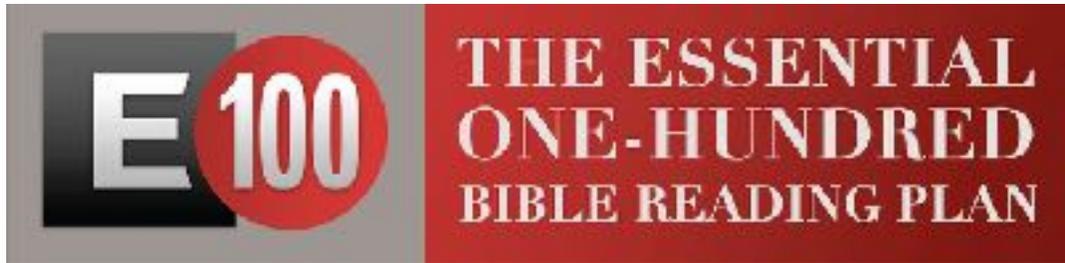


Prints of Peace



Christ United
Methodist Church

648 Oak Street

Newcomerstown,
Ohio 43832

Christmastime is a season of gifts. The greatest gift, and the whole reason for our Christmas celebration, is God the Father's gift of love: the birth of His Son Jesus. But God gives many other gifts, too. Perhaps second in importance of all God's gifts is His Word, the Bible.

Starting January 8th our churches will begin a Bible reading program called *The Essential One-Hundred* (E100). This program will give us a general overview of the Bible. Everyone will be given a daily planner with 100 Bible readings inside. These readings are split into 20 weeks with 5 readings per week. Each reading is a passage of scripture from the Bible that is 1 to 3 chapters long. It will take you 5 to 10 minutes to read each passage of scripture.

As a church we will also do some activities to help encourage us to all read these 100 Bible passages. Each week I will be preaching from one of the Bible passages. Also, some of our small groups will use another of the passages for their Bible studies. If your small group would like to get resources for studying these Bible passages, let me know.

Speaking of the creators of the E100 program, their group name is *Scripture Union*. Of *Scripture Union* Billy Graham said, "I am totally, completely and forever a *Scripture Union* man." If you want to find out more about them look them up on their website at e100challenge.com and www.scriptureunion.org. On the website you will find more information and some helpful articles about Bible reading.

Several people have talked to me about how excited they are about this Bible reading program and I am excited, too. I am excited that people will have opportunity to get an overview of the Bible and its message. I'm excited that we will do this together as a way of encouraging Bible reading. I'm hopeful that some people who have struggled to read their Bibles regularly will start the good habit of daily devotions. But most important of all, I'm praying that people will hear God's voice speaking to them through their time in the Bible.

Check us out on the
web at

<http://christnct.org>
or on Facebook

Office Hours

9:30 to 4:00 MWF

I want to be clear about Bible reading, the point is not to gain an intellectual understanding of what the Bible says. The point is to enter a dialogue with God. Through the Bible God speaks to you and through prayer you speak to God.

There is an old pastor's illustration that says that the Bible is God's love letter to you. I remember when Kimberly and I first started dating. It was in the days before email and cell phones, so we had to communicate the old-fashioned way: written letters. We were young and in love, so you can imagine how excited I would be when Kimberly's letter arrived. I would stop everything, find a quiet place to be alone, and read her letter (and then read it again). After reading her letter I would compose my own letter in response and send it as quickly as possible, because the sooner she received my letter the sooner she would write back again.

Two important things happened through those letters. First, I came to know Kimberly better. Second, I was reminded that she loved me. The result of those letters was my own love grew stronger for her.

Think of the Bible as God's love letters to you. Through daily reading of the Bible you will come to know God better. Also, you will begin to see how great God's love is for you. In response your love for God will grow.

Treat your Bible reading time much like you would a love letter. Stop all the other things you are doing and find a quiet place to read your Bible. Look back over what you have read and read again those things which seem most important to you. Then compose a response to what you just read. How? Pray. Talk to God about what you read. Ask Him to clarify things that are unclear. Request the Holy Spirit's help in doing the things God's Word told you to do. Tell God of your respect, awe, and love for Him. Some people like to write down their prayer of response to their reading of God's Word. But remember, prayer is a most important part of Bible reading; it is what brings God's Word alive in your heart, mind, and daily actions.

I hope you are as excited about our E100 Bible Reading program as I am. I hope you will join the church as we all read together God's Word. Please pray for our church and the people of our church, that God will use E100 to help us grow closer to our Lord.

Blessed are those who... delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. (Psalm 1:1-3)

Pastor Bracken

We will be handing out a reading list for our E100 Bible reading program in church Sunday January 1st and Sunday January 8th. Below is listed the first few weeks readings for those who do not get the hand out.

