

The Salem Stimulus

Volume XLVI No. 2

# Lenten Church-Wide Study—The Influential Disciple

Dive into discipleship and the idea of "followership," in the Right Now Media Study, *The Influential Disciple*. Disciple is a word often used in church, but what does it mean. In this study, groups will grapple with what it suggests when we call ourselves disciples, or followers of Christ, and what that commitment looks like in our lives.

The study examines The Five Dimensions of an Influential Disciple:

Spiritual Formation- our relationship with Jesus

Personal Wholeness- unforgiveness of ourselves stands in the way of discipleship. Healthy Relationships- Jesus designed us for love not "backbiting and devouring." Life Mission- "God doesn't want us to live confused and frustrated about our mission." Economics and Work- Jesus reminds us "that his Kingdom is everywhere we go."

Together let's discover how to grow into an influential disciple.

Participants' guides are available in the office. Guides includes a daily devotional, but the book is a guide only, not a complete examination of the topics.

Watch the bulletin for opportunities to participate in this study. Can't make a study, you can watch the series yourself on Right Now Media. Don't have an account? Contact Susan Ryder sryder@fcsalem.org 938-1928 and she can get you set up.

### Visioning Together in February- Hospitality and Connection

We continue our discussion around the book *Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church.* This month we'll talk about chapters two and six and ask questions like: How do people get connected at Salem? How do we build relationships with



guests? Is hospitality embedded in Salem's culture? All the while continuing to ask the questions: What if..., could we..., and maybe God wants...?

Join the discussion, watch the announcements for opportunities to talk about these topics.



### Ash Wednesday

is February 14th. At 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, Salem will hold ser-

vices and imposition of ashes. Services will last about half an hour so small groups meeting that night can participate. Childcare is available at 6pm.

# Leaders Needed

# Are you a Cool Christian Guy? Your age doesn't matter...the boys love hanging out with all generations of men! Might you have room in your schedule to spend one or two Thursday Nights per month with a group of awesome 4th & 5th grade boys?

We began a 4th/5th grade Guys Group in the fall to create a place for young boys to come fellowship and grow with Christian men. A place where they can do a devotion, serve the Lord and have some fun building Christian Relationships.

### The turnout has been amazing!

Currently, about 12-15 guys meet with two men on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. The first week having a service minded focus and the third week having a sports theme. These young men are **CRAVING** Guys Group for week 2, 4 and the occasional 5th. Each off week, I receive texts from the boys'



moms asking "are we having it this week?" and sadly I have to reply, "no" because we do not have leaders for those weeks. Won't you please join me in prayer about this? How awesome that 11-12 year-old boys are craving Jesus like this! Perhaps you are being called to lead one or more of these weeks. Curriculum and devotionals can be provided for you. Please contact Tracey Michelsen (717-938-1928 or tmichelsen@fcsalem.org) with any questions or sign up on the connection card.





Families in the Field



will be hosting their Spring Fling Service Expo on March 25th from 12-

2pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be re-stocking our blessing bag bin, making teacher appreciation gifts, creating Easter cards, and possibly doing an outdoor weeding or trash project at the end. Please keep a watch in your bulletin or contact Christy Musselman for more information.



The Salem Equipment Closet is Reopening!

We are accepting donations of gently used medical equipment such as crutches and walkers. Contact: Sarah Martin (sarahmartin827@gmail.com) or drop your items off in the church office.

# The Egg Project I s Off to a reat Start!

The Easter Egg Project has gotten off to a great start this year!

Egg-making production began on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> and will continue every Monday and Wednesday through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Come and join us from approximately 7 am until 1 pm each day, or anytime during that timeframe that fits your schedule. Lunch will be provided each day.

Egg Pick-up will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am -1 pm, and 6 -7 pm. Order forms with directions for completion are provided in the Welcome Center. Eggs are expected to be picked up within 2 weeks of your delivery date.

