



GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR  
SAVIOR  
AND LORD JESUS CHRIST,

Throughout this news- letter you will find a variety of opportunities to be involved in the life of our congregation—from the United Methodist Women to youth and children's activities to seminars and small groups. We do not expect everyone to be involved in everything but we do encourage you to join in the activity that will help you to continue to grow as a Disciple of Jesus.

James Bryon Smith, a Methodist Pastor and Theology Professor, , shares these insightful words with us at the close of his book,

***The True and Beautiful Life:***

Setting our Hearts and Minds on Things Above

"The only way to nurture my relationship with Jesus is to set my heart and mind on the kingdom of God. The fundamental building block of an apprentice of Jesus is living closely to Jesus in our ordinary lives. If we can learn how to spend an ordinary day with our minds set on things above, we will have learned one of the most important spiritual exercises in the Christian life.

To build our lives on the rock of Jesus' teaching, we need to take control of our time, instead of letting time control us. The most frequent excuse for not growing in our spiritual lives is lack of time. Most of

us live at the mercy of our schedule, instead of planning ahead and arranging our schedule around our apprenticeship to Jesus."

In this new year of 2017 let us take this calling from the writer of Hebrews to heart. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near". (Hebrews 10:14-15)

May Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Richly Bless You in This New Year.

*Pastor George*

---

**INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT**  
Sunday Morning Seminar 8:45AM-9:45AM

Teacher: *Pastor George*

In the Fellowship Hall

**January 8, 2017 - March 26, 2017**



Have you ever been motivated to start reading the Old Testament on your own and find yourself soon frustrated by the strange names and places, genealogies, legal material, and shifting historical contexts and ancient setting?

**Well we have the seminar for you!**

This seminar will empower you to better read the Old Testament on your own. We use an excellent resource book which has a lot of diagrams, charts and maps which you can easily catch up with on your own time.

The cost is \$12 per book.

---

*Thank you . . .*

Dear Members and Friends,

Your church staff (Pastor, Secretary, Treasurer  
Choir Director / Organist & Custodian) would like to  
extend their heartfelt thanks for your kindness and  
consideration at Christmas time.

Your generous gifts were greatly appreciated. We look  
forward to our ministry in the New Year!

Peace and Love, *Pastor George,  
Karen, Renée, Roland & Andy*

---

LENT BEGINS WITH



Join us as we worship on Ash Wednesday with other United  
Methodists in our area at Church of the Master on  
Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm

---



A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

We will **not** be collecting Aluminum cans any  
longer. Thank you for your support of this  
project in the past.

Also we are **no longer** collecting Plastic bottle caps.

---

**JOSHUA HOUSE CAN STILL USE YOUR HELP  
IN THE NEW YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PAST SUPPORT.**

**IT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!**



## ***JANUARY BIRTHDAYS***

22 <sup>nd</sup>	Douglas Rhoades Jr	28 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Foran III
26 <sup>th</sup>	Christina Hoff	30 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Simonow
26 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Kaufman	30 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Woolley
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan O'Neill		
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Garcia		

## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

4 <sup>th</sup>	Shawna Blount	20 <sup>th</sup>	Ginger Rittman
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ava Bamonte	21 <sup>st</sup>	Scott Plakyda
8 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Leno	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Tunbridge
10 <sup>th</sup>	Brianna Matthew	25 <sup>th</sup>	Donatella Catuogno
13 <sup>th</sup>	Gavin Thor	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jeffrey Tsakiris
13 <sup>th</sup>	Theresa Zigich	25 <sup>th</sup>	Addie Willuweit
16 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Foran, Jr.	26 <sup>th</sup>	Colleen Foran
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Branin	27 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Bavosi
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Carole Brand	27 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Trupio

## ***February Anniversaries***

14 <sup>th</sup>	Karen & Barry Tunbridge	20 <sup>th</sup>	Frank & Mariah Hale
17 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis & Megan Conway	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff & Linda Warwick

