

November 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Jennings United Methodist Church

METHODIST MESSENGER

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November Worship

November 7th – All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9~We Are God's People

Scripture Reader: Hazel Hoffpauir

Prelude: "Great Are You Lord"

Hymn: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" – TFWS #2210

Anthem: "I'll Fly Away"

Communion Song: "Come to the Table"

Praise Song: "10,000 Reasons"

November 14th – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 10:11-25~Spreading Encouragement

Scripture Reader:

Prelude: "At the Cross"

Hymn: "Nothing But the Blood" – UMH #362

Anthem: Amazing Love Medley

Praise Song: "You Are My All in All"

November 21st – Christ the King Sunday

Revelation 1:4b-8~Holy Is the Lamb

Scripture Reader:

Prelude: "We All Bow Down"

Hymn: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" – UMH #715

Anthem: "Agnus Dei"

Praise Song: "King of Kings"

November 28th – 1st Sunday of Advent

Luke 21:25-36~Time to Go Home

Scripture Reader:

Prelude: "Offering (Advent)"

Hymn: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – UMH #206

Anthem: "Hope for the Broken World"

Communion Song: "He Made a Way in the Manger"

Praise Song: "You Are Holy" ("Prince of Peace")

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Are You a Disciple?

At our Charge Conference Tom Dolph our DS asked if we were making disciples. If so, what were we doing? If no, then why not? In light of that discussion, I am offering an edited reprint of a previous newsletter for your consideration. These are important questions that we need to address for the future of our church.

“Perhaps the greatest single weakness of the contemporary Christian Church is that millions of supposed members are not really involved at all and, what is worse, do not think it strange that they are not. As soon as we recognize Christ’s intention to make His Church a militant company we understand at once that the conventional arrangement cannot suffice. There is no real chance of victory in a campaign if ninety per cent of the soldiers are untrained and uninvolved, but that is exactly where we stand now.” –Elton Trueblood

So I ask, are you a disciple (soldier) of Christ with a vision for living into the Great Commission?

Wesley said, “The Church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples.” Jesus commanded us to: “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19,20)

However, you cannot go into all the world making disciples until you are trained in discipleship. This is not a crash course but a way of life.

The word disciple comes from the Latin *discipulus*, meaning scholar. A disciple is a student of Jesus’ whose primary focus is on mastering his teachings so that he or she can live out Jesus’ way.

Jesus ministered to the multitudes at least 17 times according to the Bible. However, there are approximately 46 mentions in the Bible where He spent His time in private with His disciples. In those smaller group settings He trained His committed followers for their own ministries. He ministered one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three. At other times His ministry was conducted one-on-twelve. He also provided on-the-job training with the 70; and spent some apprenticeship time with the 120 as well as placing some emphasis with the 500 in Galilee.

The most effective manner to train and equip people for any skill is by providing effective models and opportunities to practice the skill itself. Jesus used a show, tell, release, and supervise model of training. After calling the disciples, He took them along with Him, teaching and healing the sick as He went. Then, after He thought the disciples had seen and learned enough to try for themselves, He commissioned, empowered, instructed, and sent them out to do the same things. This model of training should be no different for those desiring to bring others into a complete understanding and walk in Christ-likeness.

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In 1743 John Wesley organized a society. “Such a society is no other than a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their own salvation.” Discipline was the key to this level of holy living. Wesley created 3 strands of discipleship: Societies, Classes, and Bands.

Strand 1: Society: – The Crowd (these were the multitudes)

Purpose: To Bring About A Change in Knowledge

This meeting included those in a geographical area, much like a typical, congregational meeting in today’s church. These large groups of people met once a week to pray, sing, study scripture, and to watch over one another in love. There was little or no provision made at this level for personal response or feedback. John described a society as “a company of people having the Form, and seeking the Power of Godliness.”

