

HOPE

Jan. 2025

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve and
Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
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Liz Johnson,
Administrative Assistant
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Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Glenda Brooks,
Custodian

Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Youth Group, Sundays 6 p.m.
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: on hiatus

HOPE in the New Year

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." ~ Romans 8:22-25

Greetings to you this new year!! I remember as a child trying to imagine what the future would look like. One of the things I imagined was that we would have flying cars. We have been along for the ride of what the imagination could hold with Movies like "Back to the Future" and cartoons such as the "Jetsons" which had flying cars that compacted down to a suit case. These are just a couple images I have in my mind of what the future could have held. I'm sure each of you also had an idea of what the world would look like in 2025. I have come to realize that not all things will materialize just the way that I imagined them. We may not be flying around in our cars yet but we still have some amazing things happening around us. In all things we know God is in control. I don't know how this next year will turn out but I do know we will experience the highs and lows of life as we are filled with a hope that God is working all things to the creators glory. I look forward to the ministry that is before us this next year.



Rev. Andrew
Sanders

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you submitted a prayer request, please look at the names on the bulletin. Let Liz Johnson know in the church office if anyone should be removed from or to the prayer list. Please take the bulletin home on Sunday so you can pray the names on the prayer list. You can reach out to Liz J at: 660-259-2483 or secretary@lexmoumc.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: Worshiping Winds rehearsal
9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal is on hiatus until Lent.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays,
10 to Noon. Now in its new location next
to the Nursery room.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Second
Monday of the month 8 to 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, Jan. 10, Noon
for carry-in lunch.

BABY GRACE ORGANIZATION DAY:
Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m. Volunteers
needed.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday,
Jan. 20, 6 p.m., Choir Room.

CHARGE CONFERENCE: Tuesday, January
21 at 6 p.m., Marshall UMC, 225 E. Arrow
St., Marshall.

COMMODITIES: Thursday, Jan. 23, 8:30
to 11:30 a.m.



Sundays *You're Invited!*
6 to 8 p.m.

In The Well

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where we Seek, Serve and
Share Christ*

1211 S. Business Hwy. 13,
Lexington
660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
lexmoumc.org

HANDMADE KNITTED HATS FOR SALE

We have these colorful, handmade knitted hats for sale for \$10 apiece or a free will donation to benefit our new Youth Group. They will be available in the hallway by the sanctuary until sold out.

For Sale



**Handmade, colorful knit
hats in all sizes**

\$10 Each
or Free Will
Donation



Church COUNCIL

Liz Johnson | Secretary

Ad Council met December 16 and December 29th.

Pastor Andrew offered prayer after chairman Phillip Davis opened the meeting.

Pastor Andrew presented an Advent devotion written by a coach of his previously. The reading was from Luke 1:68-75, announcing the coming of our Lord.

Liz Johnson reminded Council members that Charge Conference was set for January 7th at 6 p.m. at Marshall UMC. As of press time, and due to the blizzard, the Charge Conference has been postponed to **Tuesday, January 21st at 6 p.m. at Marshall UMC.**

2024 Council Chairman Phillip Davis suggested that we rename the Family Life Center to "**Buddy Black Family Life Center,**" and to have a **ribbon-cutting on Buddy's birthday of February 9th, followed by a luncheon after the 11 a.m. worship service.** As of press time, Sarah Black has approved the renaming of the FLC and it was announced at the December 29th worship service. Liz Johnson will take photos of the dedication and write a piece for the Lexington News.

Phillip also suggested that we change the church phone to "voice over IP" just as the Elks Lodge has done. It will require replacing the current phones we have. Phillip will handle this change over.

Due to Baby Grace donations being left outside the Hicklin Hall entrance, it was proposed to Council and approved to get a sign for the far end of the building indicating donations should be left there, at the back under the roof, not in front of Hicklin Hall's entrance. Donors are to let Lauren or the church office know they've left a donation.

An organization day for the Baby Grace room has been set for 9 a.m., Saturday, January 18th. Volunteers are needed to help. Roger will have shelving and poles for hanging clothing installed before that date.

December 29th meeting: Council met to determine year-end apportionment payments to the Conference. Treasurer Teri James presented a 2025 budget and figures to consider when determining the apportionment payment.