If you aren't able to help make eggs, consider selling them to your family, friends, and co-workers. Also, donations are needed for egg-makers lunches. Sign up on the posters in the Welcome Center or at the South Entrance of the church. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Come and join this fun-loving group of folks who enjoy working, having some good fellowship, and making Easter eggs. No experience is necessary, and there really is a job for everyone. All are welcome to join us! We look forward to seeing you! Questions? Call Gary Cassell at 717-938-6484, Jeff Strohecker at 717-884-1941, or Jo-Ann Howard at 717-938-3216.



# Women of Light



will meet at 12:30 pm on February 4th at Jeannie Pelen's home for a pot luck lunch and a movie. Jeannie's address is 336 Braddock Drive, Etters. Please sign up on the Women of Light bulletin board so we know you are coming.

Women of Light is open to all single women! Come join the fun!

# The United Methodist

WOMEN will meet Thursday, February 8th in room 115 at 7:00 pm. The program for this month will be our annual *Call to Prayer and Self Denial*.

Please come and learn who this program supports.



All women of the Church and Community are welcome.



### WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION

The women's book discussion meets at Salem on the third Thursday of every month at 7 PM . It is open to any woman who likes to read—or who wants to join in the discussion topic. Come and bring your ideas. If you have questions please call Marsha Uber (938-3108; uber2495@ptd.net). The books for the following months are:

February 15: Dreamland The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones

March 15:

*An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice* by Khizr Khan



### BACK TO THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS By Kathy Alford

The Back to the Bible Sunday School Class watched the DVD *The Shack* together, read the book by Wm. Paul Young, and explored the accompanying study guide. Now, starting in February, we are going to delve deeper with C. Baxter Kruger's *The Shack Revisited*. Millions have found their spiritual hunger satis<sup>h</sup>ed by William P. Young's 3 5 New York Times bestseller, *The Shack*—the story of a man lifted from the depths of despair through his life-altering encounter with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Now C. Baxter Kruger's *Shack Revisited* guides readers into a deeper understanding of these three persons to help readers have a more profound connection with the core message of *The Shack*—God is love.

During Lent, beginning February 18. The Back to the Bible class will be joining in the church wide study "The Influential Disciple" by Scott Hagan. This book is a deep dive into five specific dimensions of discipleship. Each dimension involves five key Bible characters whose lives provide concrete evidence that discipleship can be learned. The study guide also includes 40 daily devotions for your personal quiet time with God.

Are you looking for a small group? We always welcome visitors. Materials are provided. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in room 210 upstairs.

### Here is our lesson schedule for February:

### The Shack Revisited by C. Baxter Kruger

February 4 Some First Thoughts on Papa

- 1. "The Shocker"
- 2. "The Dancing God"
- 3. "Light from Lewis"
- February 11
  4. "What's In a Name?"
  5. "The Two Gods"
  Jesus, His Father, and the Holy Spirit
  6. "Summary of the Trinitarian Vision"

### The Influential Disciple by Scott Hagan

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February 18	Session One	"The Five Dimensions of an Influential Disciple"
February 25	Session Two	"Spiritual Formation"



Winter weather is upon us! In the event of severe weather, the church office will follow the West Shore School District's (WSSD) delay & cancellation schedule. Sunday service cancellations will be broadcast on WHTM 27 & WGAL 8. Important change: The closings for the church will only be broadcast on the stations' apps and on their websites. Church closures will no longer be broadcast on the tv stations. If the WSSD cancels all evening activities, the church

will cancel all evening activities as well. If the School district does not cancel evening activities, all group cancellations will be at the discretion of each group leader and he/she will be responsible for contacting the members of the group.



# Missions Corner



Item of the Month: Mission Central sends cleaning buckets to those people around the world who suffered devastating damages to their homes from floods and hurricanes. One item for these buckets are foam rubber sponges (not dry cellulose). Please put the sponges in the bin marked "Mission Central" in Mission Corner.