Strand 2: Class: – The Cell (these were Jesus’ 12)

Purpose: To Bring About Behavioral Change

A class was the most basic group structure of the society. The class was composed of 12-20 members, both sexes, mixed by age, social standing and spiritual readiness, under the direction of a trained leader. It was not a gathering for academic learning. They met weekly in the evening for mutual confession of sin and accountability for growing in holiness. This group provided the structure to more closely inspect the condition of the flock, to help them through trials and temptations, and to bring further understanding in practical terms to the messages they had heard preached in the public society meeting. Membership in a class meeting was non-negotiable. If you wanted to continue in the society you had to be in a class. In 1742 in one society in London there were 426 members, divided into 65 classes. Eighteen months later that same society had 2200 members, all of whom were in classes. Every week each class member was expected to speak openly and honestly on the true state of his or her soul.

Strand 3: Band: – The CORE (these were Jesus’ inner circle made up of Peter, James, and John)

Purpose: To Bring About A Change of Direction, Heart and Position

Composed of 4 members, all the same sex, age, and marital status. They were voluntary cells of people who professed clear Christian commitment, who desired to grow in love, holiness, and purity of motive. The environment was one of ruthless honesty and frank openness. There were specific rules about punctuality and order within the meeting. He introduced accountability questions which everyone answered openly and honestly in the meeting each week: 1) What known sins have you committed since our last meeting? 2) What temptations have you met with? 3) How were you delivered? 4) What have you thought, said, or done, of which you doubt whether it be sin or not? 5) Have you nothing you desire to keep secret? You can see from these questions that there was no place to hide in a Band. Bands became the training ground for future leaders. This group held to extreme confidentiality in a “safe place”, mutual submission where matters of indifference were yielded to the released leader, and godly stewardship. This was the group that could intensively pursue goals and vision together.

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The Necessity of Leadership in Discipleship:

A small army was needed to provide the leadership for this 3-Strand Discipleship Model, and, just as is true today, professional paid staff simply was not available. Wesley trained and mobilized a massive army of leaders, putting as many as 1 in 10 of his members into leadership roles – barbers, blacksmiths, bakers, men and women. The job description of those who looked after societies and classes was: “preach, teach, study, travel, meet with bands and classes, exercise daily and eat sparingly.”

And lastly, Holiness and Service as the Goals of Discipleship:

Wesley’s goals for this entire process were: godliness and goodwill – spirituality and service to others. This system and process produced a new kind of citizen at a period of history when crime and every form of public sin were rampant. These men and women reformed both the church and the society in which they lived.

So I ask you, Are You a Disciple? If so then join me in the following Applications:

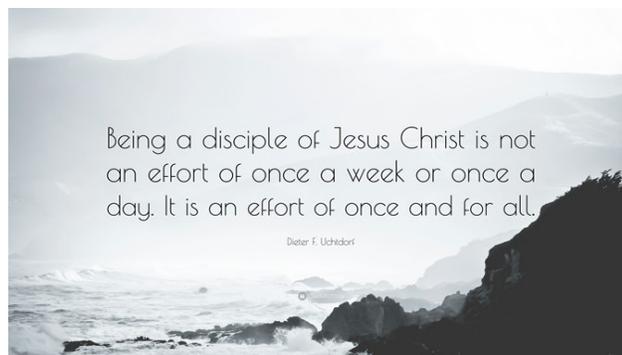
1. Make discipleship a priority for making disciples.
2. Be constantly involved in training others to do the work of making disciples.
3. Consider some adaptation of the 3-Strand Church Model: Crowd + Cell + CORE = Church.
4. Renew a thrust for evangelism by focusing attention on disciple-making.

My prayer is that our Lord continue to bless you as you intentionally purpose to make disciples. It does not stop there but that is where this article will end. I want to encourage you to live out your commitment and covenant by strengthening your relation with Jesus by becoming a Disciple and leading others.

I pray for your spiritual well-being and I challenge you to continue to be a witness to others for Christ through the touch of the Holy Spirit. Keep Praying.

Blessing and peace.
See you in church this Sunday,

Walter,
Your pastor and friend



YOUTH GROUP

We have been participating in a series called "MOOD" which teaches us how to manage our emotions in a healthy & godly way.

