

10 Creative Ways to Explore a Bible Passage by Jeremy Steele ([www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)) (Note: This is a helpful and interesting article. Since space is limited, this will be a two or three part article, spread out in two or three newsletters.)

Last month (*February 2017 Methodist Dimension*), we covered 1) **Decode the Story** and 2) **Decipher the Argument**, as ways to explore the Bible. Here are additional suggestions of out-of-the-box ways to explore, study and better communicate the Bible's message.

**3. Design a comic strip:** This method can be great when used with the first two ideas. Break the passage into eight or fewer discrete scenes and draw the key action of each scene paired with dialogue or important narration. This is all about exploring the passage by imagining what else is happening in the surroundings. What are the reactions of the other people? Do any props come into play? How are they held/used? How does the setting shape the scene? Don't be afraid to use stick figures!

**4. Create a meme:** The current trend of placing a catchy word or phrase on top of an image is not only fun, but can also help you explore the Bible. Imagine that you are encouraging people to read a specific passage of the Bible. What phrase would hook people to read more? What image both matches the theme of the verse, and inspires curiosity?

**5. Become a Bible translator:** Don't worry; we're not arguing that you need to take several years of biblical languages to understand the Bible. However, translating the Bible into your context and vocabulary can make any passage come to life. The goal here is to translate every piece of the text into your current vocabulary. This extends beyond the words to the metaphors. If you don't know anyone who is a shepherd, think of an image from your life that conveys the same ideas and emotions and use that instead.




Once you have finished translating the words and metaphors, review your work to see how close you can come to matching the overall feel of the narrative or rhythm of the poem or other passage.

**6. Explore the text, co-text and intertext.** (note: OK, admittedly this suggestion is for those of you who are bonafide college material, which I am not. sc) Lifting a verse or two from the surrounding material can cause very erroneous interpretations and applications. This method helps you place any text firmly in its place in Scripture. Step 1 is determining the logical boundaries of a text. Often, chapters and verses are not placed at the most logical break points. Take a moment to determine a section's appropriate boundary. Next, take a look at the "co-text" of those passages that come immediately before and after. How does this passage logically flow from the preceding material and connect clearly with what follows? Finally, place it in its "intertext" in the larger canon of Scripture. This is where you try to find parallel passages in other books of the Bible and make connections (often by examining cross references in your study Bible) between the Old and New testaments. The goal is to ask how this passage is clarified by its place in relation to the rest of Scripture.

(coming next month: **Get it down to a sentence (or two), Experience it with all five senses, Practice Divine Reading & Scrapbook it**)

Important date to remember: Sunday, March 12. **CAMP SUNDAY!** Stay after Worship for a **CAMP LUNCH** (hotdogs, chips, etc.) **AND** the famous **CAMP AUCTION**. Proceeds go to help for kids to attend Camp. Bring money. It will be fun - you'll see!



United Methodist Church  
605 H Street  
P. O. Box 804  
Rupert, ID 83350

Return Service Requested

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Food Pantry: Mon. & Wed, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rev. David Madden is in the office on Mon. thru Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. 436-3354  
[dstordavid@pmt.org](mailto:dstordavid@pmt.org)

Follow us on facebook.com Search Rupert UMC

Radio Station KUWC LP 101.7 FM owned and operated by the Rupert UMC  
Listen to live broadcast of Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m.  
Service re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUWC83350>

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 14

# MethodistDimensions

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

436-3354

FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL



Volume V - Issue 3 March 2017



A Message for Lent  
from  
Rev. David Madden  
"Come to the Light"

The purpose of Lent is to provide purification from sin and selfishness through prayer, meditation and self-reflection. Christians need this time of purification because we get so caught up in the daily grind of life that we forget the message of Christ. Jesus tells us in John 3:19-21 *"the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil."* <sup>20</sup> *For all whom do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.* <sup>21</sup> *But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."*

During our daily lives are we truly living in the light? Have all our deeds been done in God? For many of us the answer to these questions is no. Maintaining a Holy lifestyle can be corrupted by our friends, co-workers, the media, and that crazy relative that comes to your house wanting to discuss politics. For others, we simply become lazy. It's much easier to watch TV or "like" your friends Facebook post of a cat with a box stuck on its head than it is to read your Bible. In other words, there are countless distractions pulling us from the light into the darkness that inhabits our world.

Living in the light of Christ takes desire and commitment. So, during this Season of Lent set aside time every day to spend with God. Reading your Bible, mediating on scripture, and praying

will help you keep connected to the light. If you don't stay connected to the light of Christ the "darkness" of this world will gladly welcome you into its realm.

## CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL SUNDAYS



"I was blessed, early in my discipleship journey, to learn two critical stewardship lessons: God calls us to give a tithe and an offering, and we can participate in God's miracles when we combine our giving," says Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Dakotas-Minnesota Area, and president of, United Methodist Council of Bishops. "The six church wide Special Sundays with offerings affirm both of these truths. I urge every church to provide the people an opportunity to bring their offering! When we do so, our combined giving has the miraculous impact of disaster relief, equipping leaders for the church and the world, advocating for peace and justice, and giving a voice to those on the margins."

It has been awhile since RUMC participated in the Churchwide Special Sundays. Here is the list to refresh your mind:

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY** - Supports Community Developers Program & community advocacy through voluntary services & at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation program. (Jan. 15, 2017)

**UMCOR SUNDAY** (formerly **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** - This giving helps UMCOR cover the cost of doing business. All contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. (March 26, 2017)

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY** - Gifts fund scholarships for Native American seminarians & strengthen, develop and equip NA rural, urban & reservation congregations, ministries & communities and annual conference Native American ministries. (4-30-17)

(Continued on inside - column 4)



## Scholarship Opportunities

Yes, it is that time of year to begin thinking about, and planning for scholarships, if you are a Senior in high school or already attending college.

RUMC Foundation has announced that they will again this year provide scholarships. Applications can be obtained from the office, by email: [umcluvu@pmt.org](mailto:umcluvu@pmt.org) and on RUMC's website: [www.rupertidumc.org](http://www.rupertidumc.org). These are fillable on-line forms, or may be printed and filled out by hand. The deadline is, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Mon., April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Rupert United Methodist Men will also be providing scholarships again this year. Those forms will also be available on line on our web site, or from the office. Deadline for this scholarship application is Friday, April 28. Scholarships will be awarded sometime in May.

*Thank You!*

A big thank you to Jim and Barbara Rodgers and Pastor David for assisting at the MCEA Potato Bar. Also thank

you to Leanna Bruns Barbara Rodgers, Barbara Nyblad and Cathy Jarolimek for supplying the cookies for the Potato Bar. Your support helped to make the event very successful. They raised over \$4,000 this year, which will help defray costs of the program. Thanks to everyone who attended.  
Marcia & Nick Hallett

### FROM YOUR UMW PRESIDENT - Kris Somsen

The UMW will have their regular meeting on Tues., March 7, at 1:00 p.m., as listed in the UMW program booklet.

The Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> mission work meeting, which was canceled because of bad weather, has been rescheduled for April 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be another reminder announcement nearer to this date.

*Thank you for making me smile!*



On Sunday, Feb. 12, Ruth Circle made up around 35 Valentine Plates and delivered them to our older and alone church family. On behalf of those recipients, a huge, warm thank you to Ruth Circle. This small show of love is greatly appreciated. Here are some written thank you notes that have been received.

Thank you for the delicious cookies & bouquet. That was so special of you & made me very happy! Clara Shelton

A thank you to Ruth Circle for remembering me with the cookie plate and flower. A special thank you to Tori for delivering. I have really enjoyed watching you grow from a sweet little girl to the lovely young lady you are becoming. Love & Prayers, Lois Morton

Dear Ruth Circle and 'others': Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers and cookies just delivered by Marion for everyone here at Autumn Haven to share. What thoughtful things to do! We've missed church so much because of the horrendous icy conditions under so much snow. But we've attended by the radio - KUMC. And we are grateful for the moisture. Now we pray no one is hurt by the flooding. Much love, Duane & Lucy Knos.



Open Hearts Food Pantry has the greatest volunteers and donors. We so appreciate each person that gives both food and money to keep the shelves stocked, each person who helps unload those IFB trucks twice a month (especially when you never know for sure until nearly the last minutes when it will arrive, or you come when called and then have to wait several minutes), and each person that works the pantry for the two distribution days each week of each month, who not only give out food, but sees that boxes are filled and pantry organized. We simply could not have the successful pantry we do without all of this help and dedication.

Thank you to those who have filled out the necessary Ridley's form giving your grocery points to the food pantry. We will give you a report of money received in April.

We have a new partnership with Kentucky Fried Chicken in Burley through the Harvest?. Each Tuesday we picked up frozen, prepared foods that was not sold during their regular store hours. In the past this perfectly good food has been thrown away. Now, it will be given out to our box recipients. Thank you KFC. In the past we have had this same partnership with Pizza Hut in Rupert. We are trying to reestablish this relationship.