## ***MARCH BIRTHDAYS***

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Norman Revere	26 <sup>th</sup>	Giovanni Bovosi
9 <sup>th</sup>	Kristen Pilecki	26 <sup>th</sup>	Luckencia Jean
9 <sup>th</sup>	Johnathon Blount		1 <sup>st</sup> UMC Sponsored Child
9 <sup>th</sup>	Miah Blount		from Compassion International
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sean O'Neill	29 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Lewis
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lorraine Stewart	31 <sup>st</sup>	Danielle Hoff
17 <sup>th</sup>	Carolyn Reid		
17 <sup>th</sup>	Roland Willuweit		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nancy Tsakiris		
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Natalie Bamonte		
25 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Willuweit		



## ***MARCH ANNIVERSARY***

26<sup>th</sup> Christopher & Patti DeFranco

---

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl of Caring utilizes Super Bowl weekend in America to mobilize young people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Its vision is to transform Super Bowl weekend into America's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Young people collect monetary and food donations during the week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. 100% of the money and food is then given directly to local charities of the group's choice



**Our Youth will host a Super Bowl of Caring  
on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

All money and soup will be donated to Joshua House.  
(If you miss this opportunity, you can bring in your soup and \$1  
for Joshua House at any time).



***United Methodist Women  
Tues., February 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:00pm***

***Program: Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery . . .  
Guest Speaker: Cassandra Ferrigno***

Refreshments will be served

*All Women are invited*

**ALL UMW MEETINGS  
WILL BE ON TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM**

---

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 13

Join us on February 12<sup>th</sup> as we honor our **Boy Scouts on Boy Scout Sunday** 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Farmingdale is Troop 13's Charter Organization and members of Troop 13 will be present to assist with the service. All the Scouts will dress in their Class A's to participate.



### Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to obey the Scout Law and the Law is this:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

---

## Gideons International



Gideons International is an evangelical Christian association founded 1899 in Boscobel, Wisconsin. The Gideons' primary activity is distributing copies of the Bible free of charge. This Bible distribution is a global enterprise taking place in 200 countries, territories and possessions. The association's members focus on distributing complete Bibles, New Testaments, or portions thereof. These copies are printed in over 100 languages. The association is most widely known for its Scriptures placed in hotel and motel rooms. The Gideons also distribute to hospitals and other medical offices, schools and colleges as well as jails and prisons. The association takes its name from the Biblical figure Gideon, depicted in Judges 6.

**The Gideons will share the pulpit on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

---

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR  
CANDY CANE BAZAAR



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the United Methodist Women's Candy Cane Bazaar held on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

So many of you were very generous with your time whether it was setting up on Friday, working the various tables, helping in the kitchen or pitching in at the end to help clean-up.

Special thanks goes to all who donated items to our Silent Auction, Jewelry, Bakery, Christmas, and Craft tables. It was definitely a team effort and from an additional donation raised \$3,000.00 which will go to support our many missions.

*Thank you all again, Donna Jordan*

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS  
THAT SUPPORTED OUR CANDY CANE BAZAAR:

- Cathy's Nice Nails & Hair (Farmingdale)
- Bruno's Pizza (Farmingdale)
- Tony's Ristorante & Pizza (Farmingdale)
- Farmingdale Breakfast Club (Farmingdale)
- Connie's Restaurant (Farmingdale)
- Shop N Bag (Farmingdale)
- Kirk's Florist (Farmingdale)
- Sundaes (Pt. Pleasant)
- Great Clips (Howell)
- Woolley's Fish Market & Restaurant (Freehold)
- Hoffman's (Point Pleasant)



*United Methodist Women*  
*Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:00pm*

*Program: Oh Deer*  
*Master Gardeners, Rutgers*



*Guest Speakers: Bob Millert*  
*& Ellen Simonetti*

Refreshments will be served

*All Women are invited*

LOOKING FOR A HOME FOR ALL THOSE  
UNUSED  
GREETING CARDS?



Consider donating them to our United Methodist Women's card table. All proceeds from the cards help fund UMW Missions.

We welcome all kinds of greeting cards.

We accept:

- Fundraising cards sent to you by organizations like Wildlife Funds, American Indian organizations, etc.
- Cards for **all holidays & special occasions**
- Birthday cards, Thank you cards & Get Well cards



*Thank you*

PS. We will continue collecting tab tops and Campbell labels.

## Small Group News

Our Wednesday evening Small Group will begin meeting again on **January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Our study will be on **The Good and Beautiful Community** and will meet for nine sessions from 7pm - 8:45pm.

