



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

United Methodist Church

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Union Rider March, 2018 Newsletter



**FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBOR
LUNCHEON**

**Soups,
sandwiches,
desserts and more!**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018
from 11:30 to 1pm.**

**Come Join in the fellowship with our
friends throughout the community.**

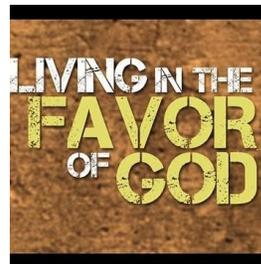


Trivia is now back!



"Heaven is real and hell is real, and eternity is but a breath away." "God can use the fear that grips the hearts of men today to point them to eternal truths— the truth of God's eternal judgment, and the truth of His eternal love." "Life is just a schoolroom with a glorious opportunity to prepare us for eternity."

By Billy Graham



**Finding Favor With
God and Man**

[Proverbs 3:1-4](#)

Admonition to Trust and Honor God

3 My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
2 for length of days and years of life and
abundant welfare they will give you.

³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.⁴ So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people.

One of our basic human needs is acceptance. Without it, we feel alienated or maybe even rejected. In the Bible, acceptance is often referred to as “favor.” For example, when Joseph was sold into slavery, [Genesis 39:4](#) (⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had), says he “found favor” in the sight of his master Potiphar and was put in charge of the official’s entire household. Joseph found acceptance and approval because of his exemplary behavior.

Whose favor are you longing to receive? Do you desire God’s approval? Today’s text shows us how we can find favor with both God and man.

First, we should value the Lord’s teaching. God blessed us by giving us His Word, but not everyone makes it a priority. We should recognize Scripture as our most valuable earthly possession because it is God’s revelation of Himself and His instructions for us.

Second, we should make obedience to God a matter of the heart. Following His commands is about far more than just external rule keeping; it involves not only our actions but our attitudes and thoughts as well.

Third, we are to let kindness and truth characterize our life. When we are wholeheartedly living in obedience to God’s commands, the effect will spill over into our relationships, as kindness and truth become the guardians of our words and actions. Although the Christian faith may evoke a negative response from some, believers shouldn’t be discouraged. A life that reflects Christ pleases God. And in bringing light to a dark world, an obedient life will also bring the favor of many in its circle of influence.

Bible in One Year: [Deuteronomy 18-20](#)

Our 2018/2019 Global Mission Initiative is happening right in our backyard with the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Township.

<https://www.umeconomicministry.com/>

**Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 2/25/18: \$240.00**

Their Programs Include:

Salem & Solon Thrift Shops
Salem, Solon and Howland Food Cupboards
Maple Syrup
Backpacks and Sneakers
Emergency Heating Assistance
Fire Victims Assistance
Warming Center (Jan – April)
Prom Shop
Christmas Shoppe
Community Garden
Summer mission groups provide home repair, accessibility ramps and winter weatherization with efficient windows and doors.

Their vision is to support healthy communities that adapt to the changing environment in the region. They are providing both educational and material support towards self sufficiency in this region of severe economic challenge.

With dignity and grace, they are working to build sustainable communities.

Monthly we will provide updates to the various programs of their ministries.



March 11th Begins Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday night or you will be very late for Church Sunday Morning



The United Methodist Women-UMW-will be providing their outline for their 2018 activities soon.

Their regular meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 9AM to 10:30AM in Friendship Hall

Next Meeting: March 17th

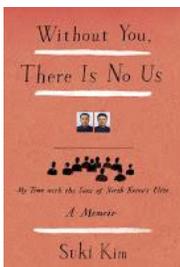
**Come to our next Event
All Welcome!**



**United
Methodist
Women's**

Monthly Meeting Book Club

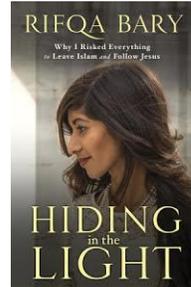
Begins with their February 17th meeting. Below is a brief description of all the books they will be reading for each month through June 16th. If you would like a copy of any of these books; they are located in the Church Library. Or you can read them on your Kindle.



