

Living Like Disciples

Jesus called some common fishermen to be his disciples. They really were not anything special, nor did they hold significant titles in their society. They were common people--just fishermen who caught fish to sell for a living.

One common tendency Christians have when reading the Bible is to distance ourselves from the text or story. In other words, we tend to believe that all the people of the Bible were extra-special and holy people. We forget that many of the people God used were human just like you and me. Sometimes they even got in trouble, too!

When we look more closely at the band of twelve disciples, we quickly discover that this was not an extraordinary lot. These disciples included a tax collector, fishermen, one who doubted, one who would deny even knowing Jesus, and one who would betray him!

Throughout the scriptures we find God utilizing common people who were not perfect: Moses, Abraham, Jacob, Ruth, David, Bathsheba, and on and on the list goes, including this list of twelve disciples.

So it seems like anyone can be a disciple of Jesus, no matter one's career or background. If this is true--that anyone can be a disciple of Jesus, then how can we live like disciples today?

First, we have to have a heart and passion for Jesus. The disciples were willing to follow Jesus whenever and wherever he went. This was no small commitment! They left some things behind and devoted themselves to following Jesus every day.

Secondly, they became devout students of Jesus as they watched, observed, and learned from him. Disciples have a teacher. Jesus was their teacher and they learned a lot from him. They asked him how to pray and he taught them the Lord's Prayer as their model. They also learned by example, like when he washed their feet in the Upper Room.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, they did what he did. Throughout their commitment to following him and learning from him, they applied what they learned by emulating him. You could argue that they became somewhat like Jesus as they followed him. They did what he told them to do, but even when he left them to ascend into heaven, they continued living like disciples to their death by continuing to do the things they learned from Jesus.

What have you learned from Jesus? As a follower of his, what have you learned to do? How have you learned to live as his disciple? It is not always easy to live like a disciple, but it is also not that hard really. We know what to do, we just have to have the determination and passion to keep living like disciples every day!



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

February 1
Romans 1

February 2
Romans 2

February 3
Romans 3

February 4
Romans 4

February 5
Romans 5

February 6
Romans 6

February 7
Romans 7

February 8
Romans 8

February 9
Romans 9

February 10
Romans 10

February 11
Romans 11

February 12
Romans 12

February 13
Romans 13

February 14
Romans 14

February 15
Romans 15

February 16
Romans 16

February 17
Joshua 1

February 18
Joshua 2

February 19
Joshua 3

February 20
Joshua 4

February 21
Joshua 5

February 22
Joshua 6

February 23
Joshua 7

February 24
Joshua 8

February 25
Joshua 9

February 26
Joshua 10

February 27
Joshua 11

February 28
Joshua 12

February 29
Joshua 13

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!



To Serve You in February

Greeters 8:30 (all month) Jack & Barb Hinline

11:00 (all month) Joanne Reed

Ushers 8:30

Dick Everitt
Carole Everitt
Diane Rogell
Cliff Rogell

11:00

C.J. Penwell
John Allen
Chris Allen
B.J. Bachman
Ed Whitaker

Counters

Carole Everitt, Bob & Pam Cool

Altar Guild

Carole Everitt & Jackie Herrero

Soup Kitchen

Sunday afternoons at 4 pm

7 ESU NSSLHA - Jeff Weber
14
21 SUMC Youth Group - Vin Zelizo
28 Berean Bible Fellowship - Sylvia Carmella

Tuesday evenings at 5 pm



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	David Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Vin Zelizo
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Custodian	Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team

Chairperson, Sue Scarborough
admin@poconoyca.org

Worship

Chairperson, Pastor Bob Shank
bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com

Property & Building

Chairperson, Dick Seip
relseip@ptd.net

Servant Resource Team

Chairperson, C. J. Penwell
cjpen53@ptd.net

Stewardship

Chairperson, Paul Edinger
paul.edinger@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions

Chairperson, Elizabeth Miller
erm822@gmail.com

Membership & Evangelism

Chairperson, Peggy Stewart
bpstew@juno.com

Lay Leader

Beryl Hellgren
bykoh@verizon.net

MISSIONS

February's Monthly Missions Challenge is "Feast and Famine," benefitting Oasis of Love! We will be collecting non-perishable food items and will be updating our needs list as we learn more from the pantry. Monetary donations are always welcome as well. Please place any donations in the box labeled "Feast and Famine" in the Fellowship room.

