

Dear Church Family,

Whether you refer to it as the word of God, scripture, or the Bible, we all know it as the core document of the Christian faith. Many of us have favorite verses and teachings, and probably know quite a few of the stories it contains. Yet I would also imagine that many people struggle to understand or dig into the entire book. I am even willing to admit that while I had read most of it, it was not until AFTER seminary that I set out to read the entire Bible cover to cover. It can be intimidating, confusing, and if you do not always follow what is happening it can even seem boring.

To help dive deeper into the book that we base our life of faith on, we are going to be doing an extensive church-wide teaching and preaching series called "The Story" by pastor and author Randy Frazee. It is scripture as we know it, formatted to read more like a novel, including some transitional paragraphs that give commentary and help connect pieces together. You can buy it for less than \$10 online, though it is not necessary to purchase to take part. Each month in The Messenger, we will give the various scripture readings and chapters of the book that will be covered in Sunday school (for all ages) and sermons, as well as weekly listings in the worship bulletin for the upcoming Sunday.

This series is a whopping 31 chapters or sessions long, so it will conclude at the end of April 2024! As we go on this journey together, I am hoping for several things. One, I pray that it will give our entire church the chance to converse as we go from week to week. A second hope is that it will drive us to read our Bibles more regularly and confidently. From my own personal experience, there is no replacement for reading the Bible...no number of books on faith, inspiring sermons, or anything else will deepen an understanding of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit than digging into scripture for yourself.

One of our sister churches, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Catherine Craley in Mercer will also be doing this series at the same time. The week prior to each chapter of the story, one or both of us will post an intro video or lesson preview to both of our churches.

As I think about the power of God's word in our lives, I am drawn to the first chapter of John's Gospel. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Though there are many things that may remain a mystery about God, the revealing of Jesus as the Word made flesh is not one of them. At times living out our Christian faith can be challenging and perplexing, but we make it more difficult when we spend little time with the greatest resource that tells the story—the word of God, scripture, or the Bible. As we embark on this journey, my prayer is that we would all grow in our faith through greater knowledge not only of scripture, but of Jesus himself, the revealed word of God to us all.

Bless and be blessed!
Pastor Michael

Mission Spotlight
September—CCAP
(Church Community Assistance Program)

The Church Community Assistance Program (CCAP) is led in a volunteer capacity by Father Denny Blausler, former vicar of Trinity Episcopal Church. In connection with funding from the Carolyn Knox Foundation, Father Denny helps connect folks in our community to resources for food, utility and rent assistance, among other needs of those in dire situations. The Knox Board has certain restrictions on how the money can be used. Our support helps with needs that "fall between the cracks" of funding requirements. This also allows Pastors Aaron and Michael to refer out calls from those seeking help to the program, which is better equipped at connecting the need with the resource.

Get Out of Your Head!

A Women's Bible study on the book of Philippians

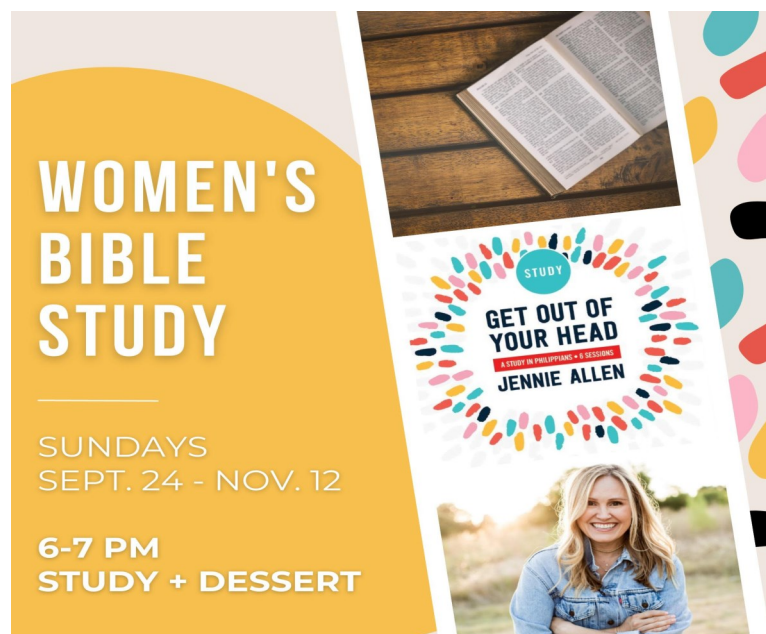
What: A Women's Bible Study + dessert
Who: Any woman who wants to grow in her faith!
When: Sunday evenings from 6-7 PM
September 24 – November 12
The Welcome Center