Here is a short list of items we can use in the pantry this coming month: (we have plenty of egg cartons for a while)

- ✓ Toilet tissue
- ✓ Small bags of flour and/or sugar
- ✓ Toilet tissue and
- ✓ Toilet tissue

Thank you.

Life Line Screening will be using our Fellowship Hall on Wed., March 8 to offer to the community the following health screenings for a large discount: 1) Carotid Artery (Plaque), 2) Heart Rhythm (Atrial Fibrillation), 3) Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, 4) Peripheral Arterial Disease, 5) Osteoporosis Risk Assessment. You must pre-register for an appointment by calling 1-888-653-6450. They are offering the first 4 tests for only \$139.00. You can add the Osteoporosis Screening for only \$10.00 more. Life Line Screening has used our facilities in the past, and we are pleased to welcome them again. You can call our office for more info - 436-3354

## LENT 2017

A TIME OF REPENTANCE, GRACE AND RENEWAL

**SORRY THE NEWSLETTER DIDN'T GET MAILED IN TIME FOR ASH WEDNESDAY. PLEASE WATCH FOR UPCOMING LENT ANNOUNCEMENTS IN BULLETIN AND BY EMAIL.**



Welcome to our newest acolyte, Mackenzie Sutliff. Mackenzie is the daughter of Herb & Dorothy Sutliff and the granddaughter of Gordon Costilla. It is a pleasure to have Mackenzie participating in our church family.

March is National Women's History month - Each year 10 exceptionally accomplished women are inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. For 2017 they are: Honorable Matilda Raffe Cuomo (1931); Dr. Temple Grandin (1947); Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965); Victoria Jackson (1955); Sherry Lansing (1944); Clare Booth Luce (1903-1987); Aimee Mullins (1976); Carol A. Mutter (1945); Dr. Janet D. Rowley (1925-2013) Alice Waters (1944). You can learn more about these women at <https://www.womenofthehall.org/introducing-2017-nwhf-inductees/>

The United Methodist Church could also have a Hall of Fame. There are many exceptionally accomplished United Methodist Women, both past and present. The following is just one. You can learn about more at: <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/6-methodist-women-who-fought-for-the-vote> and <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/timeline-of-women-in-methodism> - (on facebook: Search for UMW General Commission on Archives and History)



Anna Oliver was the first woman to graduate from an American theological seminary and a pioneer Methodist Episcopal Church preacher and pastor. She was born near New Brunswick, NJ in 1840. Baptized Viviana Olivia Snowden, she changed her name in the early 1870s so as not to embarrass her family when she decided to enter the ministry. Educated in Brooklyn public schools and Rutgers Female College in New York City, Oliver began her career as a public school teacher in Connecticut. In addition to teaching, she took an active role in women's suffrage and temperance movements in her adopted state for the next eight years.

In 1868 she volunteered to teach black children in Georgia under the auspices of the American Missionary Association. Inadequate facilities, domineering male supervisors, and hostility from the southern white community tested her commitment. A year later, when she learned that the AMA paid female teachers less than men who did the same work, Oliver resigned. She rejoined her family in Connecticut for a time, resumed her interest in women's issues, and took up painting. She soon relocated to Cincinnati, partly to study landscape painting and partly because the Ohio women's rights movement was more advanced than in Connecticut.

Oliver's temperance talks in Ohio's town halls and churches encouraged her to think about becoming an ordained minister.

In 1873 she enrolled in the Boston University School of Theology. Armed with a B.D. degree (1876) and a license to preach, Oliver assumed the pastorate of First Methodist Episcopal Church in Passaic, NJ and later, Willoughby Avenue Church in Brooklyn. In 1880, Oliver led an unsuccessful campaign for ordination at General Conference. Without ordination she continued as pastor of the Willoughby Avenue congregation until 1883 when the church was abandoned.

Oliver remained in Brooklyn and devoted much energy to temperance and suffrage, and dress reform and health care for women and children. She continued to preach her message of personal holiness and social responsibility until her death in 1892 in Greensboro, MD. By opening her home to a growing stream of women who were pioneering ministerial roles in Victorian churches, she became a respected mentor and model. Throughout her ministry her favorite text was Revelation 3:8 (KJV): "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."

CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL SUNDAYS - continued from page 1

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY** - Gifts fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the U.S. and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. (June 11, 2017)

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** - Gifts fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the U. S. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. (October 1, 2017)

**UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY** - Gifts help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. (November 26, 2017)

We, the RUMC, will be participating in UMCOR SUNDAY GIVING DAY, March 26, 2017. There will be special envelopes in the bulletin in which to put your donation. If you will be mailing a donation to the church, please indicate on your check 'UMCOR SUNDAY'.