February – Without You There is No Us (Suki Kim): In 2011, all universities in North Korea were shut down for an entire year, and except for the 270 students at the all-male Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, all

students were sent to construction fields. Suki Kim accepted a job teaching English at Pyongyang, and

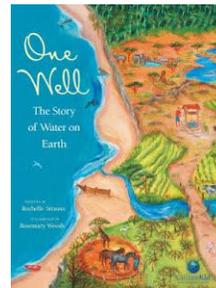
over the next six months, she ate three meals a day with her young charges, while struggling to teach them to write and care - fully telling them about the world beyond their borders, always aware that the more they knew, the more they risked.



March 17th – Hiding in the Light

(Rifqa Bary): Growing up in a devout Muslim home, Rifqa Bary obediently followed the rituals of Islam. Hiding in the Light is her

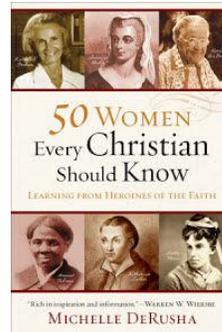
story of her remarkable spiritual journey from Islam to Christianity. It is also the story of a young girl who, hearing Jesus' call, made life-changing sacrifices to follow – and who inspires us to do the same.



April 20th – One Well; The Story of Water on Earth

(Rochelle Strauss): One Well is a richly illustrated and timely book about our water and its source. Its call to action shows

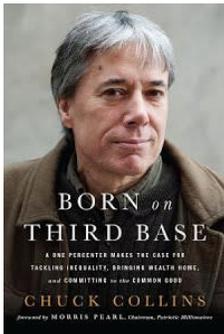
how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect the global well.



May 19th - 50 Christian Women Every Christian Should Know (Michelle De Rusha):

Throughout history, countless women have boldly stepped out in faith and courage, leaving their indelible mark on those around them and on the

Kingdom of God. Michelle DeRusha brings into focus 50 incredible women of faith — from Catherine of Siena to Susanna Wesley; Harriet Tubman and Corrie ten Boom, bringing the lives of these admirable women to life with engaging narrative as a reminder that we are not alone, the battles we face today are not new and God is always with us during the struggle.



June 16th – Born on Third Base (Chuck Collins) - With the soul of a storyteller and the heart of an agitator, inequality expert Chuck Collins upends our assumptions about America's deep wealth divide — a divide that, for the first time in recent history, locks the nation's youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth, limits our ability to address crises like climate change, and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimately want to live in. In *Born on Third Base*, Collins calls for an end to class war, busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and reengaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.



Meetings: A Month At A Glance

March 2018

Prayer Shawl: 3/12 and 3/26 @ 1:00 p.m.

Staff Parish Relations: 3/12 @ 6 p.m.

Trustee's: 3/19 @ 6:30

Mission & Outreach: 3/20 @6:30

Finance: 3/27 @6:30



2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We will be holding a special meeting (Date to be determined) to discuss – strategize how we might come up with more events or not; tweak the ones we hold every year and give everyone the opportunity to bring their ideas to the table. Watch for the date to be announced.

Be Inspired!

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Union Church, where Faith, Family, Friendship and Service come together.

Stewardship Campaign for our 2018 Ministry

December 31st, 2017 Update

Thank you for your participation and prayers!

Current Results: 51 Pledges, with 4 new pledges, and 14 with increases over last year; these total **\$113,364.00**

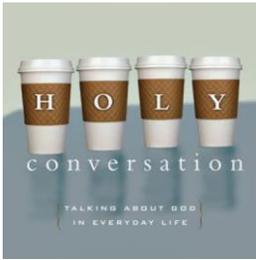
With your support, we are well on our way towards our ministry **Goals:**

1. 59 pledges,

2. Including 5 new pledges,

3. Totaling \$115,500

Still not too late to turn in a pledge card... Please prayerful consider your response today.



Wednesday Conversation, Study and Reflection.

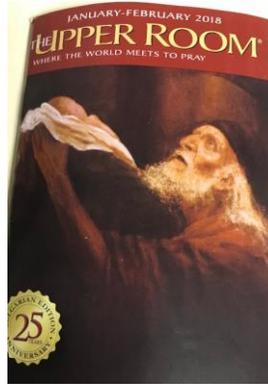
*We will resume holding these
sacred times on March 28th*

after our Season of Lent Bible Study using our
Upper Room Booklets to pick up a bit of scripture
and consider it for our days of living in Jesus' Way.

