

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

January 2012

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A Plan for the New Year

A month ago most of you received a Bible Reading Plan for 2012. This is the time to begin using it. If you've misplaced yours or need another, you can find another copy on our website or pick one up at church. Our Bible Reading Plan is adapted from one found on our Conference website.

If the thought of reading the entire Bible through in a year is a bit daunting, choose a couple of sections and read them each week. If nothing else, read through the Gospels in 2012.

I got a head start on my 2012 Bible Reading Plan; I began using it in September. Over the years I've used several different Bible reading programs such as the One Year Bible and the calendar which we distributed a year ago. I've even listened to the scriptures on my iPod. But of all the Bible reading plans I've used, I like this one the best.

I like it because it's focused. I don't especially like reading a chapter or two from three or four different sections of the Bible in a single day. It feels too "jumpy" to me. This plan keeps readers in one part of the Bible every day.

I like it because it's balanced. With most plans, you're finished with the Gospels by springtime. But I want the Gospels to last longer. With this guide, I can read from the Gospels or Acts every Friday throughout the entire year. On the other hand, I may feel as though I'm "stuck" with Leviticus for two months, but it's only for one day a week.

As United Methodists, we believe that diligently searching the scriptures is one way in which we may encounter God's grace. We find God's grace as we read of others who struggled with their faith as they sought to walk with God. We find God's grace as we identify with the heart cries of the psalmist. We find God's grace as we follow the persecuted church from their suffering to their promise of glory.

If you have difficulty in sticking to a Bible reading plan, let me offer a couple of suggestions. First, if you have more than one Bible in your house, choose one and stick with it all year long. I'm currently using Eugene Peterson's *The Message* which recasts sacred scripture in contemporary language. When I finish sometime this fall, I plan to switch to the *New Living Translation* and repeat the process. Consistency is the key.

Choose a specific place where you can read your Bible. I use an old chair in a room without a television. I keep *The Message* on the end table beside it. Again, consistency is the key.

Choose a specific time of day when you can read—the earlier the better. But if you miss your devotional time early in the day, commit to reading your Bible sometime during the day before you go to bed; it's too hard—and discouraging—to play "catch up." When people fall a few days behind, far too many just give up.

That's another advantage with this program; it gives readers an easy list for checking off scriptures that have been read.

Speaking of lists, here's another idea: keep your weekly prayer list from our church bulletin with your Bible Reading Plan and use it as you pray. I'm convinced that as you follow the disciplines of regularly searching the scriptures and praying, your faith will be strengthened.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Dave



**We wish you many blessings for 2012
from the Staff and Families of Orion**

United Methodist Church

Pastor Dave & Candice Schultz

Jonathan, Jordan & Justin

Judi & John Heller, Linda Wells, Amy & Doug Killion,

Jane & Jerry Meyer, Dick & Mary Putney,

Andrea & Brandon Cooper, Carrie & Greg McCunn



Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

While the rest of the world will (supposedly) be making resolutions, Christians will begin 2012 by renewing covenants. Our liturgical work will begin on **Sunday, January 1** as we celebrate Holy Communion after offering a "Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition." We will also celebrate the Epiphany which marks the arrival of the magi who offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. Please read Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-7, Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:22-40. Remember there will be just one service at 9 a.m.

Sunday, January 8 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday during which we will continue our New Year's emphasis on covenant renewal by reaffirming our baptismal vows. Please read Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11.

"Temple Living" will be the focus of our service on **Sunday, January 15**. Please read 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and John 2:13-22.

Recently National Public Radio hosted a formal debate on the question of whether or not the world would be better off without religion. On **Sunday, January 22** I'm going to jump into the fray and address that very issue. Please read Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 and Luke 5:36-39.

My sermon for **Sunday, January 29** is entitled, "Can Food Bring Us Closer to God?" Please read Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and Mark 1:21-28.

Scriptures for the day's liturgist are underlined.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Dave

You are invited to help the youth take down Christmas decorations on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. A light supper will be served afterwards.

YouthWorks Meeting

Everyone participating in the youth mission trip to South Dakota should plan to attend the January 15 meeting at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be served and trip details will be discussed. Our few remaining spaces are going fast. If you'd like to go, it's not too late. But it will be soon! See Pastor Dave to sign up.

East Moline Christ UMC is hosting a Jr. High youth event for the district on Feb. 3-4. Contact Pastor Dave if you are interesting in going.

Family Fun Outing

Chase away the winter blahs with a fun evening at Rock Island Fitness Center. The whole family is invited to join in the fun from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 26. We will have access to the pool and gym. Youth not accompanied by an adult will need a signed permission slip in order to attend. The slips are on the church website.

"I Can" in 2012

Beginning on January 1, your family will be able to pick up an "I Can Imagine No Malaria" coin bank. Please drop your change in it and bring it back to church on Sunday, February 12 for our "Imagine No Malaria" emphasis which will conclude with our Annual Chili Cook-off.

Malaria is a global health problem, affecting more than 500 million and killing more than one million every year. When this program began several years ago with "Nothing But Nets," malaria was claiming a life every 30 seconds in Africa. Thanks to our efforts, that statistic has "improved" to the point that now malaria claims one life every 45 seconds.

The people of The United Methodist Church have the unique opportunity to put discipleship into action to make a difference. Malaria is a treatable and preventable disease and it is a fight we can win.