The 2025 budget was approved following a suggestion by Cheryl Cooley to raise the administrative assistant's salary by 2% for 2025. Finance Chair Sharol McMullin made the motion for the increase, seconded by Cheryl Cooley and passed by council vote.

We currently owe \$11,449 in 2024 apportionments. Phillip moved that we pay close to 50% of the balance owed, i.e. \$4,294. Liz Johnson will choose where the funds will be designated. At press time, payment was made January 2, 2025.

A Candy Cane Christmas Pageant



Our Children's Christmas Pageant took place December 15 during our 11 a.m. service. Directed by teachers Bria Dobson and Jess Eaton, the theme was "A Candy Cane Christmas" in which both teachers read some scripture and narration, then followed by each of the kids, dressed as angels and shepherds who brought a piece of the story alive about what the candy cane represents.

- Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me.
- White for my Savior, who is sinless and pure.
- J is for Jesus, who is my Lord for sure.
- Turn it upside down and a staff you will see.
- Jesus, my shepherd, is coming for me!

Afterward, the kids distributed candy canes with a little striped tag attached explaining the legend of the candy cane as described above. Sweet reminder of the symbols of Christmas!

Pictured are Jess Eaton, Briley Huffman, Kendall Dobson, Jack Worthington, Cooper Davis, Lance Dobson and Emalie Negrete. Not pictured is Bria Dobson.

Below: Lexington UMC is ready for its Christmas Eve Candlelight service. The church was beautifully decorated with a manger at front. The service ended with everyone in a circle around the sanctuary with candles lit while we sang "Silent Night."



Above is Sutton Eaton and Jack Worthington waiting for the play to begin. Jack offered to greet guests while waiting.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/9 Mary Ann Brooks
- 1/10 Stacy Martin, Lauren Negrete
- 1/11 Mary Kate Alkire
- 1/16 Shirley Link
- 1/17 Michael Gonder, Izzy Negrete
- 1/18 Liz Fenner, Scott Slusher, Nancy Oles, Briggen Johnson
- 1/22 Steven Fuller
- 1/25 Marcia Hicklin, Jacob Lamb

Let Liz know in the office if we don't have your birthday!

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

**Sunday School: 10 a.m. Adult &
Children's Classes.**

**Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus until Lent.
Worshipping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.**

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report

December 2024

December Offering:	\$17,499.01
Reimbursements:	\$ 00.00
Avg Expenses:	<u>-\$12,532.50</u>
Total	\$ 4,966.51
*Avg. Expenses 2025	\$ 13,641.00

LUMC received no reimbursements from Waverly or Higginsville UMCs. December offering includes \$1500 in designated funds.

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Sharol McMullin: Finance Chair

Sarah Black: 2025 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2025 PPR Chair

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9



THANK YOU: *Thank you from Sarah Black and her family for the prayers, cards and food so generously given during Buddy's illness and services. And many thanks to the LUMC Women of the church for the wonderful luncheon. God bless!* - Sarah Black



Many thanks to our children's Sunday School teachers, Jess Eaton and Bria Dobson. Jess and Bria have chosen to remain as the Sunday School teachers through to the end of April.

We are very appreciative of their hard work this past fall and the wonderful children's Christmas pageant they produced with the children of the church. We are very blessed to have them with us.

Time to update your contact information

As we begin a new year here at Lexington UMC, I am asking for updates to your contact information.

If you are not receiving our weekly emails, then I don't have your correct email address.

If you have moved within the last 1-2 years, please let us know your new and correct mailing address.

If you have changed your phone number or gotten rid of a landline, please let us know your correct phone/cellphone number. Please contact Liz Johnson to update: secretary@lexmoumc.org or 660-259-2483.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Scripture Reading: John 1:(1-9), 10-18

I have found that if you love life, life will love you back. —Arthur Rubinstein

Logos. Light. Life. These three words get a lot of mentions in today’s Bible reading. Let’s take a look at each of them.

Logos. In English, the Greek word “logos” translates to “word” in English. It refers not just to a spoken word, but a concept, a reasoning or a divine emanation. Jesus as the Logos means that he is the ultimate revelation of God to humanity. He embodies God’s wisdom, will and purpose. He was with God from the very beginning, involved in the creation of everything. This means that Jesus is not just a historical figure, but the eternal Son of God who sustains and governs all things.

