

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

April 2018

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Living Biblically

A couple of weeks ago I happened upon a new television show called, "Living Biblically." It's a sitcom which airs Mondays on CBS. I missed the February 26 pilot episode, but I did read Kevin McDonough's review of the program in the February 26 *Moline Dispatch*. He wrote that the show "reminds us that religious discussions are ill-suited to laugh-track-addled sitcoms."

"Living Biblically" is about a New York movie critic named Chip Curry who is so moved by the death of his best friend that he decides to spend nine months following every rule of the Bible. However, Chip is not a religious man; in fact, he has never read the Bible.

According to Mr. McDonough's review, "This leads to contrived sight gags about not wearing clothes of mixed fabrics and stoning adulterers. The pilot manages to shoehorn a 'priest and a rabbi walk into a bar' joke, too."

And then Mr. McDonough says something quite profound: "Somehow, we never hear anything about comforting the sick or helping the poor or afflicted. It's not that kind of Bible. Or Bible show."

When I get to heaven, Jesus is not going to ask me if I've become unclean by playing football with an actual pigskin (Lev. 11:6-8) or if I've eaten "unclean" oysters (Lev. 11:10) or if I've broken God's law by wearing poly-blend shirts (Lev. 19:19) or by trimming my hair or my beard (Lev. 19:27). However, when I do get to heaven, Jesus is going to ask me if I fed the hungry, quenched the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the needy, and visited those who were sick or in bondage (Matthew 25:35-36).

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. But much of the inspired Word of God was also intended for a particular people at a particular time in their history and it needs to be interpreted contextually. Laws about diet and grooming fit into that category. In fact, our context changed dramatically with the resurrection of Jesus; Peter learned that in Acts 10 when he was directed by God to eat "unclean" food. That led to Peter's compassionate inclusion of "unclean" gentiles.

Acts of compassion such as those listed in Matthew 25 rise above time and place and are appropriate in any and every context and those acts of compassion are good news to those who are in need.

As Christians, we are called to be witnesses to the grace of God. Our words and our actions are meant to be "good news." And good news is not only easy to share; it also spreads quickly. Within a generation of his resurrection, the good news of Jesus Christ spread to the ends of the then-known world.

Good news still travels quickly. I serve on a couple of boards in our community, including the boards of both the Orion Fall Festival and Orion Lions Club. Those organizations recently helped an Orion High School alum named Josh Mitton to receive a pair of E-Sight glasses. Before receiving those glasses, Josh had 20/200 vision; with the glasses his vision jumps to 20/40—a remarkable improvement! Josh attended the March meeting of the Orion Lions Club meeting to express his gratitude, saying, "These glasses have drastically changed my life!"

As part of my work with the Orion Lions Club, I posted Josh's story on our club's Facebook page and within 24 hours, that story had reached 3,607 people. I was amazed. But it also underscores the fact that good news travels quickly.

As Christians, we have been entrusted with the Good News of God's salvation. We share that good news through acts of compassion and words of grace. *That's* what living biblically is all about.

Yours for the Kingdom,
Pastor Dave

Special Holy Week Worship Services

Good Friday, March 30

Noon & 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 1

7:00 am Youth-led Sunrise Worship Service featuring "Fools Anonymous" an original play by Pastor Dave.

Communion will be served.

8:00 am Family-style breakfast served in Fellowship Hall with a free-will donation taken.

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship Service with special music by the sanctuary choir and bell choir.

Communion will be served.

Prepare Your Hearts for Worship

We begin the month with Easter Sunday on April 1. I've written a new play for our youth to present at our 7 am sunrise service; the title of the play is "Fools Anonymous." Our all-church Easter breakfast follows at 8 am. Sunday school is at 9:15 and at 10:30 we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with special music by the adult bell choir as well as the sanctuary choir. I will be serving communion at both services. Scriptures include Acts 10:34-43; Psalms 14 and 118; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18 and Mark 16:1-8

We're back on our regular schedule on Sunday, April 8 and I will continue my series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer. My sermon will be, "Give Us this Day Our Daily Bread." Scriptures include Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2 and John 20:19-31.