Imagine No Malaria is a comprehensive effort to deliver a sustainable solution to the malaria burden in Africa. Imagine No Malaria represents an unprecedented approach, which includes prevention, education, communication and treatment resources in a life-changing ministry.

The success of Nothing But Nets has lifted us to a place where a sustainable victory over malaria is possible. The great work of Nothing But Nets will continue as part of Imagine No Malaria. Mosquito nets remain very important tool, and when combined with education, communications and improved treatment, we will achieve a sustainable victory over malaria.

Thankfully, the United Methodist Church is not working alone in this effort. We are blessed to work alongside several key partners in the fight against malaria such as the United Nations Foundation. Indeed, thanks to their support, 100 percent of your contributions to this ministry will go to the fight against malaria.

For more information, log onto www.imagenomalaria.org.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA SUNDAY

Get out your special spices and secret ingredients and start cooking for our **Chili Cook-Off** which will be held in conjunction with "Imagine No Malaria Sunday" on Feb. 12 following the 10:30 service. Mark your calendar and plan to stay for lunch after church. Proceeds from the meal will be directed to Imagine No Malaria.

Come Home for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Come Home for Christmas silent auction and lunch! Missions benefited with \$1,552 being raised from the silent auction, the Loving Stitches quilt (congratulations to Kathryn Lough), and ornaments made by Don Berns. Thank you to Orion Boy Scout Troop 123 and Venture Crew 123 for helping with the lunch!

Thank You

Thank you to all who were involved with our special December worship services. The music and messages were wonderful and helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit!



Take Me Out to a Ball Game

Ladies Luncheon, Sunday, January 29 at 11:30 am

All ladies of the church are invited to the Ladies Luncheon on January 29th following the 10:30 service. This year will be a casual event with tables decorated in a sports theme, and you may dress in your favorite sports or team shirt. If you don't have a sports shirt, wear red or black in support of our own Orion Chargers.

A "ball park" menu will be served with the cost for lunch only \$10 per person; kids ten and under \$5. Games and a special performance by *Comedy Sportz* are "on the roster."

New this year: everyone will have a chance to vote on their favorite table design by placing a donation in a jar. All proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip to Lake Traverse Reservation.

Waiters will be needed. If any men would like to help, please talk with Pastor Dave.

This lunch is for all ladies of all ages. Invite a friend or relative to join you as we celebrate friends, fun, and sports! Call the church office by Jan. 20 to make your reservation.



Blessings on your Birthday!

1/01	Mary Johnson	1/15	Tom Bosold
1/02	Kay Nelson	1/16	Jennifer Coe
1/03	Michael Edmund		Ben Coe
	Scott Calhoun		Sarah Venker
1/04	Tracy Calhoun	1/19	Kyle Doxstader
	Dean Tennant	1/21	Cash Ainsworth
	Kurt Doy	1/23	Tori Matzen
1/05	Shelley Atkinson		Ian Cooper
	Robyn Heller		Kevin Gladkin
	Beverly Foley	1/24	Amy Arango
	Brenda Jarding		Mike Matzen
1/07	Claire Smith	1/25	Jennifer Smutzer
1/08	Mandy Browning	1/27	Andrea Fisher
	Jack Poust		Troy Larson
	Michael Lees	1/29	Jim Cooper
1/12	Jazmyn Norcross	1/30	Theadosia Seys
1/13	Margaret Stickle	1/31	Karen Woolley
	Rick Bohland		Tabatha Cramm
1/14	Allison Blade		
	Dylan Manning		

*Contact the church office
if we need to add your name.*

The Furnace will meet on January 15 at 5:00 p.m. at the Osco Church.

All Orion area high school youth are invited to attend. The evening will include supper, games, and worship. Please come to "The Furnace" and invite your friends!

Pastor Dave's Sunday School Schedule

Jan. 1 – No Sunday school
 Jan. 15 – 3rd & 4th grade
 Jan. 8 – 5th & 6th grade
 Jan. 22 – 1st & 2nd grade
 Jan. 29 – 2, 3, 4 year olds

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Council will meet Jan. 8 following the "undecorating" of the church which begins at 4 p.m. Lots of hands are needed to take down the Christmas decorations – including adults. A light supper will also be served.

The **Confirmation class** will serve Cookie Fellowship at 10 a.m. Sunday, January 29.

Carnation orders will be taken on Sundays beginning Jan. 22 with delivery on Feb. 12. Remember your valentine!

"Souper" Bowl collection will be Feb. 5 with proceeds going to the Orion Food Pantry.

Perfect Sunday School Attendance for November 2011

Thea Seys	Nevan Browning	Michelle Faulkner	Julie Bosold	Pastor Dave Schultz
Jill Kosek	Joseph Faulkner	Derek Nelson	Lonnie Catour	Adam Browning
Nick Browning	Hope Seys	Noah Seys	Cindy Walker	Clayton Browning
Devin Nelson	Karsyn McCunn	Peggy Crayne	Megan Cramm	Baillie McCunn
Ashlie McCunn	Taylor McCunn	Diane McCunn	Tara Miller	Adam Killion
Anthony Killion	June Rettig	Joy Seys	Damon Seys	Mandy Browning
Bev Foley	Jane Meyer	Tim Garrity	Andrea Cooper	Jack Poust
Nancy Poust	Don Bielema	Bev Bielema	Kaye Wright	Steve Wright