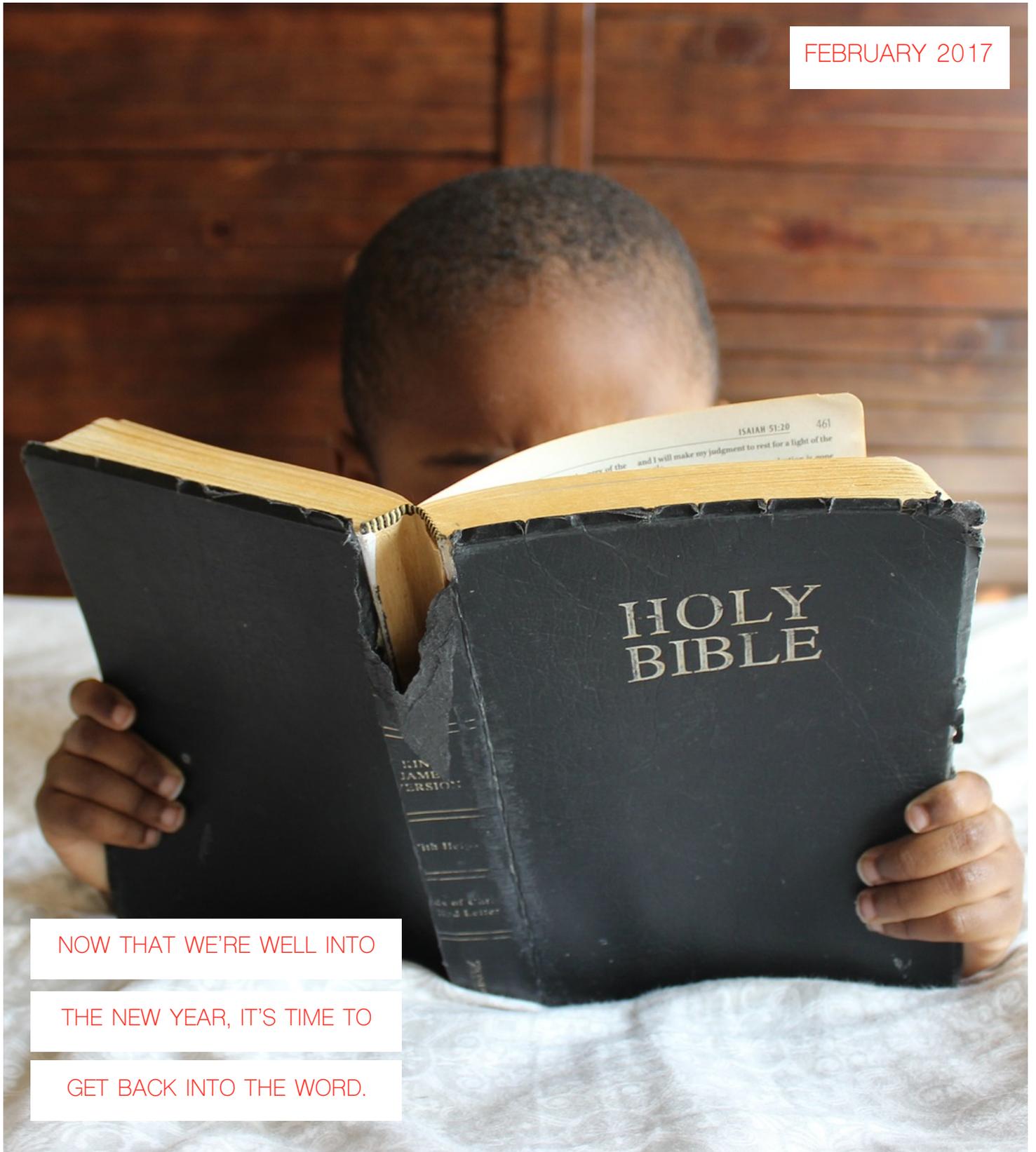


ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

FEBRUARY 2017



NOW THAT WE'RE WELL INTO

THE NEW YEAR, IT'S TIME TO

GET BACK INTO THE WORD.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In another life, I might have been an actuary. I like studying numerical trends. Recently, I was thinking about numerical trends for our congregation. Specifically, I was remembering that when I first became your pastor in August 2014, I pushed you to become part of a Sunday School class. In the next few months, our attendance in Sunday school grew to the point that about 60% of our worshipping congregation was participating in Sunday school. I was ecstatic! The average participation in Sunday school in churches around our conference is actually about 30%.