On Sunday, April 15, I'll be preaching, "Forgive Us Our Trespases." Scriptures include Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48.

"As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us" is my theme for Sunday, April 22. Scriptures include Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; and John 10:11-18.

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation" is my theme for Sunday, April 29. Scriptures include Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22; 1 John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8.

As always, scriptures for liturgists are underlined.

I'll see you in church,
Pastor Dave

Something for Seniors

In cooperation with the Henry County Senior Citizens, Orion UMC hosts a senior citizens meal every Tuesday at noon. It's a great opportunity for fellowship—and a hot meal. Cost is only \$2.75 or \$3 for home delivery. Questions or to sign up, call John Schenk, 309-737-6161.

Help a special child learn to ride a bike!

Pastor Dave will be conducting a Trivia Night at the Children's Therapy Center, located at 4450 48th Ave. Court, Rock Island (West of Heritage Wesleyan). The event will be held on Friday, April 20 with doors opening at 5:30 pm. Tables are \$80 for 8 people or \$10 per person.

Proceeds benefit the "iCan Shine" bike camp which brings in expert instructors to help special needs children learn to ride bikes. Up to 40 kids will be able to participate in the camp which will be held June 19-23 at the East Moline School Administration Center.

Food and drinks will be available for any donation; however, you are also welcome to bring in food for your table.

To sign up, please call Don or Tom Pasmore at 309-786-5534.

During the month of April, we are collecting items for the Orion Area Food Pantry. All donations are welcome, but items especially needed include canned fruit, cereal, crackers, brownie & muffin mixes, helper mixes, ravioli, rice/pasta mix packets, ketchup, mayonnaise, jello, and instant pudding mixes. Thank you for your support!

Mission of the Month

April's Mission of the Month is a life-changing ecumenical ministry in our own backyard. YouthHope, a ministry of Christian Friendliness, ministers to low-income youth weekly through after-school activities, a Christian youth camp, and other youth services.

Although their primary focus is the underprivileged areas of our community, their mission encompasses the community as a whole. YouthHope believes that sharing Christ with people is the main ingredient in meeting their needs.

YouthHope/Christian Friendliness maintains two centers in the Quad Cities, one in Rock Island and the other in Moline. It also maintains Camp Summit, a Christian camp in New Windsor.

Vacation Bible School

July 23 – 27 9:00 a.m. – Noon
at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Information will go home shortly with Sunday school children about this summer's VBS. Please watch for details in the church bulletin and in next month's newsletter.

To attend VBS this year, children must be age 4 by Sept. 1, 2018 through those entering 6th grade in the fall. The cost will be \$5 per child. Registration forms will be available soon.

Teen helpers will be needed. Watch for information and details about volunteering.

Could you use some help?

You can help YouthWorks missionaries with their trip expense by hiring them to do work around your house or yard. Some of the tasks they are willing to do include: raking, mowing, washing windows, baby-sitting, and dog walking. "We Can Help" sheets are in the upper and lower narthex as well as the church office. Please make your own arrangements with the willing workers. Your payment for their services will be directed to their mission account.

Daddy-Daughter Dance

Main Street Orion's Daddy/Daughter dance is April 8 at Orion High School from 5:30-7:00 pm. Cost is \$15 per couple; \$5 for each additional daughter. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 526-8299 or by emailing director@mainstreetorion.com.

Thank You

We want to thank everyone for all the cards, prayers, and encouragement we received during my mother's illness and passing as well as the passing of Don's brother, Ken.

Our church family is very special to us. Once again, thank you for all the love and prayers we have received.

Marilyn & Don Berns

TLC Preschool Open House – April 14, 9 to Noon

Children are invited to see the classroom. Children must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2017 for the Cubs class and 4 by Sept. 1 for the Bears class. For more information, call 526-8993.