Lesson 1: Feelings
Lesson 2: Anxiety
Lesson 3: Depression
Lesson 4: Anger

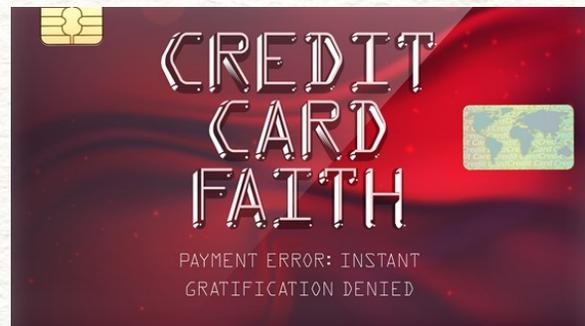
We meet every Sunday afternoon from 4:00pm-5:30pm.

6th-12th grades are invited!

Our group has been growing we have anywhere from 10-16 youth attend every Sunday afternoon.

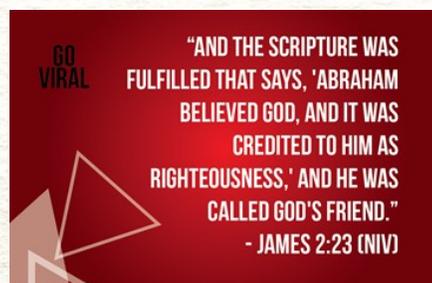


Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School starts at 9:30am
This month we are participating in series called "Credit Card Faith"

Lesson 1: Investment For The Future
Lesson 2: No Easy Way Out
Lesson 3: The Big Payout
Lesson 4: Losing It All (Almost)



FALL RETREAT

We will be going on
Fall Retreat on
November 12th-14th at
Uskichitto Retreat Center.

Our Retreat theme is
"No Filter"
Stop Hiding.
Live Unhindered

Session 1:
Seeing God Clearly

Session 2:
Seeing Ourselves Clearly

Session 3:
Seeing Others Clearly

Session 4:
Living Unfiltered



I would like to give a big shout out to all who help with our youth ministry and children's ministry program. Whether it be donating money, baking cookies, volunteering to help when needed these little things make a great difference and is so impactful to the ministries of our church. The seeds we are planting now will someday will become the hands and feet of our church.

If we don't plant seeds now then how we ever grow as a church? The time is now to plant our harvest and to watch it grow into something so beautiful. I have watched these youth and children grow but it takes a village to love them and support them and that village is US! The CHURCH! Whatever you do big or small makes a difference in the lives of our children and youth!

Stop and pray and consider what ministry God is calling you to be apart of to help grow!

God Bless,
Crystal

Children's Ministry



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES...

UPWARD

Lesson 1: Downward—Scripture:

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35

Joseph Sold By His Brothers

Joseph's life was filled with ups and downs. Up: His father loved him very much. Down: His brothers did not. Even when Joseph found himself down in a well, he never lost faith in God. Life has ups and downs, but God always remains good.

Lesson 2: Forward—Scripture: Genesis 39:1-6, & 17-33

Joseph in Potiphar's House

Even though Joseph was now in a foreign country, his life seemed to be moving forward. Joseph was working for an important Egyptian official. But when the official's wife spread lies about him, Joseph ended up in prison. But even from prison, God was with Joseph and blessed Him. Even when life is hard, we can still see God's blessings.

Lesson 3: Onward—Scripture: Genesis 40:1-8

Joseph in Prison/ Genesis 41:1-41 Joseph Before Pharaoh

Even though Joseph was in prison, he kept moving onward. In jail, Joseph helped his fellow prisoners, serving them and interpreting their dreams. Eventually, he had a chance to help the Pharaoh, which changed Joseph's life forever. Whether life is up or down, we can still help others for God.

Lesson 4: Upward—Scripture: Genesis 42:1-11, 45:1-15,

Joseph Reunited with His Brothers

Looking back over Joseph's life, there were so many downward moments: being sold by his brothers, living as a slave in a foreign country, and going to jail for something he didn't do. But Joseph never lost his faith in God. In the end, if it had not been for those difficult times, Joseph would not have been in the right place to save the people of Egypt and his own family. Even in the bad times – God is working things out for our good.