# LIBRARY NEWS



By Kathy Alford

A church member recently donated several books that were part of the United Methodist Women's Reading Program for past years. These books range from fiction to nonfiction to biographies and are chosen for the program for the education they provide or the call to mission. These books are designated with a red circle

on the spine of the book. We have several dozen of them in our stacks. How about taking a look at them? The following are synopses of the new entries:

### House of Purple Cedar by Tim Tingle

Thus begins Rose Goode's story of her growing up in Indian Territory in pre-statehood Oklahoma. Skullyville, a once-thriving Choctaw community, was destroyed by land-grabbers, culminating in the arson on New Year's Eve, 1896, of New Hope Academy for Girls. Twenty Choctaw girls died, but Rose escaped. She is blessed by the presence of her grandmother Pokoni and her grandfather Amafo, both respected elders who understand the old ways. Soon after the fire, the white sheriff beats Amafo in front of the town's people, humiliating him. Instead of asking the Choctaw community to avenge the beating, her grandfather decides to follow the path of forgiveness. And so unwinds this tale of mystery, Indian-style magical realism, and deep wisdom. (UMW Reading Program 2016)

### Back to Zero by Gil Rendle

The lifeblood of the United Methodist is passion rather than organizational neatness, entrepreneurial freedom rather than denominational restraint, and agility rather than staid institutional dependence. But if United Methodists want to change and be the church we say we want to be, what must we risk and how can we challenge current practices? (UMW Reading Program 2014)

### Whatever Happened to Dinner? Recipes and Reflections for Family Mealtimes by Melocie M. Davis

Part cookbook, part reflection on the changing role of dinner in our culture and part celebration of family and community-that's what you'll find in *Whatever Happened to Dinner?* by Melodie M. Davis. It's a book that invites people to eat together, even as it acknowledges the challenges of living in a culture that often pulls us apart. (UMW Reading Program 2015)

### I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui

Nujood Ali's childhood came to an abrupt end in 2008 when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness, Nujood tells of abuse at her husband's hands and of her daring escape. With the help of local advocates and the press, Nujood obtained her freedom—an extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where almost half of all girls are married under the legal age. Nujood's courageous defiance of both Yemeni customs and her own family has inspired other young girls in the Middle East to challenge their marriages. Hers is an unforgettable story of tragedy, triumph, and courage. (UMW Reading Program 2012)

#### *Shopping* by Michelle Gonzalez

Shopping asks us to choose our values and weigh the good in everyday terms. It also brings us instantly in contact with the myriad relationships and labor of people all over the world who have grown, harvested, or crafted the food, clothes, and other items with which we sustain and adorn our lives. Michelle Gonzalez, whose work on spirituality has lifted up the life practices of Latina women, explores the rich material on economic activity and relationships in the Christian tradition and the larger per-tinence of our actions in an era of globalized economic interconnection. (UMW Reading Program 2015)

#### Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure by Patricia Ellis Herr

When Trish Herr became pregnant with her first daughter, Alex, she and her husband, Hugh, vowed to instill a bond with nature in their children. By the time Alex was five, her over-the-top energy levels led Trish to believe that her very young daughter might be capable of hiking adult-sized mountains. In *Up*, Trish recounts their always exhilarating--and sometimes harrowing--adventures climbing all forty-eight of New Hampshire's highest mountains. Readers will delight in the expansive views and fresh air that only peakbaggers are afforded, and will laugh out loud as Trish urges herself to "mother up" when she and Alex meet an ornery--and alarmingly bold--spruce grouse on the trail. This is, at heart, a resonant, emotionally honest account of a mother's determination to foster independence and fearlessness in her daughter, to teach her "that small doesn't necessarily mean weak; that girls can be strong; and that big, bold things are possible." (UMW Reading Program 2014)

### How Coffee Saved my Live: And Other Stories of Stumbling to Grace by Ellie Roscher

Based on the author's true life experiences, *How Coffee Saved My Life* is a funny, tragic, provocative and touching story of a rich, white, North American overachiever who spends a year in Uruguay in hopes of becoming a more responsible and sensitive member of the global community. Throughout the book, vignettes tied to the Spanish language flow from observation to theological analysis. (UMW Reading Program 2013)