Classes are held on Wednesdays 11 to noon

We continue to have several
joining in our discussion each
week; please consider taking
time out to enjoy this
wonderful conversation.

All are Welcome to Join Us;
Bring A Bible, A Friend and a Smile!
Did you Know?? That these Upper Room Daily
Devotional Guides are "Free" for you... Your
donation of a \$1 provides a copy "Free" for another!
Thank you, your friend Grace!



Beginning in
2018

**The Maine
Department of**

Transportation will begin Road Construction
through Belgrade Lakes, Main Street. The
widening of the road and the scope of the
related construction as this relates to our Front
Yard, Walkways, Planting, Signage, Lighting
was highlighted at the **Church Council**
meeting held on **November 12th**.



**MARCH
MADNESS –
"FUN" RAISING
NIGHT**

**Mark your calendars for March 17
@ 5 p.m.**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
AND FELLOWSHIP**

Lynn and Kip McClure have put it on their
hearts to host a night of everyone coming
together, sharing good food and having a
night of just spending time with our Church
Family.

Lynn has shared a couple of Irish Dessert
links should you decide to make a dessert.

**Sign up sheet posted in
Friendship Hall.**

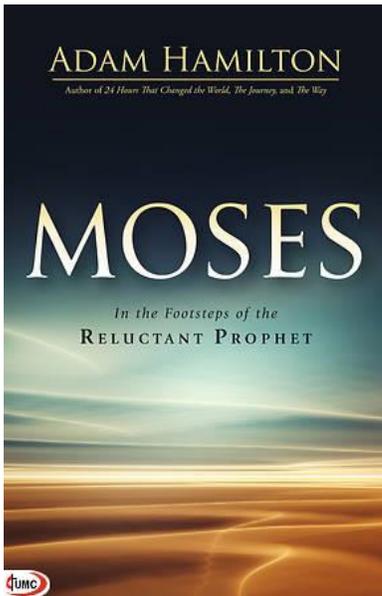


Hope to see you all there!

[http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/ultimate-
irish-apple-cake-138983](http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/ultimate-irish-apple-cake-138983)

[https://www.keyingredient.com/recipes/344947
724/old-fashioned-irish-oatmeal-cake/](https://www.keyingredient.com/recipes/344947724/old-fashioned-irish-oatmeal-cake/)

MAY YOUR TROUBLES
BE LESS
and your
Blessings
be MORE
AND NOTHING BUT
HAPPINESS
come through your
door
IRISH BLESSING



Introducing new dynamic study material for our Pre-Easter Season of Lent. **Moses (In the Footprints of the Reluctant Prophet).**

It doesn't get much more dramatic: rescued baby, life in the courts of Pharaoh, parting the Red Sea, leading his people

out of Egypt...Moses' life was one challenge after the next, but although he resisted God's calling, by the end of his life he successfully fulfilled the role he was given. Join award-winning author Adam Hamilton as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea, and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. As Hamilton shares historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, you'll gain a better understanding of Moses' significance in your life today, and you'll discover how you, too, can turn your own reluctance into boldness

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2017 we will begin our six week study at 11 a.m. in Friendship Hall and will end on Wednesday, March 21st. Our new audio-video system will be utilized to present the DVD study material for our class.

Sign up now for the class. Contact Pastor Joe or Kathy if you would like to attend.

If you would like; you may donate \$15; to cover the cost of the study books; although not necessary or a prerequisite to attend this Bible Study.



Our Mission Ministries

Through the year in this Newsletter we highlight our mission projects and programs where we serve God through Christlike compassion, mercy and transformation; reaching out, lifting up, building up. *Here is a listing of some of the ways during 2017 you contributed to missions through your support received in our weekly worship offerings, pledges and special giving.*

Good Shepherd Food Bank, in Auburn, Maine serves to support and equip two other of our local missions; **The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry**, and the **United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Township**. We support the work of Good Shepherd with a gift of \$100.

Bread of Life Shelter and Meal Programs, Augusta. Through the year, each month we provide a Tuesday evening meal for the residence there. It's been a blessing to meet folks there and see how this ministry gives them both shelter and a boost to what is next as they move forwards in life by God's grace. With a gift of \$200 we equip there program there.

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine. With a gift of \$200 we supported this work that serves the LGBT, gay community those of whom are among the poor and vulnerable among us, facing issues of employment and housing discrimination, domestic violence, homelessness. In this manner we extend our church Welcoming Statement into the community beyond our own worship doors.

