

The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

Volume LXXII Number 3

January 18, 2024



In the journey of life and faith, most good things don't happen magically or suddenly. They are the result of a predetermined desire, an ongoing commitment to work toward the desired goal or outcome.

What keeps us moving forward is Momentum.

The Apostle Paul compare the life of faith to running a race that requires the impetus of momentum:

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly;

I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave

so that after I have preached to others,

I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Is your life characterized by momentum? Are you moving toward your God-given dreams and destiny despite the obstacles and challenges? Our current study series, D.R.I.V.E: Momentum for Life, invites us to look at building momentum in our life and faith as we enter this year of 2024. – momentum that will keep us moving toward God's promised future in every major area of our lives: spiritually, intellectually, interpersonally, vocationally/missionally, and physically through five key practices. (pg. 5)

D.R.I.V.E.

Devotion to God

January 7, 2024

-increase your passion for God
and be fully present to God's presence each day.

Readiness for Lifelong Learning

January 14, 2024

- stretch your mind so that your work will be more creative,
innovative, excellent, and redemptive.

Investing in Key Relationships

January 21, 2024

-invest in key relationships and make a difference in the lives of others.

Visioning for the Future

January 28, 2024

-envision more toward God's purpose and direction for your future,
persevering despite opposition and resistance.

Eating and Exercise

February 11, 2024

-Make a disciplined commitment to healthy eating and exercise habits.

"I am convinced that every follower of Christ needs to find self-management practices that create momentum for life. The D.R.I.V.E. elements keep us moving with momentum towards God's promised future, and can be effective tools in that motion forward. (pg.11)

*Sermon and Study Resource: *momentum for Life* by Rev. Michael Slaughter, Abington Press, 2008.
Article taken from pages 5, 11 of Michael Slaughter's book: *Momentum for Life*.



Scripture as Art RETURNS

January 21, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Online – Code available next week.

A ministry that was reflective and popular prior to our pastoral transition was *Scripture as Art*. Let's see if it is still meaningful and expands our spiritual journeys.

It is a ministry open to ALL. If this is a new ministry to you, let me explain...

This is a ministry to participate in a low-structure exploration of scripture. It is a way to allow your creativity and imagination emerge as you reflect on a particular scripture. Need to be an artist? – NO! Just be open to the movement of the Spirit.

This is how it works:

1. First think of "art" in broad terms...poetry, coloring, painting, sculpting, weaving, song, dance, and acting.
2. Read the scripture I am naming over the next two weeks. As you read it, pay attention to what calls upon your imagination. Read or listen to the scripture with senses alert. What colors do you picture would be a part of a painting as your expression. What words or emotions stand out to you? What music style and lyrics might sing forth within you? On what aspect of the story does your heart focus?
3. Share your feelings and thoughts in some artistic representation. No talent and skill is judged. It is simple to draw deeper into God's word in a different way and allow God to speak to us through our senses. Allow it to become an act of prayer and/or praise.
4. Invite other friends and family to join you or do something themselves – this is a great intergenerational activity.
5. On the date named, we will share our artistic expression with others online.

Scripture:

Luke 5:17-25 (Common English Bible)

¹⁷ One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ¹⁸ Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, "Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!"

²² Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, "Why do you fill your minds with these questions? ²³ Which is easier—to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you will know that the Human One^[a] has authority on the earth to forgive sins"—Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home." ²⁵ Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

Now let us reflect and create...join me and others online Jan. 21st at 1:00 p.m. - Jill



January 21, 2024
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Abby DiNapoli, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Ruth Sheckler

Usher: Chip Stoll

Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker

Lay Reader: Ron Danielson

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney by Robin Whitney & Tommy Vignola.

Given in honor of Carli Brush Stoll's 25th birthday by her parents.



January 28, 2024
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Jim Scisco

Usher: Gerry Busfield

Acolyte: Ashley Bailey

Lay Reader: Bob Crowther

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Gorra & Soon Hur

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Mae & Harry Duerrler by Kitty Amato.

Given in celebration of the birthdays of Alice Timms (1/28) & her son, Scott (1/29).



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

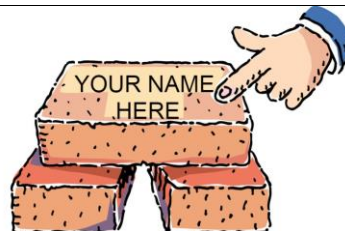
January 21-January 27

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

! Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



Thank you to all who helped with Donna Hulse's memorial service and the repast afterward. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

If you would like to purchase a personalized brick for the Prayer Garden, please complete the form attached to this week's Cornerstone on or before February 25, 2024. The bricks will be dedicated to the Prayer Garden at the sunrise service Easter morning.

Questions can be forwarded to Gayle Fitzmaier at gaylefitzmaier@yahoo.com.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller**
At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu,**
Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,
Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie
Bruckmann, Diane Maher

Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of January by Diane Maher in gratitude for healthy grandchildren.



Mercy Center Collection

Mercy Center is need of the following items:
applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish, canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils, crackers, dried herbs and spices, canned or dried fruit, feminine hygiene products, soup packets, peanut butter, canned soup, canned stew, whole grain pasta, cereal, rice, canned tomatoes and pasta sauce, tea, coffee, cookies, shelf-stable milk, snacks, & fruit juice. Please place any perishable items in the Fellowship Hall kitchen refrigerator and tell the office that you did so. All other items may be placed in the cart and bin in the church foyer.



Wesley Nursery School is collecting toys for pediatric cancer patients ages 0-2. If you would like to contribute, please drop off items at the church office.



Something to think about:

One kind word can warm three winter months-
Japanese proverb



PRAYER GARDEN

You are invited to pray in the Prayer Garden, taking whatever time you need in this holy space, appreciating God's presence in nature.

Prayer focus for January:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

OUR JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



The Little Free Pantry

Items Needed!

Please think of stocking cooking oil, soup packets and ready to heat soup, rice, fruit juice, snacks, jugs of water, and pet food in the bench.

A good idea this week:
Salt & pepper



If you would like to sponsor our World Vision child, Tsedalech, for a month in 2024, please contact the church office. Sponsorship can be in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion. Cost is \$39; checks made out to the church.

