



Orchard Park United Methodist Church
WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

God calls ordinary people like you and me to be the church, the body of Christ in the world today. God doesn't necessarily choose those who are particularly gifted or capable or who are made of the "right stuff." Jesus chose them because he saw qualities that were needed for successful discipleship:

1. **Diligence.** Fishermen are always busy doing something. God needs people who are not afraid to work.
2. **Patience.** It takes time to find a good school of fish, and it takes time and patience to win others to Christ.
3. **Experience.** Fishermen have an instinct for going to the right place and dropping their nets at the right time. Winning souls demands skills too.
4. **Perseverance.** Fishermen have to go from place to place until fish are found. God wants people who won't give up when things get tough. Fishermen have to work together, and God's work demands cooperation.
5. **Courage.** Fishermen often face danger from storms and other mishaps. It takes courage to reach out of our comfort zone and touch lives in the name of Jesus.
6. **Humility.** A good fisherman keeps himself out of sight as much as possible. A good soul winner keeps himself out of the picture as much as possible as well.
7. **Faith.** Fishermen cannot see the fish and are not sure their nets will enclose them. They have to have faith and trust in their fishing gear. Soul-winning requires faith and alertness too, or we will fail.

God calls the unlikely and he says, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Discipleship involves taking a leap of faith into the unknown while at the same time trusting Jesus to lead us to the right destination. Jesus took the strengths and weaknesses of the first disciples and taught them how to be his servants working in his power. He does the same thing for us today. He takes our strengths and weaknesses and uses them to do his work in our world. We are Christ's eyes, ears, hands and legs. Only then do we become really useful to our fellow man.

Condon, C. (2012, January 21). Mark 1:14-20 Answering God's Call. Retrieved January 20, 2021, from <http://sermonsfrommyheart.blogspot.com/2012/01/mark-114-20-answering-gods-call.html>



Prayer Requests

- Pray for Maria Galley's uncle, *Scott Jedrysik*, who is very sick with COVID-19 and is currently at Mercy Hospital.
- Pray for Donna Kroh's son-in-law, *Mike*, and *Mike's mother*. Both tested positive for COVID-19.
- Pray for *Lurly Hunsberger*, who is having memory troubles.
- Pray for continued healing for Beth Stuart's friend *Tony*.
- Pray for the families that we bless through our AOK program.
- Pray for people 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



For 2021, make a resolution to advance just energy for all with United Methodist Women!

Join the UMW's Just Energy for All 101 3-part webinar series on February 22, March 8 and March 22, 2021 at 3:00 pm EST. Email opumc@verizon.net for more.

Upcoming Events

January 24 @ 1 PM: introductory **FLITs meeting** (Zoom)

February 10 @ 7 PM: **Church Council meeting**

January Birthdays

Diane Smith (1/7)
Art Cooper (1/13)
Peter Slotman (1/18)
Dan Liggett (1/22)

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

Dan Liggett (1/3)
Mike Waters (1/10)
George Slocum (1/17)
Linda Carroll (1/24)
Rich Spinelli (1/31)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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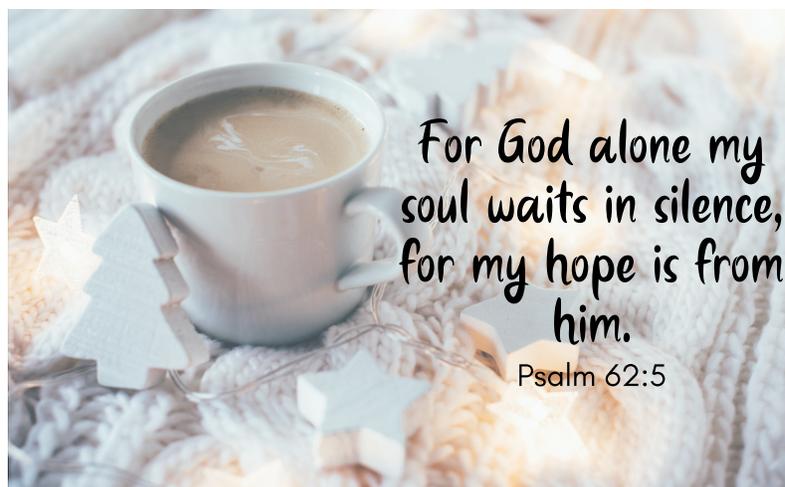
Pastor Jennifer Stamm, CLM

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Christians can have good intentions all day long, but intentions without precise aim at exactly the one we are trying to be like, Jesus, will always lead to unintended consequences. God has been gracious to all, and being compelled by that grace, we believe that following Jesus is the single greatest opportunity of our lifetime!

We are starting the Red Letter Challenge on February 17, but how does it work? What's this going to look like? The first five days will serve as an introduction. You'll learn a bit more about each of the five major principles from Jesus. From there, on each of the following 35 days, you will see a quote directly from the mouth of Jesus. The quotation will be followed by a devotion, one or more companion Bible readings, and a Challenge of how you might live out those specific words on that day. Some will be very specific and others will be very broad. Each day you will be encouraged to complete the Challenge.



Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We affirm the sacred worth of all people and strive to practice Christ's example of unconditional love without exclusion. All are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministries of this congregation. Whatever your race, ethnicity, economic situation, background or belief, age or condition of ableness, whether single or partnered, you are God's beloved and are welcome here. God calls us to acts of love, grace, and advocacy to promote healing and reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our LGBTQIA+ brothers, sisters and siblings, sons, daughters and children, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We desire to follow God's vision to be a place without barriers, a sanctuary for all.