In this third book in the apprentice series trilogy, James Byron Smith helps us to know how to live in relationship with others as apprentices of Jesus. "Apprentice of Jesus are not part-time do-gooders" he writes. "They live in continued contact with the Kingdom of God and are constantly men and women in whom Christ dwells".

This group is just about filled. There may be room for one or two more. If interested please contact Pastor George at 732-938-4100. There is some time for you to catch up on the study so you can begin with us anew on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the book "The Good and Beautiful Community" is \$15.00 payable at the first meeting.



Our fourth **Mid-Winter Advance!**  
January 20<sup>th</sup> - January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**We have 12 youth going!**

Watch for new youth events in February - Such as a bowling outing.

Sunday School Classes for all begins again on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Adult Seminar begins at 8:45 AM in fellowship hall.

## 2016 MOVIE NOTES



**Risen** is one of the best Biblical movies in sometime.

It is the epic story of the Resurrection as told through the eyes of a non-believer, Clavius, a powerful Roman military tribune. Clavius is assigned the task of solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion in order to disprove the rumors of a risen messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem. The opening scenes of the Roman soldiers in battle, and the Crucifixion of Jesus, portray in gritty realism life for the Jewish people under Roman rule in 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel. [PG-13]

**Hacksaw Ridge**, if not still in theaters is also worth looking up on Netflix or DVD. The movie powerfully depicts the heroism of Private Desmond Doss, a Seventh-Day Adventist, who was willing to serve in the infantry but unwilling to kill another human being or even carry a weapon - a principled but unpopular stance in the United States army of World War II.

While mocked and tormented during basic training Doss earned the lasting respect of his fellow soldiers on the field of battle. During the bloodiest hours in the Battle of Okinawa, Doss dodged artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire to rescue seventy-five wounded soldiers single-handedly. "He was awarded the medal of Honor becoming the first conscientious objector to receive our Nation's highest military decoration (*Matthew Kacsmark*)."



The movie indirectly speaks to the issues surrounding conscience rights in America today. Be prepared for scenes - of graphic violence with battles scenes on par with Saving Private Ryan. Rating [R]

Most Star Wars fans should love **Rogue One**. It admirably lifts up the classic virtue of **fortitude/courage** as our heroes risk everything to hopefully save the day. Not your usual Star Wars movie ending. [P-13]



Finally, while a "small" movie, **Hell or High Water** was certainly one of the year's most powerful. Set in small towns across the dusty confines of west Texas it portrays an American white working class left behind following the recession of 2008. And how the devastating effects of ongoing poverty and family dysfunction will ripple out to touch those who come into contact with the two brothers who set about robbing banks so that their mother's property will not be foreclosed on. Chris Pine, Ben Foster, and Jeff Bridges, in an understated but Oscar deserving nod, all turn in powerful performances. And all play characters in need of **Grace** and, the first two, more than a little **Mercy**. [R]

---

## CHRIST AND CULTURE

As the influence of Christianity on our culture continues to recede in contemporary America these words of Robert Louis Wilken, Professor of the History of Christianity Emeritus at the University of Virginia, from



his essay (**Christ and Culture**) written in 2005, speaks to us more urgently than ever:

**Nothing is more needful today than the survival of Christian culture, because in recent generations this culture has become dangerously thin.** At this moment in the Church's history in this country (and in the West more generally) it is less urgent to convince the alternative culture in which we live of the truth of Christ than it is **for the Church to tell itself its own story and to nurture its own life, of God, the Christian going to happen without a rebirth of moral and spiritual discipline** & a resolute effort on the part of Christians to comprehend and to defend the remnants of Christian culture. The unhappy fact is that the society in which we live is no longer neutral about Christianity. The United States would be a much less hospitable environment for the practice of the faith if all the marks of Christian culture were stripped from our public life and Christian behavior were tolerated only in restricted situations.



If Christian culture is to be renewed, habits are more vital than revivals, rituals more edifying than spiritual highs, the creed more penetrating than theology insight, and the celebration of saints' days more uplifting than the observance of Mother's Day. There is great wisdom in the maligned *ex opera operato*, the effect is in the doing. Intention is like a reed blowing in the wind. **It is the doing that counts**, and if we do something for God, in the doing God does something for us.