



Orchard Park United Methodist Church
WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32

The word "abide" can mean to dwell or reside. Jesus essentially tells us to live in His Word. He wants us to make the Bible, His words, a part of our life. We are to read, mark, and inwardly digest them. They are to become such a part of us that we can't imagine what our lives were like before we knew the Bible. The Word of God is supposed to go with us wherever we go!

There is perhaps no greater spiritual discipline than reading God's Word, because whenever you open its pages, it always accomplishes something. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Every time you spend in Scripture, you are being trained, corrected, and equipped. You are always hearing from God!

excerpt from Red Letter Challenge by Zach Zehnder, p. 41-42



Discipleship Ministries of UMC has created daily prayers for anti-racism. Enclosed is a list of last week's prayers.

OPUMC will be open for in-person worship and activities beginning

February 21.

COVID-19 precautions must be followed to ensure that we are gathering as safely as possible.

February 21
Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Brian Rotach

Musician: Dan Liggett

Liturgist: Linda Carroll

A/V Operator: Margot Ip

Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM



For the Lenten season, the Adult Sunday School will be studying "A Lenten Experience of Scripture, UMC Social Principles, and Antiracist Action to Built Beloved Community." Please call or email the office to let them know if you plan to participate, or if you would like a copy of the weekly discussions printed and mailed to you.



The Niagara-Frontier District United Methodist Women will host a Zoom discussion of the book *So You Want To Talk About Race...* by Ijeoma Oluo on **February 20 at 10 AM**. This discussion will be focusing on chapter 8 of the book, *The School-to-Prison Pipeline*. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Upcoming Events Prayer Requests

February 21 @ 9:30 AM: **Adult Sunday School**

February 21 @ 10:30 AM:
in-person **Sunday worship**

February 22, 9:30 AM-1 PM:

Sewing Circle

February Birthdays

Mary Jane Russell (2/7)

Charlene Marcus (2/14)

Beth Kaforey (2/23)

Debbie Schwabel (2/24)

Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

Art Cooper (2/7)

Ed Nuse (2/14)

Dan Liggett (2/21)

Linda Carroll (2/28)

- Pray for *Pastor Jen*, who is home recovering from COVID-19 and pneumonia.
- Pray for *Signe Ulrich*, who had surgery to repair a hip fracture.
- Pray for *Pat Fogle*, who has a broken wrist. She is having surgery on February 23.
- Pray for Ed Nuse's 9-year old great-nephew, *Vignesh*. He will be undergoing extensive hip and leg surgery on February 23. He will be in a full leg brace for 12 weeks and will have a long recovery.
- Please pray for Candy and Joe's neighbor, *Scott*, who is receiving chemotherapy.
- Please pray *Roger and Debi*, friends of Candy and Joe. Roger has been fighting prostate cancer for 13 years. Meds don't seem to be helping anymore.
- Pray for *Lurly Hunsberger*.
- Pray for continued healing for Beth Stuart's friend *Tony*.
- Pray for people in our community, as the COVID-19 pandemic affects all of us in different ways.

Have a prayer request you'd like to share? Has God answered your prayer? Email opumc@verizon.net or call Pastor Jen at 603-4470. We will include your prayer request or praise report in next week's NewsFlash.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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Pastor Jennifer Stamm, LP

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FEBRUARY 8, 2021

God of all peoples of the earth: we pray for an end to racism in all forms, and for an end to the denial that perpetuates white privilege, and for your support for all those who bear the struggle of internalized racism, and for wisdom to recognize and eradicate the institutional racism in the church, and for the strength to stand against the bigotry and suffering that inhabits the world; for all these and all your blessings we pray, O God, Christ Jesus, Holy spirit. Amen.

Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, from Race and Prayer: Collected Voices Many Dreams edited by Malcolm Boyd and Chester L. Talton (Morehouse Publishing, 2003), 50.

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

One voice: God of justice and mercy, hear us now as we pray.

Many voices: We hear the voices of those crying in the streets. “No justice, no peace” and we remember that your prophets asked how we can say peace when there is no justice. Still today your children cry out for justice.

One voice: Forgive us, O God, for not examining the sinful systems in which we were raised.

Many voices: Grant us your Spirit that all may have abundant life.

One voice: We, although many, are one in Christ Jesus. We trust in his grace and his challenge to love our neighbors.

Many voices: We celebrate our diversity, given to us by God. Where our community is fractured, we pledge to work for reconciliation. We pledge to work in cooperation with others, listening and speaking with caring. We celebrate the wholeness of all persons, given by God.

All voices: O God, equip us now for the work of liberation and compassion. Send us forth to be ambassadors of justice, kindness and mercy, as we walk humbly with you. Amen.

From Knitted Together for God's Good Work: United Methodist Women Program Book 2020-2021, Communications Department of the United Methodist Women, 2020, p. 43.

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

An' I could hear nobody pray

O Lord

I couldn't hear nobody pray

O Lord O way down yonder by myself

An' I couldn't hear nobody pray

-Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, African American Spiritual

Lord,

I can't help but ask, "Is anybody praying? Is anybody listening??"

Months ago, we woke to a brokenness at the heart of us. A truth our brothers and sisters of color knew only too well. But the nation woke up and discovered this is who we are, this taint, this sin, this hate and division. Is anybody praying? Is anybody listening?

When the lies boiled over into violence, we recoiled in horror at the act. "This isn't who we are," some claimed. But those who sang that they "couldn't hear nobody pray" knew it was. And know it is . . . who we are. That isn't really the questions, is it, God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow?

The question must be, "Is it who we will continue to be?" Or as the poet Amanda Gorman told us:

*If we're to live up to our own time,
then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.
That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.*

(Amanda Gorman, "The Hill We Climb," Presidential Inaugural Poem, January 20, 2021.)

Is anybody praying? Is anybody listening? Are we? Am I?

Derek C. Weber, February 2021

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Lord,
The other day
I went to the theology
department. The door
was locked. A white student
sat on the inside. He did not
know me and so he refused
to open the door. I kept
knocking. Finally, a professor
who knew me came passing
by; he opened the door. Lord,
you know me, please open
the door. Lord, you hear
me knocking, please open
the door. Lord you are
passing by, please open the door.

Mark F. Bozzuti-Jones, from *Race and Prayer: Collected Voices Many Dreams* edited by Malcolm Boyd and Chester L. Talton (Morehouse Publishing, 2003), 58.

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Spirit of God among us, you have chased us. And far too often we have run from you. We have resisted the call to be blameless in your sight. We have rejected your mandate to eradicate racism and sexism. We have ignored your plea to care for the children and to bless the elderly. Forgive us, we pray, and renew in us a clean heart. Help us to speak continuously a new Holy-Spirit-created language of unity and peace. Amen.

B. Kevin Smalls, *The Africana Worship Book, For Year B*, Valerie Bridgeman Davis, PhD and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 155.