United Methodist Economic Ministry Salem Township, Maine (UMEM) With a \$200 gift we collaborated to assist their Food and Fuel Program. With our purchase of Maple Syrup and making this available e for Retail – Fair

Trade pricing we assist their ministry programs that transform lives; \$500

This year we begin our **Global Mission Initiative** with this economic ministry. Our weekly "Joy and Celebration Offerings" will contribute \$2,500 towards this local ministry. In 2016 and 2017 we contributed \$5,000 through this weekly offering to The United Methodist Commission on Relief, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project. This served communities of God's people in the U.S. and beyond.

Winthrop, Maine: United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Scholarship support of campers in the amount of \$300. The year-round camp and youth programs happening there transforms lives of children and youth.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, this local ministry program serving to help folks who would be other wise home bound is supported with a \$200 gift and through the engagement of those offering to serve as drivers, and part of the programs leadership.

Scouting Ministry. As the Chartering Organization we provide \$370 towards this local program in support of youth.

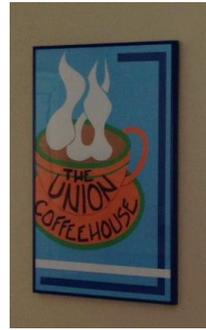
Robotics Team at Messalonskee High School, with a gift of \$500 we are among the sponsors of this life equipping youth program. What a joy it is been to meet the youth as they both build and participate in events. *Thank you Lisa for your leadership with these youth!*

Center For All Seasons, Belgrade Lakes, Maine; Summer Youth Camping Experience, \$460 to assist local youth in their participating in this program.

Ever notice the sign at the **Belgrade Ball Park?** \$150 supports this local youth program and shares our active presence in the community in Christ's service.

United Methodist Commission on Relief, Hurricane Disaster Relief. \$2,000 supports efforts that directly connect with families lives in the affected communities.

These are some of the many ways we connect with God's people locally, regionally, globally, for God's glory. Look to each months Newsletter Edition for more news and information about our ministries in mission. Reaching Out and Lifting Up, Building Up in Christ's holy service.



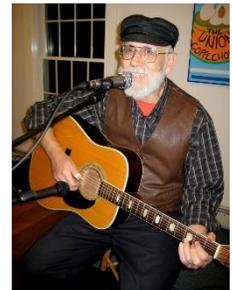
Union Coffeehouse for This Summer. Don will be providing a more detailed article depicting each artist(s); watch for this in our April Newsletter

May 12 - John and Ellen Gawler



June 9 - The Racket Factory

July 14 - Bill Berlinghoff



August 11 - Simons and Goodwin

Messalonskee High School Empty Bowls Project 2018



**Raising
Money
to
Support
Local
Food
Pantrie
s**
(at the

**High School, and for Oakland, Sidney, Rome,
Belgrade)**

Friday March 9, 5-7 PM

\$10 - adults \$8 - students/seniors
**Meal includes Soup, Salad, Bread,
Dessert and Beverage**

**-The Pottery class is making bowls to serve the
meal from.**

***The only thing missing from this place setting
is YOU!***

**Union Church of Belgrade Lakes,
a United Methodist Church**

***You are invited to participate by
attending and, or providing soup, or a
cash donation.***

+ Attending or Donating Cash
**+ Bringing a Crock Pot of soup -or a
Dessert**

**7 To the front office of the
school, between 7 a.m. – 4
p.m., or**

a. to the dinner by 4:30 PM

Questions? Contact: W Susan Perrino,
465-9135, sperrino@rsu18.org
[Or Wendy Burton at 1-207-561-0905](tel:1-207-561-0905)



**Eight Words
from Jesus
in a World
with
Refugees**

Article by D. Glenn, Guest Contributor

I lived in Syria. I grieve over the destruction and death that occurs there every day. Since 2012, I've been living in a neighboring country, seeking to bring hope to Syrian refugees. We help them with practical needs like blankets, heaters, food boxes, and diapers.

Daily I'm confronted with the overwhelming needs that we simply cannot meet. Many people I know are waiting to travel to the West or already have. They are hoping for a better future.

Jesus calls us to follow him. Sometimes it is clear how we do this, and often it is not. In trying to grapple with what it means to follow Jesus as it relates to the current refugee crisis, it is worth rehearsing at least eight things Jesus expects from those who follow him. May he give us all wisdom in how best to apply them.

1. "Love God, and therefore love the things he loves."

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). Loving God implies loving the things he loves. Deuteronomy 10:18 tells us that God "executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing."

It is no surprise, then, that the very next verse is "Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 10:19).

2. "Love your neighbors, as you love yourselves."

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). But who is my neighbor? This is the very question Jesus was asked in Luke 10:29. He responded with the story of the Good Samaritan and taught us that our

neighbor is anyone who is in need, even our enemies (as Jews and Samaritans were).

3. “Do for others what you want them to do for you.”

“Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus doesn’t say we should do some things for others that we’d like done for us. He says, “Whatever you wish that others would do to you.” If there is anything that you would want others to do for you, you ought to do it for them.

If you were a refugee, fleeing war, would you want another country to give you safe refuge?

4. “Do not expect (or demand) greater security, comfort, or treatment than I had.”

“A scribe came up and said to him, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head’” (Matthew 8:19–20).

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household” (Matthew 10:24–25).

5. “Do not fear.”

Immediately after Jesus tells us to not expect better treatment than he got, he calls us to not fear. “So have no fear of them. . . . And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:26–28).

6. “Deny yourselves, and lose your lives.”

“Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul’” (Matthew 16:24–26)?

Jesus calls us to die daily to ourselves for the sake of others. There is no gain in having a secure nation if we lose our souls due to self-love (by making safety our highest good).

7. “Love your enemies.”

It is important to keep before us who our enemies are. It is not Syrian refugees who

seek to kill and destroy; it is ISIS. However, even though ISIS is our enemy, Jesus is still quite clear about how we should respond.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43–48)

This is exactly what Jesus did. “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. . . . For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life” (Romans 5:8–10).

8. “Walk in my steps.”

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:4–8)

D. Glenn works with Syrian refugees in the Middle East.





**BELGRADE/ROME
FOOD PANTRY
DONATION "WISH
LIST"**

As of February 2018

The local food pantry has recently revised its list of available items for distribution. The number of families and the total number of persons visiting the food pantry monthly have been increasing. The Board met recently to review those items that are essential and those that may be considered less essential, as well as those provided by the government on a regular basis and those available at Good Shepherd. The focus will be on insuring that the shelves are stocked with all of the essential items. Conversely, certain items, such as cake mixes and frosting, were considered to be 'non essential' food items and will no longer be **purchased** for distribution. However, if those items are donated, they will still be made available to clients. Likewise, certain items, most notably, soaps and detergents, paper towels and bath tissues, all of which are necessary items, are not provided by the government and are not available at Good Shepherd. It is these items that the food pantry is keenly in need of receiving through donations.

The president of the food pantry, Marylou Butterfield, has put together a 'wish list' of items that the food pantry is requesting in donations. It consists of items not readily available or provided by the government or at Good Shepherd.

Wish List: Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Soap, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste, Hearty Soups, Canned Hash, Canned Pasta, Canned Tuna, Baked Beans, Cake Mix & Frosting

Food insecurity remains a significant problem in Maine and throughout the USA despite the fact that the USA has sufficient resources to feed all of its inhabitants. Your continued support of the Belgrade Rome Special Needs Food Pantry is essential and much appreciated. Thank you for providing assistance to our neighbors in need.

Belgrade's population increased by 65 persons from 2849 (2010) to 2914 (2016), a 2.3% increase.

Rome's population increased by 31 persons from 1010 (2010) to 1041 (2016), an increase of 3.1%.

Interesting statistics -

- In 2017 Belgrade had 54 registered households - in 2016 Belgrade had 58
- In 2017 Rome had 34 registered households - in 2016 Rome had 35
- In 2017 88 registered households total - in 2016 93 registered households
- In 2017 - Purged files - 32 registered households did not visit the pantry in 2017 (
- In 2017 - we had 480 visits (weeks of food) - in 2016 we had 431 visits (weeks of food)

All of this tells me those who need our services are attending on a regular basis.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tony Mastromarino

Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
United Methodist Church
67 Main Street
P.O. Box 133
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918

Our Mission is to live our experience of God's love
in all that we say and do...

Our Vision is to be a growing spiritual faith community in the manner of
Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...