Staying with the theme of food aid, please consider supporting the youth group's 30 Hour Famine. \$1 provides food for 1 day. They will go without food for 30 hours between February 26 and 27 to raise money and awareness for food aid programs through World Vision.

Starting on February 14, we will be putting out our Lenten Giving Boxes. All money raised will go to the youth group for their mission trip. We can't thank you enough for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

Christmas Totes - this month's item is Body Lotion. Please place your donations in the trunk in the Fellowship Room. Thank you!

Jam is still available for sale at \$4.00 per jar. If you're interested, please see a member of the Missions Team or call the church office.

2016 Pocono Cluster Lenten Services: Scaling the Mountaintop of Romans 8
All services begin at 7:00 pm - Featuring a variety of worship experiences
Child care provided each night by trained staff

February 10, Ash Wednesday at Stroudsburg UMC-Pastor Paul Crikelair

February 17, Contemporary Worship at East Stroudsburg UMC-Pastor Bob Shank

February 24, Love Feast at Faith UMC-Pastors Nina Patton-Semerod and Candy LaBar

March 2, Healing & Anointing Service at Cherry Lane UMC-Pastor Dottie Stem

March 9, Taize Service at Wooddale UMC-Pastors Candy LaBar and Nina Patton-Semerod

March 16, Featuring Early Hymns & Prayers at Cherry Valley UMC-Pastor Jim Todd



**Cub Scout Pack 86 Presents Our
Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast**

Treat mom to a Valentine's Day Surprise of Pancakes,
Sausage, Juice, Coffee and Tea served by our Boys!

Saturday, February 13, 2016 • 8:00am-11:00am

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

(Please use the Ann Street Entrance and parking lot)

Adults \$5.00, children 6 and under eat for FREE!





February Birthdays

- 2 Ben Principe
- 12 Diane Rogell
- 14 Cliff Rogell
- 16 Art Schwedler
- 19 Amanda Cunard
- 22 Eileen Butz
- 25 Emily Stewart
- 27 Jean Warner

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office - 421-6020.



Family Promise of Monroe County

Thank you to everyone that helped out with Family Promise during our recent host week in January.

The program would not work without your help - all help is greatly appreciated! Our next week to host families is in March. Please be on the look out for announcements and sign up sheets.



Monday Tea Time Small Group has started up again. Meet at Nancy Haase's home Mondays at 1:15 pm. Call Nancy for directions - 872-9516. Length of study is open ended. Study book is provided, you will need a Bible and notebook. Topic: "Bible

Prayer Study Course" by Kenneth E. Hagin. Description: "Learning to pray effectively is one of the most important things a believer can ever do in their Christian walk. A believer cannot be a success in fulfilling God's purpose in their life if they do not know how to pray according to biblical principles."

Dear friends,

A big thank you to everyone who had us in their thoughts and prayers during Sandra's long illness. The many cards and calls received were very appreciated and comforting. It was so nice to see so many of our church family at her service.

Thanks again.

Ann Litchman

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4



Church Rooms/Closets Organization & Clean up

I'm trying to get a few people to help with cleaning out and organizing some of the closets and rooms here in our church. Some of the closets and rooms are looking kind of messy these days and I was hoping we could straighten them up, get rid of what's not needed and make some room in the closets so that we don't have so much 'stuff' out in the open. Just to give you a few examples: there are still items from the Christmas play in the sanctuary, the lost and found container is overflowing with belongings - if you lost something here in church, maybe it's in that container. Eyeglasses are a particularly popular item in the lost and found. Take a look next time you're here. Whatever is left in the current container, if not claimed in the next 30 days, will be donated to local agencies that can use them for people in the community, etc. The kitchen upstairs has containers, bags, baskets, etc. all belonging to someone out there - take a look - maybe you're missing something from home? I'm thinking we would need more than one afternoon/evening to do this. Maybe a few

Friday nights would work for some of you? Please let me know if you're interested in helping out. The more people we have the less time it will take. Please either call me in the church office or send me an email.