Lest we pat ourselves on the back, though, let me share with you an interesting number. On a recent Sunday in worship, with snowbirds gone, the threat of winter weather keeping many at home, our attendance was 126. That same Sunday, Sunday school attendance was 40...which means that we are now approaching the conference average for worship attendance. What has caused our decrease?

I'm sure there are a number of factors, but I believe part of the answer is that we're too busy. Our children have sports practices on Sunday mornings. Our family time is blocked out on Sundays. We have to beat the Baptists to brunch, or we won't get a table. We have yardwork to do. But no matter our excuse, I think we need to make time for Sunday school and Bible study. We need to be in God's Word together.

I've been a lifelong Sunday school participant, and I can tell you that in the almost 35 years that I have been going, it has never hurt me or caused me to grow further away from God! So I think it's important - important enough that most every Sunday you'll find me popping into Sunday school classes or teaching - that you'll find me doing daily reading for Disciple III - that I'm reading passages of Scripture and doing daily devotions at home by using Common Prayer. It's a part of my daily living, because I need God's Word in my life.

I'm not the only one who feels that way! Your church's leaders are going to tell you why they think Bible study is important, and what some of their guiding Scriptures are. Look for their words on the pages of this newsletter.

So, my encouragement to you is to make some time, if you haven't already. Sign up for the Lenten study that will begin soon (and you'll find out more about it in another part of this newsletter). Make an effort to come to Sunday school. Join a covenant group, or start a Bible study on your own. What's the worst thing that could happen?

See you in worship!

PASTOR JAY

WHY BIBLE STUDY IS IMPORTANT

"Bible study is important in my life because it keeps me close to the heart of God. My favorite book in the Bible is Ruth because it is a story of faith, hope, & love." - Susan Inboden, lay delegate to annual conference

"Bible study is important because verses that we read one way many times mean something completely different. It is nice to get a different perspective. We like Proverbs because it seems like it is more instructional. We also like Exodus - the Ten Commandments give us our foundation." - David Anderson, at-large member of church council

"I never realized how important Bible study was to me until I attended one. Since then, I attend every Bible study I can. Bible study has been the best way for me to learn about the Bible and to hear God's still small voice guiding me every day. I feel lost when I don't have a group to help me dig deep into God's Word. Now that I feel more acquainted with the Bible, I have a few favorites. However, the one book of the bible that speaks to me most is the book of John. Perhaps it is because we did a study of it in Sunday School. However, the book of John shares how we are called to salvation through Jesus, the Word that was there at creation." - Janelle Oxford, lay leader

"Bible study is important to me because it helps me to learn about God, Jesus and how to be a better Christian. The time I spend reading and studying the Bible brings me closer to God and often brings peace and lessens the stress and concerns in my everyday life." - Kathy Harbison, FUMC Foundation member and at-large member of church council

"I find it helpful to discuss with others what I'm reading. There's always someone who has a little different idea about what is happening in the text or who has had more experience studying it. I appreciate their insight. That's why Bible study in a class is important to me. My favorite book of the Bible is Ruth. She was a very faithful person to God, even though it wasn't her culture. She was also loyal and loving to her family. She was brave in embarking with her mother-in-law to a foreign land, where she would likely face prejudice and little opportunity. She also held true to her principles. It think it's amazing how God used her life as an example and how she ultimately became the great-grandmother of David, making her part of the lineage of Jesus." - Lori Treadway, alternate lay delegate to annual conference

"I have been unable to attend recent Bible studies due to scheduling conflicts. I really enjoyed the Bible in 90 Days, as it took me deeper into the Bible. I also enjoy the all-church Sunday School Bible studies as it goes cross-generational, and opens me to answers to questions that other ask that I had never even noticed. My favorite book of the Bible is Psalms. I can read of the writer's fears, struggles, doubts and despair. I can read of their hopes and joys. I can find myself in their lives. I can find hope in the Psalms that have been put into hymns. I find myself talking to God through the hymns that have filled my life." - Sue Roales, Sunday School teacher, and Scouting

GET PLUGGED BACK IN AT FUMC!

Looking for a Sunday School Class?

We offer classes on Sunday morning, following worship. Most classes end by 11:00 am. All of our classes are currently studying The Story, which takes each group through 31 important stories in the Bible.