Join us for a special Thanksgiving lesson on November 21st called "Give thanks!"

Life is always changing – sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad. But God never changes. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. There will never be a time when God is not good. God wants us to have a heart of gratitude – showing our appreciation to other people and giving our thanks to God.

Not only is God good, but he is good to us. He blesses us and he provides for us. Not only is God love, but he loves us. He gave us Jesus to show us his love. Jesus gave up his life, so that we could be forgiven of our sins and spend forever with him. That's enough to keep us saying thanks for the rest of our lives.

Scripture: Psalm 118 Give Thanks To The Lord

MEMORY VERSE: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." - Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

give
THANKS



Having a Heart of Thanksgiving





Children's Ministry



SUNDAY AFTERNOON UPDATES...

We have been enjoying an elementary Bible study on Sunday afternoons after play practice called "Bible Sidekicks: Bible Heroes You Haven't Heard Of". Our group meets from 4:00-5:30. Volunteers are welcome to join us for snacks, and sometimes supper, Bible study, and then fun fellowship with games. Please contact Crystal or Sarah if you are interested in volunteering or helping to provide a light supper or snacks to the elementary and youth groups on Sunday evenings. The group has been so fun and such a blessing. You have no idea how wonderful it is to see our church filled with such life and energy on Sunday evenings!

Lesson 1: The Speaker – Aaron

Scripture: Exodus 4:10-17, 6:28-7:6, A Reluctant Hero

Lesson 2: The Wise Father-in-Law — Jethro

Scripture: Exodus 18:1-27, Jethro Advises Moses

Lesson 3: The Connector — Naomi

Scripture: Ruth 2-3

Lesson 4: The Wing Man—Jonathan

Scripture: 1 Samuel 19, David and Jonathan

Lesson 5: The Peacemaker - Abigail

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25, David Meets Abigail

Lesson 6: The Man Who Knew No Fear - Nathan

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12, Nathan Rebukes David

Lesson 7: The Good Student - Elisha

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-22

Lesson 8: David's Mighty Men

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:8-17, The Mighty Men

Lesson 9: The Fire Walkers - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Scripture: Daniel 3

Lesson 10: The Point Man - John the Baptist

Scripture: John 1:19-37, John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Lesson 11: The Music Man - Silas

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40, Paul and Silas in Jail

Lesson 12: The Tent Makers - Priscilla and Aquilla

Scripture: Acts 18:1-3

Join us for a special Advent Bible study called "Escape from Bethlehem"

Beginning on November 28th, we will take an "Escape Room Themed" look at the Christmas Story. We sometimes forget what an adventure the birth of Jesus really was: with frightening encounters, long-distance journeys, and an angry and dangerous king. This series will attempt to capture some of the energy of these events and invite participants to engage with the Christmas story with fun escape-room-themed challenges.

Memory Verse: "The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Lesson 1: A Frightening Visitor

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, An Angel Visits Mary

Lesson 2: No Room

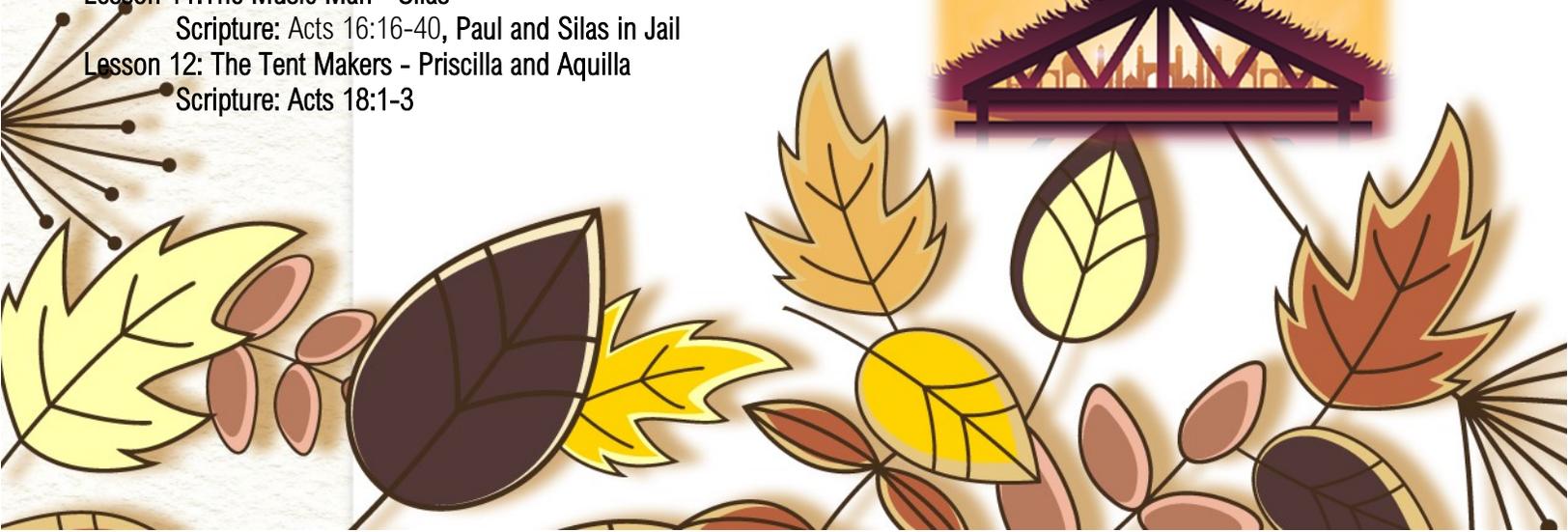
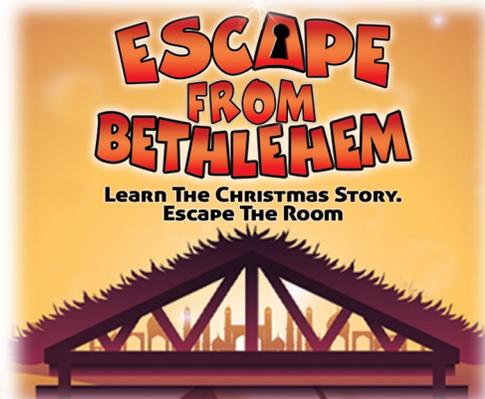
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20, The Birth of Jesus

Lesson 3: The Tale of Two Kings

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11, The Visit of the Magi

Lesson 4: The Great Escape

Scripture: Matthew 2:11-20, The Escape to Egypt



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATE

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

"The greatest story ever told" is more than just a cliché.

"To understand the Bible," says author and pastor Randy Frazee, "you need bifocal lenses, because two perspectives are involved.

The Lower Story, our story, is actually many stories of men and women interacting with God in the daily course of life. The Upper Story is God's story, the tale of his great, overarching purpose that fits all the individual stories together like panels in one unified mural." Our study group is continuing their current study

THE STORY
GETTING TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY



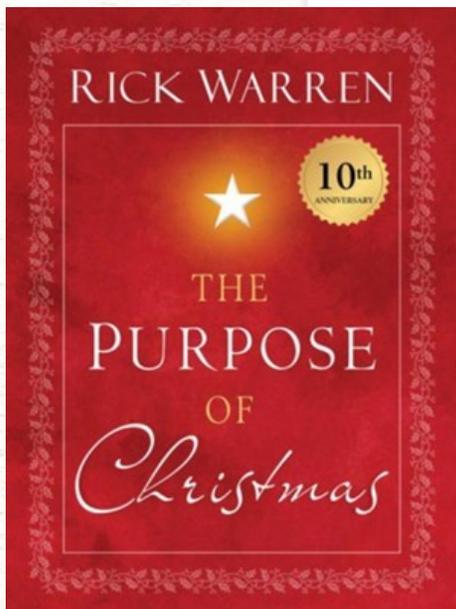
Come join us for an Advent study! We meet each week of our 3-week study in the fellowship hall. A light breakfast will be provided each Sunday of our combined group Advent study. Please let Jacquie know if you are interested in joining the group each week. This study is open to any adult who would like to come.