CHECHBERGE PRAYER CHAIN

# Please keep in your prayers these people who have had prayer concerns in the last month:

Kathy Alford; Barb; Barb and Keith; Joyce Barlup; Scott Binns; cancer patients; Kathy Castonguay; Jason Christine; college students traveling; Chrissy Condon; Connie; Megan Conrad; Dale; Nicole and Jimmy Davis; Ken Donovan; Linda Edmondson; egg makers; Eleanor; family with marital problems; families with mental illness; first responders; friends with health problems; Grover; Bonnie Gruver; Mary Gustin; Heather; Louise Heckman; Herk; Kathie Hoke; Don and Shirley Howard; the Howard family on the death of Gary's father Don; Carole Hutchison; Lynda Jones and family; Kathy; Wendy Kautz' father; Lisa Keck;

Arlene Kowal; Kristy; Tracey Michelsen; Mike and Nan; Louise Nash; Joan Norwood; Deb Oakley; Alice Orlandi; Jeanette Payne; Sue Prowell; Rader family; Kyle Ricketts; Roger; Shawn Rupp and children (Jordan, Kayla and Sophia); Sandy on death of husband; Jessie Sanders; Rich Schneider; Dave Shafer; Tina Shank; the Shank family; Janet Shay; Sosik Family; Gina Stahlnecker; Lydia Stasi; Barbara Taylor; Terry; Linda Troup on death of grandmother; Erin



Uber; Tom and Dee W.; Robyn Waters; Grace Weist; Emma Welsh; Lynn Welsh; Diane Wert; Christy Wickard; the homeless; the safety of cheerleaders at competitions; those alone at the holidays; those who have lost their homes in natural disasters; those missing loved ones; those with troubled relationships; our president and government officials; our military.

Do you have a prayer concern? Please contact the Prayer Chain Coordinator, Marsha Young, at mdyoung805@gmail.com or contact Salem's Church Office at 717-938-1928 or office@fcsalem.org.

Friends at Salem,

Thanks for the cards, food and prayers during my long

recovery. It's wonderful knowing that you have friends

who care. God bless all of you!

Judy Conley





The next **Senior Luncheon** will be at Culhane's Steak House on February 15th at 1:00 pm. To make reservations, please contact Elaine Vogel at 717-695-4582

### Have a Knack for Organization?



Salem has a closet full of curriculum that needs organized! By organizing the material, we can better use this resource.

Contact Susan Ryder (sryder@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928) if you are interested in helping with this project.





### Parents Raising Small Children Have A LOT to Talk About!

Thankfully, here at Salem, folks in that stage of life have a place to discuss the joys, trials and tribulations of raising kids, Parents and Children Together.

The group, led by Nicole Wolf, meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The children head to childcare or Sunday school so parents can have a few minutes to talk about the weighty matters of God and bringing up kids.

The group has taken a break in January, but will begin studying Kingdom Kids by Tony Evans beginning February. Once a month, the children join their parents in class to work on a volunteer project or to just socialize with the group.

Feel like you could use some support on your parenting journey? This might be a great next step for you!

Note interest on the Connection Card or contact Susan Ryder, Dir. of Small Group Ministries at sryder@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928.





# Remember

Dear Friends,

Do you remember that God is with you wherever you go? Joshua 1:9

Do you remember that God loves you? John 3:16

Do you remember that God forgives you? Romans 8:1

My prayer is for us to show others that God cares. His love is everlasting. His grace is sufficient. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sincerely yours, Robyn

PS: If you are interested in a Stephen Minister or would like to serve in your giftedness as a Stephen Minister then please contact our Pastors, Stephen Leaders, or Stephen Ministers.



402 Valley Road Etters, PA 17319

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 



### Staff

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Gina Curtis, Director of Salem Community Nursery School Kevin Fickel, Interim Director of Youth Ministries Vicki Inscho, Kitchen Coordinator Tracey Michelsen, Director of Children's Ministries Cliff & Sandy Motter, Church Sextons Laurie Murry, Director of Serving Ministries Jeannette Payne, Child Care Coordinator Kelsey Robertson, Director of The Gathering Worship, Keyboardist, Youth Choir Director Susan Ryder, Director of Communications, Small Groups Coordinator Derek Sandstrom, Director of Worship Ministries

> Church Phone: (717) 938-1928 Church Website: www.fcsalem.org

Sunday Worship at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 AM Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 AM; Adult Class at 11:00 AM