- Younger elementary (K-2) meets in the room next to the nursery on the second floor of the education wing.
- Older elementary (3-5) meets in the last room on the right on the second floor of the education wing.
- Youth (6-12) meet in the youth room on the third floor of the new building.
- Young adults (20-40s) meet in the second room on the right on the second floor of the education wing (room with the yellow couches).
- Koinonia class is for adults of all ages, but primarily gathers with people age 50+, and they meet in the first room on the left on the second floor of the education building.
- The adult class is for adults of all ages, and is intentionally intergenerational. It meets in the net to the last classroom on the right on the second floor of the education wing.

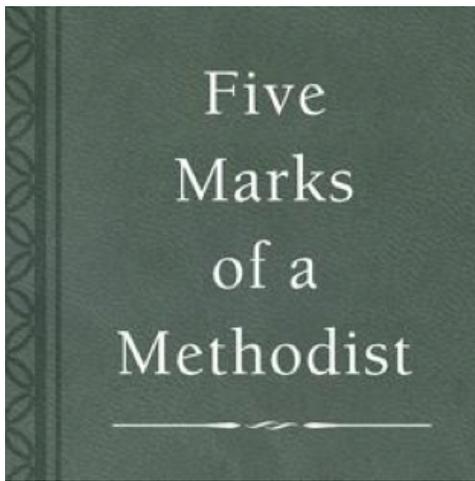
Growing through Worship

Know that you'll always hear God's Word read and proclaimed in worship. Please note the following special worship services that are coming up:

- * February 5 is Scout Sunday, and we will pray for our Cub, Boy, and Girl Scouts during worship.
- * February 12 is our next preview service for the 6:00 pm service. Invite someone to come and hear God's Word for themselves.
- * March 1 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Otterbein UMC will host our combined service at 7:00 pm.
- * March 12 is a preview service for the 6:00 pm service.
- * April 9 is Palm Sunday, so join us for worship at 9:00 am or 6:00 pm.
- * Maundy Thursday services are April 13 at 7:00 pm here at First UMC, and will be held in Asbury Hall.
- * Community Good Friday services, sponsored by the Crawford County Ministerial Alliance, will be at Otterbein UMC at 7:00 pm.
- * Easter Sunday services will be at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Lenten Study

Our Lenten study this year begins March 5 and ends April 9. Five Marks of a Methodist invites us to look at our character as Methodist Christians. We'll be looking at how we love God, rejoice in God, give thanks, pray constantly, and love others. The study will be in Asbury Hall at 4:00 pm, and will last an hour. If you're interested in participating, please sign up at the welcome center by February 15, so that materials can be ordered for you. The cost of materials is \$12. Childcare will be available for those who request it.



2nd Wednesday Dinner

February's 2nd Wednesday Dinner is a carry-in on February 8. Join us at 5:30 pm for a potluck-style meal, where you can bring your favorite dishes. Table service and beverages are provided.

Just One

Our February "Just One" item is toothpaste. Many of our kids come through, and are specifically wanting children's toothpaste. Often, you can find those kinds of toothpaste for a small cost. Please pick up your items and place them in the box labeled "Just One" outside the church office. Thanks for your support of the NOW Program!

Crawford County Praise Fest

Crawford County is having a Praise Fest on Saturday, February 25th, at Robinwood Assembly of God. Held from 1-7 pm, the afternoon and evening features local musicians, pastors, food, and children's activities. First UMC will be having some musicians involved, and we are inviting you to attend, and also to volunteer for an hour shift in the nursery, working with children, serving in the kitchen, with hospitality, or being in the prayer room. Sign up sheets are at the welcome center, and the organizers would appreciate it if you could sign up by February 9, which is when the next organizational meeting will be.

FUMC @ LTC

You may not know it, but the men's basketball team at Lincoln Trail College has been helping with NOW Program bagging during this school year. As a way to thank them, the outreach committee is organizing a FUMC night at LTC's men's basketball game. Mark your calendars now to attend their game on Wednesday, February 22nd against Vincennes University. The game starts at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$5, and you can pay at the door.