January 8th – January 14th: In the Beginning

Genesis chapters 1 and 2 (Creation)
 Genesis chapter 3 (The Fall)
 Genesis 6:5 - 7:24 (The Flood)
 Genesis 8:1 - 9:17 (God's Covenant with Noah)
 Genesis 11:1-9 (Tower of Babel)

January 15th – January 21st: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Genesis 12 (The Call of Abraham)
 Genesis 15 (God's Covenant with Abraham)
 Genesis 21:1 - 22:19 (Isaac's Birth and "Sacrifice")
 Genesis 27 and 28 (Jacob and Esau Compete)
 Genesis 32 and 33 (Jacob and Esau Reconcile)

January 22nd – January 28th: The Story of Joseph

Genesis 37 (Sold into Slavery)
 Genesis 39, 40 and 41 (Prison and a Promotion)
 Genesis 42 (Ten Brothers Go to Egypt)
 Genesis 43 and 44 (The Brothers Return)
 Genesis 45:1 - 46:7 (Joseph Reveals His Identity)

January 29th – February 4th: Moses and the Exodus

Exodus 1 and 2 (Birth of Moses)
 Exodus 3:1 - 4:17 (The Burning Bush)
 Exodus 6:28 - 11:10 (The Ten Plagues)
 Exodus 12: 1-42 (Passover and Exodus)
 Exodus 13:17 - 14:31 (Crossing the Red Sea)

February 5th-February 11th: The Law and the Land

Exodus 19:1 - 20:21 (The Ten Commandments)
 Exodus 32, 33 and 34 (The Golden Calf)
 Joshua 1 (Joshua Succeeds Moses)
 Joshua 3 and 4 (Crossing the Jordan)
 Joshua 5:13 - 6:27 (The Fall of Jericho)

February 12th-February 18th: The Judges

Judges 2:6 - 3:6 (Israel's Disobedience)
 Judges 4 and 5 (Deborah Leads Israel)
 Judges 6 and 7 (Gideon Defeats the Midianites)
 Judges 13 - 16 (Story of Sampson)
 The whole book of Ruth (The Story of Ruth)

February 19th-February 25th: The Rise of Israel

1 Samuel 1, 2 and 3 (Samuel Listens to God)
 1 Samuel 8, 9 and 10 (King Saul)
 1 Samuel 16:1 - 18:16 (David and Goliath)
 1 Samuel 23:7 - 24:22 (David and Saul)
 2 Samuel 5, 6 and 7 (King David)

February 26th-March 4th: The Fall of Israel

2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:25 (David and Bathsheba)
 1 Kings 2 and 3 (King Solomon)
 1 Kings 8:1 - 9:9 (Solomon's Temple)
 1 Kings 16:29 - 19:18 (Elijah)
 2 Kings 25:1-30 (The Fall of Jerusalem)

Christmas Musical December 18 at 7:00

Sticky Buns are coming! The River Ringers will again be selling sticky buns just in time for Christmas. Sign up in the blue book or let Kathy Ellis know how many pans you want.

December Meta Calendar:

4: Worship and Eggstream Wack-a-Mole

11: Worship and **Mystery Christmas Dinner**

16: Christmas Break Kick Off Lock In

18: Christmas Drama and Ugly Sweater Bash

25: No Meta, Merry Christmas

School Lunch Bible Studies: Tuesdays at Middle and Fridays at High

Christmas Food Baskets

These will be packed on Sunday, December 18th after the 10:30 service. Please sign up in the blue books to donate items for this. Donated items need to be at the church by Dec. 16th. Stay just a few minutes to help pack. If you can deliver a basket please let Arlene Mayhew know.

Nativity Display

Do you have a special nativity you could share? Bring your nativity to Fellowship Hall Saturday, Dec. 17th between 9am and noon. The kitchen door and the Wesley door will be open during those hours. If it is more convenient, you may bring your nativity to the church office during office hours (MWF) the week of Dec. 14th. Nativities will be displayed Sunday morning and the evening of the Christmas Musical. Cards and markers will be provided so you can write your name and any information you would like people to know about your set. Where you purchased it or how long you have had it or how it is special to you. Nativities may be taken home later that evening or picked up at a later time.

Thanks to all who helped or provided items for the community Thanksgiving dinner. It was a terrific community project!

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Christ United Methodist Church December 7, 2016. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10.00 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners>

TOYS FOR TOTS And Share a Christmas Toys

There are tags on the Christmas tree for Toys For Tots. These toys will be for local children that were not signed up for Share a Christmas. The items for Toys For Tots will need to be brought to the church no later than Sunday, December 11th. **Please put these toys in the coat area but near the office. This will separate them from the Share a Christmas Toys.**

If you chose a ball off the tree for Share a Christmas, these toys need to be in no later than Sunday, December 4th. Place these in the coat area closest to the sanctuary. They have to be taken to New Philadelphia on Monday, Dec. 5th.

