

*Pastor's Message*

I have said many times that we need to read the bible daily. It is best if read in the morning. Why? Because morning is before the details of the day can derail you and get you distracted from what's most important. I am giving some instructions on how to study your bible on a daily basis. I'm presenting this from an article by Andrew Dragos titled "Six Steps to Reading the Bible Like John Wesley".

1. Read
2. Pray
3. Compare
4. Meditate
5. Consult
6. Teach

1. John Wesley: "I read His book"

**We Read**

There is a basic starting point to grow in anything. You begin by reading. And as Followers & Disciples of Christ we must read God's Word, the Bible. This is the first step in coming to know God as He revealed Himself in Scripture. For Jesus, knowing Scriptures was the foundation for our knowledge of God and living in the sanctifying power of his resurrection. It is especially essential for being able to resist temptation, since Jesus prefaced

all his rebuttals to Satan with "It is written" (Matt.4:4)

2. John Wesley: "I lift up my heart to the Father of Lights"

**We Pray**

The Bible teaches that the things of God are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14) This means that the Holy Spirit is what makes understanding the Bible possible in the first place. Jesus indicated that without the gift of the Spirit, the apostles simply would not understand the gospel (John 16:13)

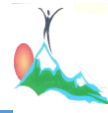
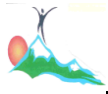
Praying that the Holy Spirit would illumine our hearts puts us in the right posture to begin seeing with spiritual eyes. By asking God to illumine us, we acknowledge our dependence on God's grace in leading into all truth.

3. John Wesley: "I then search after and consider parallel passages of Scripture"

**We Compare**

There is a Latin phrase that translates "Scripture is its own interpreter". The apostles always referred to Jesus and the gospel as the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Each part of the Scripture must be read in light of the whole canon of Scripture. The New Testament cannot be understood without the Old Testament, nor the Old Testament without the New Testament. Also, the most difficult passages must be read in light of the clearer passages.



4. John Wesley: “I meditate thereon with all the attention and earnestness of which my mind is capable”

**We Meditate**

After doing considerable reading across Scripture, it is important to stop and reflect on what is being revealed about God and what it means for today’s Christian. Part of the meditation process is asking in our spirit “What does this mean for me?” This takes seriously the claim that “all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)

5. John Wesley: “I consult those who are experienced in the things of God; and then the writings whereby being dead, they yet speak”

**We Consult**

After familiarizing ourselves with the biblical text, it is important to consult with other readers of Scripture in our community. So, read with your local church; read with the global church; read with the ancient church; read with the marginalized voices. Buy some additional resources for studying the Scripture.

Jesus chose 12 apostles who had to struggle through the meaning of the gospel together after he ascended to heaven. The early church made important decisions together (see Acts 15).

6. John Wesley “And what I thus learn, that I teach”

**We Teach**

What would be the point in learning the Bible if we did not share it with others? Recall that proclamation is at the heart of the Christian faith, and the missional thrust of the Bible compels us to share our faith with others. John Wesley believed this to be his imperative.

This doesn’t mean you must be a SS teacher or a preacher. You can share with your spouse, your siblings, your parents, your children, your neighbor, or someone you meet at Dunkin Donut, Quincy Square, Shelly’s or the Sugar Shack. Yes, even on facebook and twitter are appropriate opportunities to share our faith with others.

I hope this helps and may God bless you as you seek to love God and love your neighbor.

Your Friend in Christ

*Pastor Vern*

**Calendar of Events**

**Each Sun.** @ 9:30 am Sunday School Classes  
@ 11 am Worship Service

**Each Tues.** @ 8:30 am (new time)– Prayer in Pastor Vern’s office

**Each Wed.** @ 6:30-7:30 pm –Prayer @ Parish House

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month** - M&M’s-studying the book Ephesians

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of month**

10th - Men's group meets @ 8 am. @ PH

24th - Men's group meets @ 8 am. @ Lynn’s Diner



### *Calendar of Events- cont'd*

- March 1 @ 7 pm Spiritual Bd Meeting  
March 5 @ 7 pm Admin Bd.Meeting  
March 11 @ 2 pm VBS Meeting at Cuyler  
Daylight Savings Time - March 11  
March 29 Maudy Thursday  
March 30 Good Friday: Meet at church to carry cross around town @ noon  
Easter Egg Hunt to be announced

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

- Mar 1~~Keith Wood  
Mar 2~~Bonnie Zeigler  
Mar 4~~John A Fox  
Mar 9~~Mike Harris Jr  
Mar 10~~Joe Centolella  
Mar 10~~Douglas Gast  
Mar 11~~Jon Benedict  
Mar 12~~Jim Haskins  
Mar 12~~Neka Long  
\*Mar 15~~Joan & Doug Gast  
Mar 19~~Bill Covert  
Mar 17~~Rebecca Travis  
Mar 22~~Lisa Benedict  
Mar27~~Steve Whalen

### *Vacation Bible School*

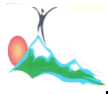
The planning has begun for this year's VBS program and we are in need of many volunteers to help in small or big capacities. Come join our meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> and see how you could help lead our young children towards Jesus.

### *Christian Education*

The PK-6 theme for February has been "True Heroes give God the credit". We have crossed the Red Sea with Moses and defeated Goliath with David. As we hear the Bible stories we remember that in our daily lives we need to always give "God the Glory". On Super Bowl Sunday we played a Bible question and answer game. The two teams were evenly matched but only one won and unfortunately that was the only game the Patriots won!

### *Spiritual Board Members for 2018*

Nancy Parkhurst  
Vern Groves  
Roxanne Groves  
Maurine Brown  
Shelly Schneeberger  
Teri Burdick  
Margaret Wiltsey  
Laura Centolella  
Rosemary Lawrence  
Ed Sautter  
Tom Springer  
Linda Springer  
Jean Whalen



*United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~ March 2018*