The Purpose of Christmas features three sessions taught by Rick Warren on why we celebrate Christmas and how it can change our lives forever. At the very first Christmas - the birth of Jesus - an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions in this study look at each of those purposes:

Session 1: Purpose #1 Christmas is a time for celebration.

Session 2: Purpose #2 Christmas is a time for salvation.

Session 3: Purpose #3 Christmas is a time for reconciliation.





IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NATIONAL COLLECTION DEADLINE, BOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO JUMC BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH!

If you would like a list of suggested items by gender and age, please contact the church office. The suggestion lists are too lengthy to place in the newsletter, but we would be happy to provide one to you.



BE SURE TO GRAB A BAG AND GROCERY LIST FOR OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATION BAGS!

The Thanksgiving food donation bags will be due back to the church by no later than November 21st. The JUMC Youth group will organize the bags for delivery/pick up the following week.



Save
the
date

NOVEMBER 14: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
BOXES DUE TO THE CHURCH



SEND GOOD NEWS
AND GREAT JOY

PACK A
SHOEBOX

Sumner's Purse

NOVEMBER 21: THANKSGIVING BAG FOOD
DONATIONS DUE TO THE CHURCH



NOVEMBER 21: FOLLOWING THE SERVICE THIS
SUNDAY, YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY AND HELP
PREPARE OUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR ADVENT.



NOVEMBER 28: HANGING OF THE GREENS



DECEMBER 12: JUMC AND RUMC CHILDREN AND
YOUTH PRESENT THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS
AT 4:00 P.M. WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.



Mark Your Calendars for the Advent Series

November 28th: Week 1
Time to Go Home

December 5th: Week 2
The Fear of Home

December 12th: Week 3
The Joy of Home

December 19th: Week 4
The Blessing of Home

Christmas Eve
Welcome Home

December 26th: Week 5
Lost at Home

January 2nd: Week 6
The Light of Home

DECEMBER 5: JUMC CHANCEL CHOIR
PRESENTS TAKE ME BACK TO BETHLEHEM





Pumpkin Bread Loaf.....3 available \$5 each
Oatmeal Cake 8X8 Pan.....2 available \$8 each
Cheese & Pimento Spread.....4 available \$5 each
Pumpkin Pie.....1 available \$10 each
Sweet Chex Mix.....3 available \$7 each
Spice Cake.....1 available \$10 each

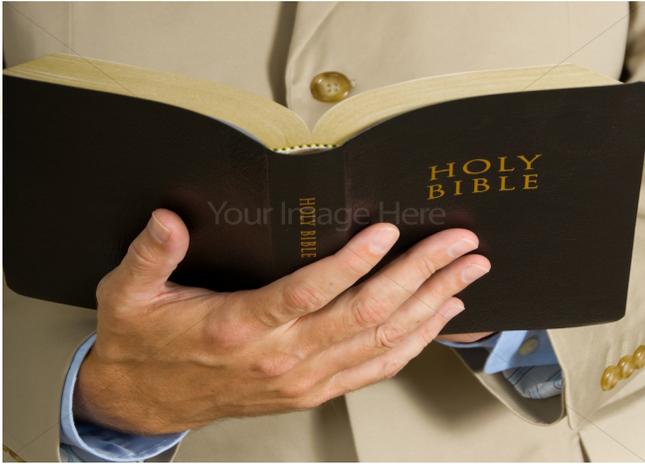
Sweet Dough Pies.....2 dozen available \$3 each
Carrot Cake Loaf..... 1 available \$5 each
Blueberry Cake Loaf.....1 available \$5 each

Get your order in
while
quantities last!

Candied Pecans.....4 cups available \$7.50 cup
Wedding Cake Cupcakes.....1 dozen available \$20 each
Pound Cake Loaf.....5 available \$5 each
M&M Cookies..... .1 dozen available \$5 each

UMW Bake Sale!
To make your order call 824-4079 or
text order to 329-2861

Orders due by November 14th
Pick up on November 21st following
10:30am worship service



CHILE

Update from the Gregg's

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Pastoral Thought

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