Suggestions welcomed! Thank you all! Jackie



“Newsboys” Concert at Stabler Arena, Bethlehem on Friday, April 8 at 7:00 pm

We hope to have a group from SUMC attending! Tickets are \$20.00 each for groups of 10 or more.

If you’re interested, please contact Vin Zelizo - 570-730-8331 or by email: vzelizo@hotmail.com

Look for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins and next month’s Courier, but be sure to let Vin know of your interest as soon as possible so we have an idea of how many people may go.

Thank you!



Youth Update

This year, February is going to be super! We begin by hosting soup kitchen; filling bowls at SUMC on February 21.

The headliner of our month is the 30 Hour Famine on February 26 and 27. As many of you know, this is our annual event to fight hunger at the global and local levels. The youth raise money to fight hunger, fast for 30 hours, and complete a service project. You will most likely be asked by one of our youth to donate to the 30 Hour Famine. Please prayerfully consider supporting this cause. Since the Famine began in the 1990’s the number of children that die from hunger has dropped dramatically. For about \$35 you can feed a child for a whole month. Just think about that for a minute. For less than it costs to take a family to the movies for 2 hours of entertainment and snacks you can nourish a child for an entire month. Your support makes a difference! More information can be found at www.30hourfamine.org

Our service project during the Famine will be to finish the youth room. As of press time, the youth group is still working out the details of the project with the Boy Scouts and the Building and Property committee. One thing is for sure, the room is going to look great when this collaboration is finished.

As always, we thank you for your support!

If you have any questions please contact Vin Zelizo.

570-730-8331

vzelizo@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School - Children - Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	1 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	2 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	3 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary	4 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School - Children - Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 1:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	8 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	9 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM M & E Meeting-Lounge 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting-Adult Sunday School Room	10 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service-SUMC	11 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13 8:00 AM Cub Pack Pancake Breakfast
14 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School - Children - Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 12:30 PM Daniel's Dream Team-Lounge 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	15 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	16 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge	17 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Lenten Service-East Stroudsburg UMC	18 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20 5:30 PM M & E Covered Dish
21 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School - Children - Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	22 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	23 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	24 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Lenten Service-Faith UMC	25 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 Youth 30 Hour Famine	27 Youth 30 Hour Famine
28 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School - Children - Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	29 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	1 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	2 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Lenten Service-Cherry Lane UMC	3 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5

The Membership and Evangelism Team
invites everyone
to a

**Covered Dish
Dinner &**



Saturday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m.
(Rescheduled from last month)
(PRIZES will be awarded!)

We'd like you to bring:

A Batch of Chili, or a Side (cornbread, shredded cheese,
corn chips, rice, salad) or a Dessert

Help us plan:

Sign up at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office
(570-421-6020) and let us know how many will be coming
and what type of dish you plan to bring. If you signed up last
month, just let Peggy know if you plan to attend on 2/20/16.

As usual, we will provide:

Beverages (iced tea, punch, coffee),
and paper plates, cups & plastic ware.

Questions??

Contact Peggy Stewart 570-424-0625 or bpstew@juno.com

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES NOW!



Help our Worship Committee create the Easter flower display by ordering one or more plants at \$10.50 per plant. Your order will help us bring beauty to our Easter worship and celebration of the Resurrection. Thank you.

✂-----

EASTER FLOWERS
(Ordering deadline, February 29, 2016)

I/We wish to order _____ Easter plants at \$10.50 each.

In Honor of: _____

Presented by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Presented by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Presented by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Presented by: _____

****MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER** (Please make your check payable to Stroudsburg United Methodist Church and note for Easter lily in the memo portion)**

STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
547 MAIN STREET
STROUDSBURG PA 18360
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2016

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 122
Stroudsburg, PA**

February