You are Invited

Beth Carlson will speak about her experiences from her recent mission trips to Haiti on Saturday, April 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Orion UMC is proud to assist Beth in her endeavors to help the women of Haiti, and we hope you'll come and listen to her stories of hope and love.

ORION UMC SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline to apply for the OUMC scholarship is the second Thursday in April. Applications must be in the office by 3 pm or postmarked by April 12. Senior and college undergraduate members may apply. Applications are in the office and on the website. If you've applied in the past, but didn't receive a scholarship, you may re-apply.

Coming up....

Confirmation Sunday is May 6
Graduation Sunday is May 13

Contact the church office by May 4 if you have a family member graduating. We'd like to honor them for their achievements and include their name in the bulletin.

Something new...An alternative worship service is taking place in the MAC at 9:15 Sunday mornings. Folks are gathering around a table for discussion and devotions. The target group is young adults, but everyone is welcome. Come and see what's happening in the MAC on Sunday mornings!!

Perfect Sunday School Attendance for February

AnnMarie Haars
Jon Ditzman
Diane McCunn
Clayton Browning
June Rettig

Rose Haars
Adam Browning
Leah Manning
Barb Cooper
Beth Carlson

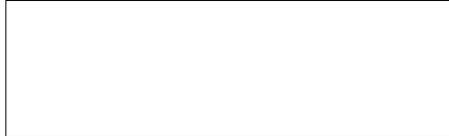
Dylan Manning
Svea Carlson
Nick Browning
Don & Marilyn Berns
Betty Jo Versluis

Peggy Crayne
Lonnie Catour
Xander Carlson
Jane Meyer
Rob & Autumn Manning

Nevan Browning
Derek Nelson
Tara Miller
Rachel Girotti

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Multi-media Trivia Night for YouthWorks
Saturday, April 7 – 6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:00

Join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship! Get a group together and reserve a table for Trivia Night. Soft drinks and walking tacos will be available for purchase, and you may bring snacks. Tables of eight are \$80. Questions will cover a wide range of topics. To reserve a table, call the office at 526-8511 or email orionumc@frontiernet.net.

Proceeds will benefit Orion UMC Youth Mission Trips

RUMMAGE SALE, PIE SALE
BAKE SALE, COFFEE

Sat., April 28, 9 – 11:30 a.m. in the MAC

Come check out the great bargains and visit the coffee area and bake sale. Rebecca Circle will be selling pies!

New this year – you may Fill A Bag for \$5 unless marked.

Please bring sale items to the MAC beginning April 23. To help the set-up go smoothly, no items will be accepted after April 26. Thank you for your help and understanding. Items for bake sale and help with set-up/take-down are also appreciated and needed!

TVs, computers, & other electronics will not be accepted.

Contact Jill Kosek at 235-2003 with any questions.

Blessings on your Birthday!

4/01	Savannah Faulkner	4/13	Don Bielema
	Don Hutcherson	4/14	Nathan Walker
	Amy Killion		Nicholas Walker
4/02	Rachel Wright	4/15	Pat McKnight
4/03	Candice Schultz		Rachel Girotti
	Renard Hudson	4/16	Greyson Weaver
	Joshua Peshek	4/18	John Fisher
4/05	David Anderson		Betty Jo Versluis
	Sharon Schnowske	4/21	Chris Kosek
4/07	Janet Marshall	4/24	Ann Haars
	Samantha Parks		Lena Haars
4/08	Malia Bigus	4/25	Peggy Crayne
	Nancy Wigant		Jason Blade
	Drew Amador	4/29	Dan Lees
4/09	Chuck Dykeman	4/30	Dawn Coe
4/10	Benjamin Woolley		
4/12	Michelle Dodson		

Call the church office if we need to add your name.

We will serve the **Hope Meal Site** May 6. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the lower narthex to help with food donations and to volunteer that evening. Thank you for helping!