



October 2022

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions

10 REASONS TO READ THE BIBLE

newspring.cc

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? After all, sleeping is better than reading, right?

Before you close the book on God's book, here are 10 reasons to read the Bible:

1. Reading the Bible shows us God's character. The Bible is our definitive source for the answers to our questions about God.

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

2. Reading the Bible teaches us to imitate God.

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

3. Reading the Bible helps us discover our next step.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105).

4. Reading the Bible keeps us from sin.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

5. Reading the Bible helps us to renew our minds so we can know God's will.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).

6. Reading the Bible allows us to be certain of what God said. The Bible is our final authority.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).

7. Reading the Bible allows us to receive the desires of our heart.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

8. Reading the Bible is how we learn about the gospel.

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" John 5:39-40.

9. Reading the Bible gives us courage.

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:8-9).

10. Reading the Bible helps us to be fruitful.

"... but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers" (Psalm 1:2-3).

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH LIVED IN THE MOST DISRUPTIVE PERIOD OF JUDAH'S HISTORY.

BORN IN 650 BCE

“Manasseh was the worst king the Hebrews ever had. He was a thoroughly bad man presiding over a totally corrupt government. He reigned In Jerusalem for 55 years, a dark and evil half century. He encouraged a pagan worship that involved whole communities in sexual orgies. He installed cult prostitutes at shrines throughout the countryside, He imported wizards and sorcerers who enslaved the people in superstitions and manipulated them with their magic.... One day he placed his son on the altar in some black and terrible ritual of witchcraft and burned him as an offering.”[1]

Then Manasseh died.His son Amon succeeded him and he continued his father’s evil ways. But the people had had enough and Amon was murdered. His 8 year old son, Josiah, was put on the throne.

JEREMIAH WAS BORN IN THE LAST DECADE OF MANASSEH’S RULE.

1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” 7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you,and you shall speak whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

JEREMIAH BEGINS PREACHING IN 627 BCE 13TH YEAR OF JOSIAH’S REIGN

As the Temple was being renovated and repaired, Hilkiah the priest found an old book there. The book was brought to the king Josiah and read aloud.It was the book of Deuteronomy which provided information about the love of God and our worship of him, clear definitions of what is right and wrong. This provided the blueprint for Josiah’s reforms.

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO KING JOSIAH: 2 kings 23:25 “Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.”605 BCE

JEHOAAHAZ PLACED ON THE THRONE BY POPULAR DEMAND BUT DEPOSED BY EGYPT AND JEHOIAKIM BECOMES KING.HE RULED 11 YEARS BEING SUBSERVIENT TO THE EGYPTIANS 609 TO 598 THE MOST ACTIVE YEARS OF JEREMIAH’S LIFE

7:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you who enter these gates to worship the Lord. 3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you[a] in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: “This is[b] the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.”

BABYLONIANS BESIEGED JERUSALEM AND THE KING JEHOIAKIM IS KILLED. JEHOIACHIN BECOMES KING AND AFTER 3 MONTHS HE SURRENDERED TO THE BABYLONIANS. JEHOIACHIN AND HIS COURT ARE TAKEN INTO EXILE AND ZEDEKIAH BECOMES KING

Jeremiah writes a letter to the exiles.Jeremiah 29:4-9

ZEDEKIAH WITHHOLDS TRIBUTE TO BABYLON RESULTING IN ANOTHER SIEGE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY

Jeremiah while in prison and while the city is under siege purchases a field in Anathoth. 32:2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, 6 Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: 7 Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’

[1] Page 59; Run with the Horses; Eugene H. Peterson; Inter Varsity Press; 1983; 213 pages. 2 kings 20-21: 9.

Dear Friends:

During four of the Sundays in October, I am planning to preach on the prophet Jeremiah. Because the history is so chaotic during this period, I have prepared a brief outline of the events. Jeremiah was one of the most important figures in Biblical history. He lived at a time when Judah was caught between two powerful empires, Egypt to the south and Babylon to the North. He lived at a time when Judah had the worst king, Manasseh, and when Judah had its best king, Josiah. King Josiah is the only king in their history who is compared to Moses.

October 9th	"Before...!"	Jeremiah 1: 5-8
October 16th	"Do not trust in deceptive words"	Jeremiah 7: 1-4
October 23rd	"A letter to the Exiles"	Jeremiah 29: 4-9
October 30th	"Purchase a field at Anathoth"	Jeremiah 32: 2-3, 6-8

It is my hope that by providing this information you will have a better understanding of Jeremiah's life and message.

With grace & peace,

J. William Werner

[1] Page 59; Run with the Horses; Eugene H. Peterson; Inter Varsity Press; 1983; 213 pages. 2 kings 20-21: 9.

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

Please join us at the Virginia United Methodist's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, October 19th at 2:00 p.m.



#BeUMC

ResourcesUMC.org/BeUmc

LIVING THE GOSPEL:

The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.

There was a moment when every member of The United Methodist Church chose to be UMC. We found peace, healing, wholeness, community and more in a local congregation. We heard the teachings of Jesus, the leading of the Holy Spirit, the warm embrace of grace and learned the importance of the Bible. As we begin discussing what it means to be a United Methodist, we remind ourselves of the basics of our faith, where it began for the church and for us.

Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

This passage begins with the story of Pentecost, a day when the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus in a special way and thousands began a relationship with Jesus. When you think of your first encounter with Jesus, what images come to mind?

- Immediately following the Pentecost event, these first Christians formed a community of faith. Why do you think it was important for them to come together in this way?
- In what ways does your congregation continue the ministry described in these verses? What have those ministries done for you and your faith journey?
- The passage concludes by telling us, "The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved." Why were people drawn to this early Christian community?

Lord Jesus, you taught us how important it is to build our faith on a solid foundation. We confess there are times when we have allowed our focus to drift from the core tenets of what it means to be people of faith. Thank you for reminding us of what grounds us and allows us to grow as you have taught. Amen.



CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Charge Conference will be held at the Jacksonville Centenary UMC on Sunday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 6, 2022, we will once again recognize all those of the church or related to our church family, who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday. We will have this special service during worship.

We invite all family and friends to attend this special worship service. A list of those included in the Roll Call will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office the second week of October. Please review the list so that we can make sure it is complete. If we have missed someone, please call the office immediately.

OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3135 N. Cr 800e
Bath, Illinois 62617

10:00 AM Fairview Sunday School
10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

Pastor: J. William Werner
Executive Administrative Assistant:
Jess Miller

Pastor's Phone: (217) 883-7199
Pastor's E-mail:
bilterwerner@gmail.com
Church Phone: (217) 452-3534
Church E-mail:
virgnumc@casscomm.com
Website:
<http://www.virginiaillumc.org>