As women, we know that often we get caught in downward spirals of emotions and anxiety. It's easy to let our thoughts run wild and rob us of our joy and peace.

This study was created by Jennie Allen and walks us through the book of Philippians to inspire and equip us to transform our emotions, outlook, and even our circumstances by taking captive our thoughts.

Join us as we grow in our faith as sisters in Christ. Invite a friend or family member!

Please text or email Christine Spicuzza if you're interested, or simply show up on Sept. 24!



THE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER IS SEPTEMBER 18th.

UPCOMING Events

- Sunday, Sept. 3 Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am
Communion
- Monday, Sept. 4 Labor Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 5 Bible Study at 9:30am
Ministry & Mission Team mtg. at 6:00pm
- Saturday, Sept. 9 3rd Annual Dave Ball Memorial Golf Outing
at Deer Creek Golf Course
- Sunday, Sept. 10 Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am
"The Story" Chapter 1, *Creation: The Beginning
of Life as We Know It, Genesis 1-9*
Rally Day Picnic after worship
- Tuesday, Sept. 12 Bible Study at 9:30am
Staff mtg. at 11:00am
S&F mtg. at 5:30pm
Session mtg. at 7:00pm
- Sunday, Sept. 17 Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am
"The Story" Chapter 2, *God Builds a Nation,
Genesis 12-35, Hebrews 11*
All Deacons mtg. after worship
- Tuesday, Sept. 19 Bible Study at 9:30am
- Sunday, Sept. 24 Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am
"The Story" Chapter 3, *Joseph: From Slave to
Deputy Pharaoh, Genesis 37-50*
Women's Bible Study at 6:00pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 26 Bible Study at 9:30am
Presbytery mtg. at 6:00pm

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Mason Jars



The Ministry & Mission Committee is planning on participating at Scarecrow Day in Volant in October. We are making homemade apple butter and are in need of mason jars. We will take any size but especially need pint or half pint jars. If you have any jars, please drop them off in the church kitchen.



Bible Study



Bible Study will resume on
Tuesday, September 5th at 9:30am in the Parlor.



Generous Gestures



*Change in plans *Change in leadership*
Change of heart *Change of clothes

Some changes are easy and some more difficult. On Sunday, September 24th during worship, we will experience a noisy change; from your purses and pockets that is!! The youth will be collecting your extra change in tin cans! Please dig out your coins and join in the fun as we continue to be generous... this month with change!



Health Ministry



"Throughout the ages humans have marveled and felt hope at the renewal of life evidenced by nature all around us. God has given us the gift of appreciation for growing things. Let us take time this month to work the soil in our garden, to weed out the weeds in our souls and find renewed wonder and abundant joy!"

Clen-Moore has a garden available to help this happen! We need volunteers to water, weed, and harvest the vegetables planted for us. We can enjoy the harvest at the Rally Day picnic on **Sunday, September 10th** after church.

Just come at a convenient time and volunteer an hour or so to help your own health as well as our church garden!"

Scripture: "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden." Genesis 2:8.

Health Ministry Deacons will meet **September 17**, after worship.

Communion will be served on the following dates:



Sunday, September 3rd
Sunday, October 1st
Sunday, November 5th
Sunday, December 3rd



Monthly Financial Snapshot

	July	YTD
Envelope, Loose, Rent,	\$ 35,356	\$ 178,987
Misc. Income		
Operating & Mission Expense	\$ 19,628	\$ 214,858
Difference	\$ 15,728	\$ (35,871)

Mission Support—Promise of Life