Let's Go to the Movies!

As 2018 begins and the cold weather sets in, during the month of January and the first week of February I’m looking forward to a new sermon series in the main sanctuary at our Birmingham campus, entitled Let’s Go to the Movies! What’s better to drive away the winter blahs than the smell of popcorn and a good movie with your friends?

This week, we are starting with Star Wars: The Last Jedi. While the entire saga is filled with plenty of great theological themes, I’m excited to reflect upon how the characters are affected by the changes they experience in the galaxy around them as we talk about the story of one of my favorite biblical prophets, Jonah, who struggles with some changes he experiences in his world. What insight might Jonah and The Last Jedi have for us in a changing world?

Throughout this sermon series, I hope that you will invite some of your friends and family who don’t have a church home to join you at a local cinema (or in your home, or in our Christian Life Center for two of them) and then bring them to worship as we reflect on the themes from a faith perspective. For a listing of the movies we’ll be discussing each week, please check out our website at www.fumcbirmingham.org/movies/.

For those of you that are not movie buffs or who don’t get a chance to see a film before any Sunday in the series, don’t worry! You won’t be left out! We’ll share a trailer or brief clip each week to help everyone get the idea of the storyline. I will do my best not to spoil the ending for those who haven’t seen it. The movies will help us to begin our conversations about the scriptures and the messages they are speaking to us in our day.

So why not invite some friends to join you, and Let’s Go to the Movies!

New Year’s Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor
Our Church Family

Our Christian Caring and Concern are shared with the following persons, known to be in the hospital on Wednesday, January 3: Diane Garabedian, Fran Hayes, John Jennings, Ann Van Deusen

Our Prayers for Good Health are shared with the following person, released from the hospital since Wednesday, December 27: Marsha Wester

Intercessory Prayer

The Prayer Team would like to pray for you during times of need and also to praise the Lord during times of celebration. In addition to your concerns, please let us know of any answered prayers, family members in the military returning home, births, marriages and other special events. Contact Lisa Marsh (lmarsh@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3127) or use a Prayer Request Card, available in the Sanctuary pews and the church office. Cards may be dropped off in the Prayer Request box across from the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Did You Know

....that this week’s Voice of Hope message is recorded by Steve Packard, and next week’s message is by Andy McMillan. To listen, call 248-646-6407 and press 2 when your call is answered by our automated system.

....that Christian Classic Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 10 to discuss All the King’s Men by Robert Penn Warren. Come, join the discussion at 7:00 p.m.

....that it’s time for Pie Day once again! Please help us support the Methodist Children’s Home in Costa Rica and the children of Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. It’s easy! Pre-order pies and quiches any day in the church office or during the coffee hours on January 7 and 14. Your orders will be ready for pick up on Sunday, January 21. All food items are homemade by church members. For more information, visit the church website; you can also download an order form there. Thanks for helping these wonderful children with your purchases!

....that it’s not too late to register you and your infant to three year old for our Prelude music class. Classes begin Thursday, January 11, so contact the Music Office today (music@fumcbirmingham.org) for more information or to register. These classes truly are the beginning of a lifetime of music.

....that Merry Mates will meet on Friday, January 19. As we start a new year, Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin, our Senior Associate Pastor, will look at who and what are new in our life together as a congregation and consider what new beginnings look like, collectively and individually, noting that new beginnings are always a possibility. Join this friendly and diverse group of all ages, singles and couples, for Social at 6:00 p.m. and dinner ($15) at 6:30. RSVP to Bob and Sharon Pierce (sharonbobpierce@gmail.com or 248-364-4438) by early Sunday evening, January 14.

....that we will send another College Care Packet to our church’s college students on January 21. If your student has moved since the fall term, please send the new address to Mackenzie Hibbard (mhibbard@fumcbirmingham.org) by January 14. Sorry, but we cannot send packages to students out of the country. If your student was on the fall mailing list and they are still at that address, nothing needs to be done. If you are interested in helping to assemble on January 21 and/or provide a small item for the packets, please contact Sue Smith (sue.smith@beachcom.net).
Shine: Movie Series and Movie Night!

As the snow and cold seem to be here to stay and we begin to look for ways to be active inside, this week we will kick off a new series for the next five weeks called Let’s Go to the Movies. One place you can go to be warm and entertained is the movie theater. This week we kick off with one of the biggest blockbusters of the season, Star Wars: The Last Jedi. We will talk about how the Holy Spirit force in our lives connects us to one another and makes us our best selves. I promise I will talk about the movie, but not give any spoilers for those who have not yet seen it.

Next weekend we will have an opportunity to watch the second movie of the Let’s Go to the Movies series together. We will show Hidden Figures in the CLC on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. We will also have a movie for our families starting at 6:00 p.m. as we watch the original Toy Story. Come at 5:30 to grab a seat and some snacks and then stay for two great movies. I will preach on Hidden Figures on Sunday, January 14! Looking forward to sharing these movies, and the series together.

Pastor Dan Hart

Berkley First: Comfort Food

We’re kicking off a new series this week at Berkley First, Comfort Food: Feeding Your Soul and Serving Up God’s Best. This Sunday’s focus on Chicken Noodle Soup gives us an opportunity to explore themes of healing and compassionate care.

Pastor Zack Dunlap

Shine Movie Night

On Saturday, January 13 we will show a movie double feature in the Christian Life Center for families and adults alike. Join us for our children’s movie, Toy Story, showing at 6:00 pm. Stay for the second movie, or come just for Hidden Figures at 7:30. Doors will open at 5:30 for you to grab a seat and some snacks. Hope you can join us! (Hear Pastor Elbert and Pastor Dan preach on Hidden Figures on Sunday, January 14.)

Schedule:
Gather 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Toy Story 6:00 p.m.
Hidden Figures 7:30 p.m.
Our Prayers

With so many others, we are stunned with the news of the tragic loss of John Enright in Zambia. His wife, Kendra, also sustained injuries in the tragic auto accident that took John’s life on December 26. Our prayers reach out to Kendra, their children Brian and Nathan, their extended family, and so many others who worked closely with and supported John’s vision and mission at Kafakumba in Ndola, Zambia. Please keep the Enrights and the entire Kafakumba family in your prayers.

Adult Study Opportunities

**Sunday Scholar** will resume on January 7. Our topic for the new year is *History of Christianity II: From the Reformation to the Modern Megachurch*. Our 36-lecture course describes how the Christian religion has been influenced by culture, politics, ethnicity, geography and personality to produce a wide variety of Christian practices and beliefs. Our video lecturer is Molly Worthen, PhD, Assistant Professor of History, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Wright Parlor for this fascinating—mostly ignored—story of our Christian heritage.

**What’s Next?**... Whether you are a decade away, a few years away, months away, or already into it, retirement evokes questions of identity and purposes: Who am I? What is my purpose? Thousands of men and women are retiring each day, and many look forward to retirement with equal parts excitement and anxiety. Many persons who have had high expectations through their careers also have high expectations of retirement: they want what comes next to be meaningful, significant and full of joy. But this requires thoughtful planning.

*At the Crossroads* by Clayton Smith and Dave Wilson is a Bible-based study offering comprehensive, practical help for Christians who are approaching, entering or already in retirement. Readers can work through the book on their own or as part of a group. Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin will lead a six-week study of the book on Sundays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning January 7. You can register for the class on the church website or in the church office. Books are available in the Circuit Rider Bookstore on Sundays and during the week in the church office.

**Monday Night Adult Bible Study**... The Isaiah Study Guides are in! Please pick up your study guide in the church office and read Chapter One in preparation for the first class on January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 230. There is plenty of room for new members as well! Please contact class leader Mike Barratt (atrprofitcenter@gmail.com or 248-977-9786) to let him know your plans to become a member.

**Made for a Miracle**... At some time in our lives, most of us have prayed for or hoped for a miracle. In his latest book, *Made for a Miracle*, author and pastor Mike Slaughter examines the two components of every miracle: divine action and human responsibility. The Tuesday Morning Men’s Group, which meets in Thomas Parlor at 6:30 a.m. for coffee, donuts, prayer and study, will read Slaughter’s book for six weeks beginning January 9. A DVD will summarize each chapter, so even if you don’t do the reading you can still participate in the discussion. Books are available in the Circuit Rider Bookstore on Sundays and in the church office during the week. Make 2018 the year you join a group that will help you make new connections and nurture your soul!
Happening This Week

Wednesday, January 3
6:15 a.m.  Arbon Dennis Men’s Group
7:30 a.m.  Word for Working Women
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
8:45 a.m.  GRIP Childcare
9:00 a.m.  GRIP/GRIP Elementary
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
12:30 p.m. Bridge in the Afternoon
12:30 p.m. Mahjong
1:00 p.m.  Senior Volleyball
2:30 p.m.  Ruth Ellis Dinner Prep
6:30 p.m.  Boy Scout Troop #1032
8:00 p.m.  Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, January 4
8:45 a.m.  GRIP Childcare
9:00 a.m.  GRIP
9:00 a.m.  Mother’s Study
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
1:00 p.m.  Caregiver Support Group
1:00 p.m.  Purl Girls
6:30 p.m.  Jr./Sr. Karate
7:00 p.m.  Adult Karate
7:00 p.m.  FORWARD Planning
7:00 p.m.  HS Basketball

Friday, January 5
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
11:00 a.m. Hatha Yoga (Berkley)

Saturday, January 6
9:00 a.m.  Training: Unite 3 on 3
9:30 a.m.  Beginning Karate
10:00 a.m. Advanced Karate

Sunday, January 7
8:15 a.m.  Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m.  Traditional Worship
10:00 a.m. Worship (Berkley)
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m.  Faith Builders
9:30 a.m.  Parents of Adolescents
9:30 a.m.  Sunday School: children/youth
10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Berkley)
11:00 a.m. Fresh Insights
11:00 a.m. Sunday Scholar
11:00 a.m. Sunday School: thru 5th grade
5:00 p.m.  HS Youth Group
5:00 p.m.  MS Bell Choir
5:30 p.m.  Genesis Choir
6:00 p.m.  Youth Group (Berkley)
6:30 p.m.  I XOYC Choir
6:30 p.m.  MS Parent Group
6:30 p.m.  MS Youth Group
6:30 p.m.  At the Crossroads
7:00 p.m.  WOW/Women of the Word
7:30 p.m.  HS Bell Choir

Monday, January 8
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m.  Chair Yoga (Berkley)
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
10:00 a.m. Canasta
11:00 a.m. Mahjong
11:30 a.m. Grief with Grace
11:30 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
12:45 p.m. Parents of HS & College
1:00 p.m. Mexican Train
1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball
6:30 p.m. Classic Movies
7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
7:00 p.m. Hospitality and Connecting
7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study
7:00 p.m. SPRC
7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, January 9
6:30 a.m. Tuesday Men’s Bible Study
8:00 a.m. WOW Leaders’ Meeting
9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m. Bridge
9:30 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Study
9:45 a.m. COW/Children of the Word
10:00 a.m. WOW/Women of the Word
11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
1:00 p.m. Bridge on Tuesdays
1:00 p.m. Women @ One
3:00 p.m. HS Hang Out
6:00 p.m. Hatha Yoga (Berkley)
6:00 p.m. GRIP/GRIP Kids (Berkley)
7:00 p.m. Ballroom/Social Dance
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Study (Berkley)
7:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball

Wednesday, January 10
6:15 a.m.  Arbon Dennis (Dale)
7:30 a.m.  Word for Working Women
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
8:45 a.m.  GRIP Childcare
9:00 a.m. GRIP Christmas Brunch
9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
11:00 a.m.  Aware
12:30 p.m.  Bridge in the Afternoon
12:30 p.m. Mahjong
1:00 p.m.  Senior Volleyball
1:00 p.m.  Sisters
6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032
6:45 p.m.  Cub Scout Troop #1032
7:00 p.m. Celebration Ringers
7:00 p.m. Christian Classic Book Club
8:00 p.m.  Chancel Choir
8:00 p.m.  Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, January 11
8:45 a.m.  GRIP Childcare
9:00 a.m.  Chair Yoga (Berkley)
9:00 a.m.  GRIP
9:00 a.m. Mother’s Study
9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Study (Berkley)
11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
1:00 p.m. Purl Girls
2:30 p.m. Spark Workers Hang Out
4:00 p.m. SPARK
4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir
4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir
4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir
5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir
5:00 p.m. Children’s Bells
6:00 p.m. Compass
6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. Karate
7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
7:00 p.m. Faith Formation
7:00 p.m. FORWARD Committee
7:00 p.m. HS Basketball
7:00 p.m. Investment Committee
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women

Friday, January 12
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates
11:00 a.m. Hatha Yoga (Berkley)
4:00 p.m. HS Retreat
**Holy Communion**

**Traditional Worship**
8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

*Jonah 3:10-4:11*

Let’s Go to the Movies:
“Where’s Your Nineveh?”
*(Star Wars: The Last Jedi)*
Rev. Elbert Dulworth

**Hymns**
“God of Love and God of Power”
“Two Fishermen”
“Now Let Us From this Table Rise”

**Anthems**
“God Be in My Head”
“Lord, Lead us Now”
Chancel Choir

**Shine Contemporary Worship**
11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

Let’s Go to the Movies:
“The Last Jedi”
Rev. Dan Hart

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**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**weekly Worship**
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

*James 5:14-16*

Comfort Food:
“Chicken Noodle Soup”
Rev. Zack Dunlap

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**Our Purpose:**
To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Christ for ministry and mission in the world.

**Our Core Values:**
Welcome All
Put Love Into Action
Honor God Through Excellence
Embrace Bold Vision
Encourage Lifelong Spiritual Growth
Support One Another

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**The Liturgists** are Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin at 8:15 and 9:30, Rev. Lindsey Hall at 11:00, and Rev. Suzanne Walls at Shine.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in honor of Lytle and Donna Russell, whose 71st wedding anniversary was January 4.

**The Missions Candle** is lit by John and Nancy Smith in honor of Paul and Jackie Keller’s service as co-chairs of Missions Ministry.

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Notices should be in writing and submitted to Janet Smylie in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday.