



Rectortown Reporter

January 2023

From *the Pastor*

New Years – A Time for Reflection

Recommended Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14



The New Year is here; welcome to 2023!

I am sure you are very familiar with the idea of making a New Year's Resolution. I know I have never composed a list as a resolution, but I believe there is something to taking time at the beginning or end of the calendar year to consider what we could do differently. Taking time to reflect at the beginning of the year or anytime during the year is essential. I know that I have realized my priorities in such moments; I decided to start reading the Bible daily and commit to praying each day. It can be a time for new beginnings. I believe many of us are looking forward to beginning a new chapter or taking time to set new goals in 2023.

We are not the only ones who look forward to new beginnings. The Jewish people in the Old Testament needed a fresh start after the destruction of Jerusalem. The Temple and their kingdom were destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled and made captives in the Babylonia Empire. In this place, they turned to the words of the prophets for comfort. The Prophet Jeremiah shared, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" God also cares for us and our future too!

We will have a couple of opportunities to read the Bible and study the Scriptures together. A new weekly Pastor's Bible Study will start on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm at Rectortown UMC's Social Hall. We will be working our way through the Gospel of John. In addition, we will have a Scripture reading group gathered monthly on Zoom, the third Sunday of

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JOIN US

9:50 a.m. Sundays
for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture

of the month

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

JANUARY SCRIPTURE PLAN

Day	Gospel Lesson
Jan 1	Genesis 1-2; Psalm 1; Mark 1
Jan 2	Genesis 3-4; Psalm 2; Mark 2
Jan 3	Genesis 5-6; Psalm 3; Mark 3
Jan 4	Genesis 7-8; Psalm 4; Mark 4
Jan 5	Genesis 9-10; Psalm 5; Mark 5
Jan 6	Genesis 11-12; Psalm 6; Mark 6
Jan 7	Genesis 13-14; Psalm 7; Mark 7
Jan 8	Genesis 15-16; Psalm 8; Mark 8
Jan 9	Genesis 17-18; Psalm 9; Mark 9
Jan 10	Genesis 19-20; Psalm 10; Mark 10
Jan 11	Genesis 21-22; Psalm 11; Mark 11
Jan 12	Genesis 23-24; Psalm 12; Mark 12
Jan 13	Genesis 25-26; Psalm 13; Mark 13
Jan 14	Genesis 27-28; Psalm 14; Mark 14
Jan 15	Genesis 29-30; Psalm 15; Mark 15
Jan 16	Genesis 31-32; Psalm 16; Mark 16
Jan 17	Genesis 33-34; Psalm 17; Matthew 1
Jan 18	Genesis 35-36; Psalm 18; Matthew 2
Jan 19	Genesis 37-38; Psalm 19; Matthew 3
Jan 20	Genesis 39-40; Psalm 20; Matthew 4
Jan 21	Genesis 41-42; Psalm 21; Matthew 5
Jan 22	Genesis 43-44; Psalm 22; Matthew 6
Jan 23	Genesis 45-46; Psalm 23; Matthew 7
Jan 24	Genesis 47-48; Psalm 24; Matthew 8
Jan 25	Genesis 49-50; Psalm 25; Matthew 9
Jan 26	Exodus 1-2; Psalm 26; Matthew 10
Jan 27	Exodus 3-4; Psalm 26; Matthew 11
Jan 28	Exodus 5-6; Psalm 27; Matthew 12

>>>From the Pastor continued

the Month called the Journey Class starting on Sunday, January 15th, 6:30 pm. January's scripture plan is in the column to the left on this page. We will also have opportunities to pray weekly at Middleburg UMC on Thursdays starting at Noon on January 26th. There are many ways we can work together to grow and seek to follow Jesus!

Gracious God,

You hold us in your loving arms. Please help us as we seek to begin a New Year by reflecting on how we can better serve you. We pray this in your Holy Name, One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings,

- Pastor Jonathan



**Pastor's Bible Study:
The Gospel of John
Returns January 17, 2023
Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
at Rectortown UMC's Social Hall**



**Noon Time Prayer
Returns January 26, 2023
Thursdays 12-12:15 pm
at Middleburg UMC's Sanctuary**

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Journey Class

Starts Sunday,
January 15, 2023

Meets the Third Sunday
of each Month

6:30 pm on Zoom



SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Saturday, January 14, 2023 10:00 am

All Sessions will be via Zoom

Sessions will include:
Staff /Pastor Parish Relations Committee
Finance Committee
Trustees
Lay Leadership

Blessed in Aging

by Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand
Blessed, who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.

Blessed are those who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow
Blessed are those who look away
When I spilled tea that weary day.

Blessed are they who, with cheery smile
Stopped to chat for a little while
Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are those who never say
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who make it known
That I am loved, respected and not alone.

And blessed are they who will ease my days
Of my journey home, in loving ways.

Thanks to Shirley for sharing this poem.

December Snapshots



One of Pastor Jonathan's Nativity Scenes on display at his open house event—a great time of fellowship with our friends and families from Rectortown and Middleburg!



Roxie lights the advent candle as
Shirley reads the message
on Dec. 18, 2022.



January Birthdays

Tracey Grogg..... January 12
Morgan Hall..... January 10
Kristen Hylton January 09
Nash Kridler January 08

Sarah Ponn..... January 09
Paris Wegdam January 31
Caleb Wilson January 14
Jill Wilson..... January 24

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Jan 2-8		Pastor's Vacation
Thu, Jan 5	7 pm	Admin Council Meeting
Sun, Jan 8		following Worship Service - Sanctuary & Grounds "Un-Decorating"
Tue, Jan 10	7 pm	Called Admin Council Meeting for disaffiliation discernment vote
Wed, Jan 11	6:30 pm	Trustees Meeting
Sat, Jan 14	10 am	Shenandoah River District Leadership Training via Zoom
Sun, Jan 15	6:30 pm	Reading the Bible in a Year Journey Class via Zoom
Tue, Jan 17	11 am	Fig Leaf Meeting
Tue, Jan 17, 24, 31	6:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study, The Gospel of John
Thu, Jan 19	6 pm	Joint Worship Committee Meeting Meeting at Middleburg UMC also via Zoom
Wed, Jan 25	12 pm	Noon Time Prayer Meeting at Middleburg UMC's Sanctuary
Sun, Jan 29	10 am	Fifth Sunday Joint Worship & Fellowship at RUMC



Our Mission Statement

*Serving God through Prayer,
 Action, and Love through Service.*

RUMC wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com by the 15th.