Light. “In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (vv. 4-5). Light is essential for life; it dispels darkness and brings clarity. Jesus is described as the light of the world, which means that Jesus brings truth and understanding to a world which, unfortunately, is shrouded in darkness. The light of Jesus points us to God and exposes the truth about our condition and our need for salvation.

The light of Jesus will bring light to our blind spots. Can you think about areas of your life where you need the light of Jesus to shine? Are there parts of your heart or mind clouded by fear, doubt or sin?

Life. “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth” (v. 14). In Jesus is life — eternal life, abundant life, true life. Jesus is the source from which all life flows. By becoming flesh and dwelling among us, Jesus made it possible for us to experience this life firsthand. And what was his life all about? Grace and truth, verse 14 — virtues that bring healing and freedom to our broken world.

On the first Sunday of a new year, it’s a good idea to review these key theological ideas as they relate to Jesus — and to you! What word is Jesus speaking to you today that he’d be pleased for you to remember throughout 2025?

From what kind of light would you benefit this year? The light that will lead you out of the darkness of fear and despair?

What do you see happening in your life in 2025? Into what life is God leading you?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Logos, the divine Word who reveals God’s heart to us. Help us to live in the light of your wisdom and to seek your guidance in all aspects of our lives. Amen.

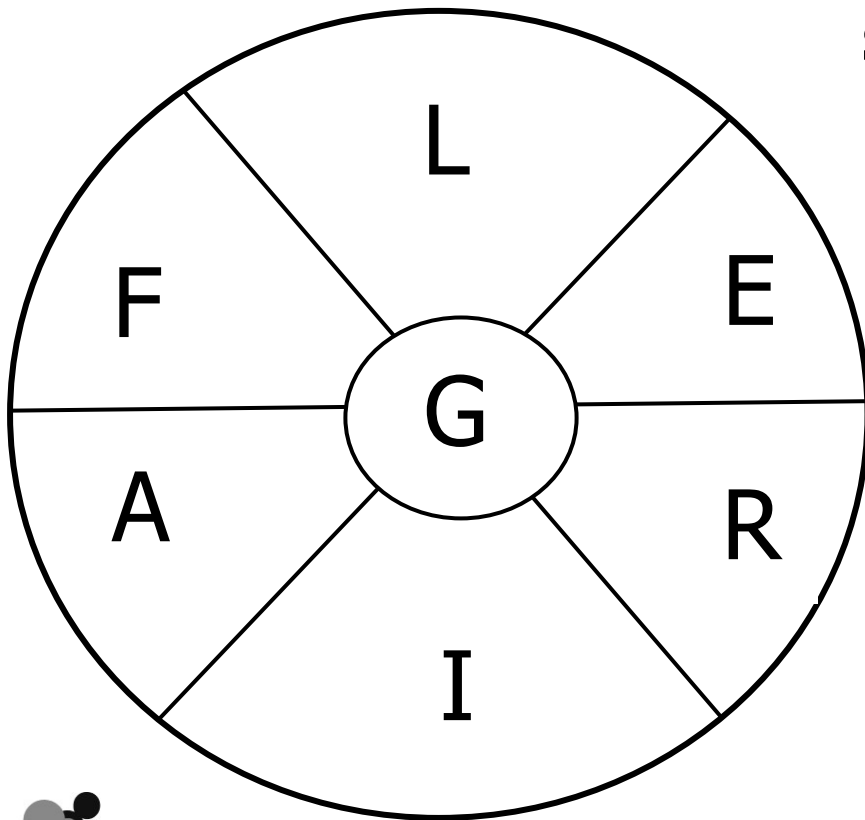
Week of January 5, 2025

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Genesis 1-5
- Monday:** Genesis 6-12
- Tuesday:** Genesis 13-18
- Wednesday:** Genesis 19-23
- Thursday:** Genesis 24-28
- Friday:** Genesis 29-32
- Saturday:** Genesis 33-36

READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
IN ONE
YEAR!

Each week, *HomeTouch* will provide daily readings from the Bible that will take you through the Bible in one year. Sometimes, we will suggest a **Verse to Remember**. Many *HomeTouch* readers try to memorize these verses; memorization stimulates both the mind and the heart!