Young Adult Super Bowl Party

Young adults will be gathering at the parsonage (804 North Scott Drive) on Sunday, February 5 to watch the Super Bowl. You're welcome to come any time after 5:00 pm, and bring your favorite snack and/or beverage to share.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

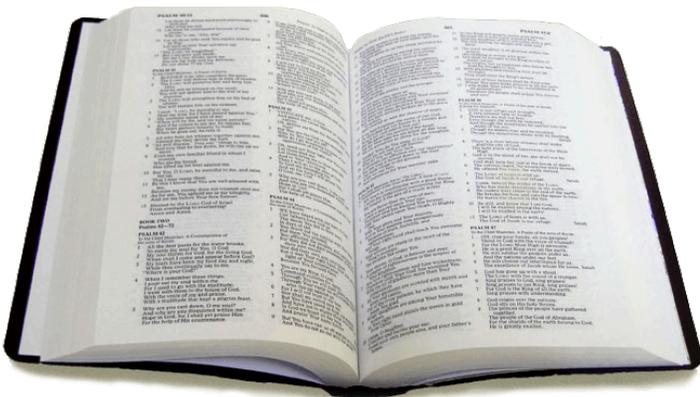
2/1 Tabitha Seaney
2/2 Tyler Mefford, Mary Jane Parker
2/5 Allie Oxford, Nadene Keene
2/7 Taya Harmon
2/8 Brenda Graham
2/9 Krystal Damron
2/10 Jack Frakes
2/11 Rodney Frakes, Dalton Davis
2/12 Dan Inboden, Lori Treadway
2/14 Dorcas Sills, Martin Williamson
2/15 Linda Hutchens
2/16 Ruth Parrott
2/18 Walt Conner
2/20 Katelin Veenstra
2/22 Greg Catt
2/24 Connie Carter
2/25 Jane Elliott
2/26 Trevor Carter

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/1 Walt & Margaret Conner
2/14 David & Mary Correll
2/16 Guy & Shirley Treadway
2/28 Larry & Kay Bonnell

PRAYER CONCERNS

PEG, JOHN, JEREMY, AND GREG
MARKELLO; KEN MARTIN; CAROL
WOLF; LOIS McCONNELL; CARL AND
HELEN BLANTON; JUDY WILSON
WALL; MARILYN MUSGRAVE;
MICHAEL BRADY; ELAINE SILER;
NANCY YOUNG; GARY ALBIN; DONNA
REED; MIKE RICHARDS; CHARLEY
CLARK; NEEMA MUTAYOBA; PATTY
STEELE; DARRELL BARRY; MIKE
RICHARDS; MARTY ATTAWAY; CATHY
THOMAS; THE WOMEN IN THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY JAIL; JUDSON
RICHARDSON; JACKSON BARRY;
JERRY ADKINS; RICHARD YOUNGS;
KAY ALBIN; SUSAN POLGAR;
SHIRLEY ALLISON; JAY
HOLTZHOUSER; JANNA COONCE;
CAROLYN VANWAY; JENNIFER
NEWLIN; JEAN ARRINGTON; JERRY &
MARY CORRELL; RAYMOND HAYS;
CHRISTINE ALSPACH; TOM CRAVENS;
KAYE PARROTT WEGER; DALE
REGENNITTER; BOB & ELLEANOR
LASWELL; JENNIFER NULL; JULIE
ZHANG; BILL THOMPSON; BOB
DUZAN; SEAN & SHARA KEEN;
MADELYN STORCKMAN; JANEY
BRANSON; KATE DALE; LISA GRAHAM
MILLER'S FAMILY; SHIRLEY
TREADWAY; JANET CAULDWELL;
CHANCE & BRANTLEY MOORE &
FAMILY; JULIA ROBERSON & FAMILY



FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	2 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	3 4:30 pm FCA Chili Supper at RHS	4
5 8:00 am Handbell rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Boy Scout Brunch 10:00 am Confirmation Session 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6	7 6:00 pm Disciple III	8 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner	9 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal	10	11
12 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Worship	13	14 6:00 pm Disciple III	15 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm All committees meetings 7:00 pm Church Council meeting	16 9:30 am Disciple III 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal	17	18
19 8:15 am Praise Kids' rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Session 11:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal	20	21 6:00 pm Disciple III	22 6:30 am Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club	23 9:30 am Disciple III 4:30 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal	24	25 1:00 pm Crawford County Praise Fest at Robinwood Assembly of God
26 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Youth Laser Tag	27	28 6:00 pm Disciple III				

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodian: Harold Guyer

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller