



YADKINVILLE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 2021

Friends in Christ,

Hopefully you haven't missed the announcements that we will be spending all of 2021 wrestling with, resting in, and praying the Psalms. In my own prayer life returning to the Psalter I have found a depth and power in the Psalms. Old Testament scholar Brent Strawn says that the Psalms contain an "intense honesty," it is that honesty that can drive a fuller connection to God and clarity to our lives.

The Psalter is the first prayer book of the Church and is the most quoted book from the Hebrew Bible by the New Testament authors (Isaiah and Deuteronomy round out the top three). The Psalms teach us how to worship, praise, and offer thanksgiving. For those moments when we are in the depths of despair and cannot find the words to cry out, the Psalms can give us those words for our lament. The Psalms also teach us to curse, to such an extent that Brent Strawn says the psalms "can run as close to blasphemy as one can imagine within the context of prayer."



Over the course of 2021, I hope that we will discover the richness of the Psalms, as have generations before us. There will be several ways to engage with the Psalms this year.

The first is Sunday Worship, each sermon and service will center on a different Psalm.

The second way to connect is with "The Yadkin Psalter." This is a podcast that guides us through the prayer practice, Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina is a way of praying and listening for God through scripture. The Psalms lend themselves to the practice very nicely, since they are themselves, prayers. Each Monday I will release a new episode centered on the Psalm for the upcoming Sunday. I hope that you are able to put it into your own devotional rotation. You can find The Yadkin Psalter on the church website (yadkinvilleumc.org/the-yadkin-psalter) or by searching "The Yadkin Psalter" on Apple Podcast/ iTunes or the app Pocket Cast (which you can download through the Google play store or the App store on iPhone).

The third way to connect is that during the year we will have some different book studies around the Psalms. Look for more information later on in 2021.

As we begin 2021, I hope that a focus on the Psalms brings us to a real focus on scripture and prayer, two of our most powerful avenues when it comes to connecting with God in Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayer Concerns:



Church Family: Helen Roseberry, James Roseberry, Patty Choplin, Dustin Spencer, Barbara White, Rachel Brandon, Donna Bowman, Royce & Patti Ragan, Edith Davis, Dot Gish, Barbara Stephenson, Mary Reavis, Tony Macemore, Gerald Messer, Kenneth Baity, Betty Boyette, Ginny Taylor, Gerri Reynolds, Cooky Weatherman, Dick Randleman, Eddie Norman, and Julia Norman.

Friends and Family: Albert Brown, Jacob Shore, Marilyn Snow, Eidson Mulling, John Wooten, Julie Dalton, Dean Richardson, Lois Cheek, Danny Culpepper, Emma Swaim, Tom Alston, Renee White, Richard Byrd, Sean Bitting, Paul Eaton, Joy Prim, Chris Riddle, Carl Shore, Jr., Kevin Lineberry, Matt Imes, Janet Hutchens family, Avery Rayit family, Tim Downey family, and Clara Biswas (missionary).



Yadkin Christian Ministry: Thank you to Sandy Steele for delivering the Reverse Advent food to YCM! She delivered over 400 pounds of food.

Thanks also to volunteers who pick up food from Food Lion every Sunday morning and deliver to YCM: Jim & Marcia Downey, Mark Moran, Virgil & Dale Dodson, Sandy Steele, Rich Pizzuti, And thanks to Betty Williams who coordinates volunteers.



Introduction to the covenant service: John Wesley adapted what we know as the Wesleyan Covenant Service from an earlier service from Puritan Richard Alleine. He first introduced it in the Methodist Movement in 1755. While it has been adapted many times, this liturgy is taken from Wesley's 1780 version. The heart of the service is the covenant prayer, and invites us to refocus and realign our lives to Christ. I like to celebrate the service at the beginning of the year as a way to dedicate ourselves and the year to our relationship with Christ.

The Book of Worship says "this covenant is serious and assumes adequate preparation for and continual response to the covenant." In order to help us prepare we are sharing the service widely this year. My hope is that you take time before and after worship on January 3rd to consider your life with Christ. How are you living into the covenant offered to us by Christ through the Holy Spirit?

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
 others are more difficult and disgraceful.
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,
 others are contrary to both.
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ
 except by denying ourselves.
It is necessary, therefore,
 that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
 put me to doing, put me to suffering,
 let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
 let me be full, let me be empty,
 let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
 give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.
He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.
Christ will have no servants except by consent;
Christ will not accept anything except full consent
 to all that he requires.
Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once,
to be spent alone before the Lord;
in seeking earnestly God's special assistance
and gracious acceptance of you;
in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;
in searching your hearts
whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.
Consider what your sins are.
Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,
and whether you, after having carefully considered them,
are willing to choose them all.
Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to
God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,
so you can keep your promise.
Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.
You have given to the Lord your hearts,
you have opened your mouths to the Lord,
and you have dedicated yourself to God.
With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.
Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven,
open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
see me as I fall down before you.
Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,
for you have promised mercy to me
if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all,
covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my
life.

Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world.

In your power

I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you.

For my own righteousness is riddled with sin,
unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again
if you would let him.

Before all heaven and earth,

I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.

I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,

and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
as the only way and means of coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ
as the only new and living Way,
and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.

O blessed Jesus, I come to you,
hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked,
unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants.

I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head.

I renounce my own worthiness,
and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.

I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide.

I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

I renounce my own worthiness,
and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.

I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide.

I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ,
to take my lot with you as it may fall.
Through your grace I promise
that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke,
to carry your burden.
All your laws are holy, just, and good.
I therefore take them as the rule
for my words, thoughts, and actions,
promising that I will strive
to order my whole life according to your direction,
and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today
without guile or reservation.
If any falsehood should be in it,
guide me and help me to set it aright.
And now, glory be to you, O God the Father,
whom I from this day forward shall look upon
as my God and Father.
Glory be to you, O God the Son,
who have loved me
and washed me from my sins in your own blood,
and now is my Savior and Redeemer.
Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit,
who by your almighty power have
turned my heart from sin to God.
O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you have now become my Covenant Friend.
And I, through your infinite grace,
have become your covenant servant.
So be it.
And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

United Methodist Women: I want to share some dates for 2021 from Yadkin Valley District UMW. Realize that given a date and location, depending on the virus situation, some of these may have to be virtual.

District Events:

April 24th - Prayer Breakfast @ New Hope UMC in Winston-Salem
June 6th - Annual Wear a Hat Bring a Hat Tea @ Fairgrove UMC in Thomasville from 2 to 4 p.m.
August 14th - Annual Celebration @ Yadkinville UMC from 2 to 4 p.m.
November 13th - Leadership Development Day @ Pine Grove UMC in Winston-Salem

Conference Events:

June 11-13th - Spiritual Growth Retreat - By Zoom
July 15th-18th - Mission U by Zoom
September 10-12th - Annual Celebration
October 2-9th - Ubuntu Day of Service



Start the New Year out right with the Reading Program. If you cannot get to the church to pick up books I will be happy to bring them to you.

I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

Sandy Steele, President

Trustees: We have not had many functions at our Church in the past 9 months, but we have had some excess water usage (normally from running commodes) and a few roof leaks. If you see something that needs attention, please let someone know. The heat and A/C have been set for non-use conditions, so if you need to adjust the settings, please reset when you finish.

The YUMC Trustee committee for 2021 is as follows: Adam Baity, Gene Branon, Steve Brown, Mark Diachenko, Virgil Dodson, Jim Downey, Marcia Downey, Everette Hartzog, Debby Hoots, Sharon McGrath, Harry Steelman, and Betty M. Williams.

Virgil Dodson, Chairperson

Camera System Needed: The Trustees have determined that we need to upgrade the sanctuary camera system. A quote for this system is \$6,223.00. Please consider a designated donation to fund this need. Mark any donations "camera system." If you have questions, contact Virgil Dodson (336-961-6981) or Emmitte Winslow (336-679-8369).

Youth Ministry: Several of the youth got together one Friday evening earlier in December (observing social distancing and wearing masks and following Cooper's most recent curfew laws!) to shop for Christmas gifts for several children and youth sponsored by YUMC this year. This was the first time the youth had been together in some time due to the pandemic. They accomplished a lot in a short amount of time and a great time was had by all!!

Angie Whitley, Youth Coordinator

Those Serving You

Rev. Jonathan Gaylord, Pastor, pastor@yadkinvilleumc.org, 336-679-2243

Dr. James Sheek, Choir Director, jamessheek@triad.rr.com

Charlene Zachary, Pianist/Organist

Bobbi Reavis, Church Office Administrator Assistant, bobbi@yadkinvilleumc.org



204 West Main Street, PO Box 25, Yadkinville, NC 27055, **Website:** www.yadkinvilleumc.org,
Church Office: 336-679-2243, **Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

Copies of the Newsletter are available in the Commons and it is on our website:
www.yadkinvilleumc.org

News is due to mildredcarter80@gmail.com or 336-679-8034 by the 25th of each month.



Mission Statement: *Offering care and hope through living,
learning, and loving God and each other.*