SPELLING WHEEL

DIRECTIONS: How many words of three or more letters can you form using the letters in the wheel to the left? Each letter may only be used once.

EACH WORD MUST CONTAIN THE LETTER G.

Can you find the word that has seven letters in it? Suggested answers are below.

- 10 words = Good
- 14 words = Excellent
- 17+ words = Genius!



VERSE TO REMEMBER

I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

—Genesis 12:2 (NIV)

ANSWERS: glare, lager, agile, grail, large, regal, grief, girl, rage, gale, flag, gear, fig, age, gal, rag, leg, lag. The seven-letter word is: fragile.

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

The beauty of needing help is that it presents an opportunity for someone else to make a difference in your life. —Unknown

Louise Penny is a Canadian author of mystery novels set in the province of Quebec. The detective and hero of many of her novels is the francophone Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec. Of him, Penny writes, “Gamache had always held unfashionable beliefs. He believed the light would banish the shadows. That kindness was more powerful than cruelty, and that goodness existed, even in the most desperate places. He believed that evil had its limits.”

In many of her books, the fictional Gamache tells new detectives joining his team that there are four, three-word expressions which one should get used to saying, because if we get comfortable saying them, life will go a whole lot easier for us. They are:

- “I was wrong.”
- “I’m sorry.”
- “I don’t know.”
- “I need help.”

Being wrong. We’re not perfect. We are going to get our facts confused. We’re occasionally going to do the wrong thing. And so on. How much easier is it to simply acknowledge the error of our ways, rather than doggedly defend our foolishness?

Being sorry. It doesn’t hurt to apologize. A good, heartfelt “I’m sorry” can cover a multitude of sins.

Being ignorant. We can’t know everything, can we? Why be so proud as to suggest that we do? When we have no light to shed on a subject, why not keep our mouths shut, or defer to someone who has light to shed?

Being helpless. Everyone at some point in their life needs help. We were born helpless and required the guidance of others for the first 20 years of our lives, and we’re likely to require help for the last 20 years. Why not recognize it, and get on with it? In today’s Bible reading, there’s a great promise to remember when we’re feeling helpless: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned” (Isaiah 43:2).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, help me to humbly recognize my limitations. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: Genesis 37-39
- Monday: Genesis 40-42
- Tuesday: Genesis 43-46
- Wednesday: Genesis 47-50
- Thursday: Matthew 1-4
- Friday: Matthew 5-7
- Saturday: Psalms 1-3

Verse to Remember

Happy are those ... [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. —Psalm 1:1-3

FILL IN THE BLANKS

In Matthew 5 (see the reading above) we have the “Beatitudes,” a series of “blessed” statements made by Jesus. Complete the sentence by following the directions. **DIRECTIONS:** Write a word to fit each definition. Then, transfer the letters to the numbered boxes to read one of these Beatitudes.

The color of coal

1 2 8 17 21

Red flower with thorns

9 — 4 3

Woman’s garment

7 23 6 5 24

Small, round, green vegetable in a pod

14 10 16

One hikes on this, also known as a trail

— 20 11 12

An electric fish

13 15 —

Very dark green gemstone

18 19 22 — — — —



Answers:
 black rose dress pea path eel emerald
 Blessed are the peace-makers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----



Sunday, January 19, 2025

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

*Joy is that deep settled confidence that God is in control
of every area of my life. —Paul Sailhamer*

Today's Bible reading tells the story of Jesus' first recorded miracle: the transformation of water to wine at the wedding in Cana. I wonder if the attendees received wedding invitations?

This reminds me of a passage in Isaiah 55: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (v. 1). Sounds like an invitation, doesn't it?

In verses 1-3 of Isaiah 55, the prophet utters a dozen imperative verbs, a full one-third of which are the command to "come." Come to the waters; come, buy and eat; come, buy; come to me, he cries. And then he adds, "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ... return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on [you] and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (vv. 6-7). Again, this sounds like an invitation.

So, if you received a wedding invitation, how would you respond? The three most popular RSVPs are "joyfully accepts," "regretfully declines" or "not sure."

God knows who we are and invites us to attend the feast that's been prepared for us "before the foundation of the world." To that end, we might pray — in the words of the liturgy:

*By your Spirit make us one with Christ, One with each other,
And one in ministry to all the world, Until Christ comes in final victory
And we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, Now and forever.
Amen!*

So, how shall we respond? Joyfully accepts? Regretfully declines? Or not sure?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we do your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Ignatius of Loyola

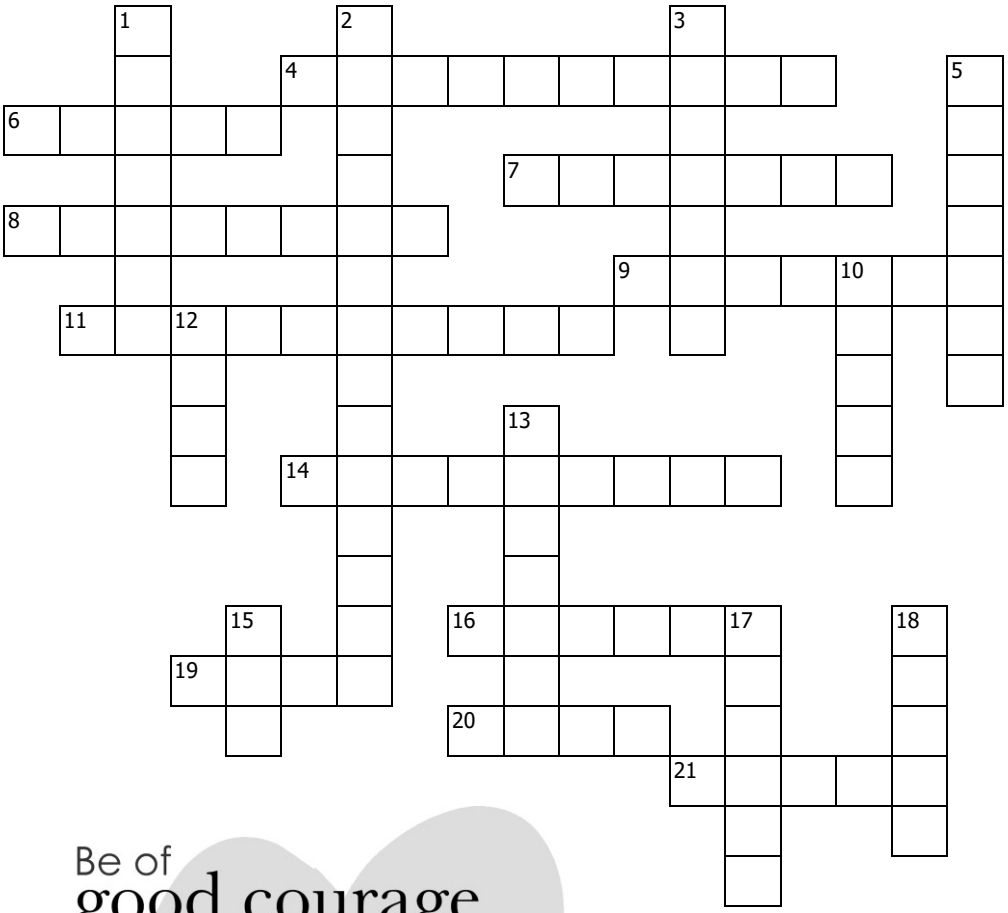


Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Matthew 8-11
- Monday:** Matthew 12-15
- Tuesday:** Matthew 16-19
- Wednesday:** Matthew 20-22
- Thursday:** Matthew 23-25
- Friday:** Matthew 26-28
- Saturday:** Psalms 4-6

DANIEL, A SERVANT OF GOD

In the book of Daniel, we read of a young man who was extremely gifted and also committed to serving God, no matter how difficult the challenges. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



CLUES

1. Shadrack was thrown into this, 3:20
2. A king who went mad, 4:33
3. A friend of Daniel, 1:6
4. Saw handwriting on the wall, 5:9
5. Daniel's weeks, 9:24
6. Persian king, 10:1
7. Interpreter of Daniel's vision, 8:16
8. One of three friends, 3:19
9. Capital city of Chaldea, 1:1
10. What the den was full of, 6:16
11. Daniel's menu preference, 1:12
12. Animal with horn between its eyes, 8:5
13. A chief prince, 10:13
14. One of the last kings of Judah, 1:1
15. Number of horns on the fourth beast, 7:7
16. The Mede king, 5:31
17. The king made one for the people to worship, 3:14 (NRSV)
18. A word on the wall, 5:27
19. The second of four beasts, 7:5
20. Feet of ..., 2:33
21. What was cut from the mountain, 2:45 (NRSV)

Be of
good courage
and he shall
strengthen
your heart.
Psalm 27:14

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

I'm not interested in having an orchestra sound like itself. I want it to sound like the composer. —Leonard Bernstein

When I was in high school, I played an oboe in the orchestra. There were only two of us. Just two! Lots of violins, not to speak of violas, cellos and bass viols. A very strong clarinet section. Four kids played flutes. The percussion section with its drums and tympani always drowned out anything we piped on our oboes. Of course, it was worse for others. We only had one piccolo player and one bassoonist.

But this is the nature of an orchestra, isn't it? Like the church, it's a living organism composed of various instruments: violins, cellos, flutes, trumpets, drums and many more. Each instrument has its unique sound and role. The violins might play the melody, the cellos add depth with their rich tones, the flutes provide light and airy accents, and the drums keep the rhythm. Individually, each instrument can create beautiful music, but it is only when they come together under the direction of the conductor that a symphony is truly born.

Think about the features of the church using the analogy of an orchestra:

Different gifts: Just as an orchestra consists of different instruments, the body of Christ is made up of individuals with various spiritual gifts.

One conductor: In an orchestra, the conductor unifies the diverse sounds of the instruments into a harmonious performance. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is the one who distributes these gifts and brings unity among believers. Despite our diverse gifts, we are all directed by the same Spirit to work together for God's glory.

Unique roles: As an oboe player, I had a specific role, as did every musician. Together, our contribution was essential to the overall performance. Likewise, each spiritual gift within the church is vital. Paul points out that the Holy Spirit is given for the common good.

Mutual support: In an orchestra, as in the church, if one section is missing or out of tune, the entire performance suffers. There's a certain interdependence of believers within the church which requires that we all perform within our roles to the best of our abilities.

We may think we're too insignificant or too weak to make a difference — sort of the way I felt as I played my little oboe. But each of us has been given unique gifts, and it is our responsibility to use them for the common good, building up the body of Christ and advancing God's kingdom.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O Lord, help me to recognize and embrace my unique role within the body of Christ. May I work together in unity, under the direction of your Holy Spirit, to bring glory to your name and to serve your purposes. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: Job 1-4
- Monday: Job 5-7
- Tuesday: Job 8-10
- Wednesday: Job 11-13
- Thursday: Job 14-17
- Friday: Job 18-20
- Saturday: Psalms 7-9

Verse to Remember

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult
in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

—Psalm 9:1-2

WORD BOXES

The book of Acts tells the story of some of the apostle Paul’s journeys. Use the grid on the right to fill in the empty boxes on the left, which — when filled out correctly — will reveal the name of one of the cities Paul visited. Remember, only one of the letters derived from either the top or the bottom clue is the correct one. We’ve done one box for you.

C2	B5	B1	D3	B4	C5	E3
			I			
A2	E4	B2	E5	A1	C1	B4

	A	B	C	D	E
1	G	R	T	J	E
2	P	K	C	B	W
3	Y	X	F	I	H
4	U	N	Z	A	O
5	M	D	S	V	L

Answer: (spelled backward):
HTNIROC

Write a Personal Psalm!

In our **Daily Bible Readings**, we have just started to read the psalms. Have you ever tried to write a psalm? Sometimes, the author of the psalms wrote using an acrostic beginning with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Here’s what you could do: Think of a word to use as the acrostic pattern — God, for example. Then write three statements expressing praise. Each sentence begins with one of the letters of the word “God.” See the example to the right.

Now you try it. Consider using words for your acrostic pattern such as: praise, goodness, thanks, prayer, etc. Write it on a sheet of paper. Share your work with someone.

Psalm of Praise

Glory to you, O God,
because you give me
comfort in my trials;

Over all the years of my
life, you have always
been there for me.

Do again today as you
have in the past!

