

March 2025

# METHODIST MESSAGE

## Pastor's Page...

### UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

#### INSIGHT

The inspiration of the Scriptures is an astonishing concept to consider. God, in his matchless wisdom, breathed out the words of the Bible by the Holy Spirit (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*; *SEE Matthew 22:43*) while utilizing personalities, experiences, and even vocabularies of the individual writers. Over a span of about fifteen hundred years, God used forty different writers to produce a book that has a single and clearly coherent message: God's love and rescue of His lost and broken creation. More specifically, that message focuses on the rescuer, Jesus Himself. The Old Testament points to and prepares the way for Him, and the New testament explains His person and work. The Bible is so much more than a collection of sixty-six random books of religious history. It's a cohesive message of redeeming grace, accomplished through Christ.

Visit [ODBU.org/Bl105](http://ODBU.org/Bl105) to discover more about the Bible.

How important is the Bible? It's so vital that people in many countries risk their lives to translate it into their native languages. Often, these are ordinary believers in Jesus who face arrest for translating the words of Scripture into a heart language others can understand.

One female translator from a country hostile to believers in Jesus said, " I must complete this work. I want to see my beloved ones experience salvation in Christ." And a man who organizes regular citizens to clandestinely translate Scripture explains that the Bible is essential to growing mature believers in local churches: "you can start a church, but... (without) the Bible in its heart language, it will typically only last one generation."

Why are they doing this? Because there's no other book like the Bible. Its preservation through the centuries is unique. Its authenticity and its representation of the human heart is accurate. It's "alive and active... (and) judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (*Hebrews 4:12*). And "all Scripture is God-breathed" (*2 Timothy 3:16*), inspired by Him. And most important, it reveals the source and reality of "salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (v.15).

Let's read, cherish, and live by the Scripture. And as God provides, let's help those around the world receive it and understand it.

*Dave Branon, Our Daily Bread, March 2025*

*Pastor Billie Lou*

# How to Study the Bible

One excellent way to study the Bible is called the inductive method. The strategy is comprised of these steps: observation, interpretation, and application, in that order.

## OBSERVATION

**1. What does the context say?** Collect as many facts as possible about the context. Don't take anything for granted. Ask questions: Who? What? Where? When? How? What logic indicators can be marked in words such as *therefore, then, and, also, but, however, or nevertheless*? What recurring words indicate a main idea? What elements, arguments, or illustrations does the author use?

## INTERPRETATION

**2. What does the text mean?** After we've collected the facts, we ask, "What does the author mean by these words as they relate to the words that precede and follow them? What was his intent? What is the context?" A word is best understood in the way the author used it. Now the Scriptures come alive with the pulse and throb of the author's own heart and intent.

## APPLICATION

**3. What does this text mean to me personally?** Only after discovering the meaning of a text in its own time and place should the student ask, "What does this mean to me?" Distinguish between cultural facts and timeless principles. Focus on the main idea. What are the primary issues of the heart? What does this say about my relationship to God? As we answer these questions, the Bible comes alive with meaning and significance.



United  
Women  
in Faith

Dear Friends,

United Women in Faith had their first business meeting of 2025 in January. Discussion and action included:

- 1) to continue hosting class reunion dinners if requested
- 2) To not have a cookie/candy sale in Spring (Easter)
- 3) To host a Potato Bash after church on March 16.

The Potato Bash is the third Sunday in March (March 16th). It will replace the monthly brunch and is a donation event. Proceeds go toward United Women in Faith mission projects. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to:

- ◆ Carrie Knause Circle for making valentine snack bags for our nursing home and shut in church friends.
- ◆ Mary Reichard for donating a roaster with a stainless steel liner.

Winter has found us navigating cold, winter weather. Officially, Spring begins March 20th. Experience tells me we will still get some blistery days but each day is one day closer to warm days and more sunshine. In the meantime; make your own sunshine with positive thoughts!

Blessings,  
Sue Baker



#### CMU WESLEY STUDENTS MISSION TRIP

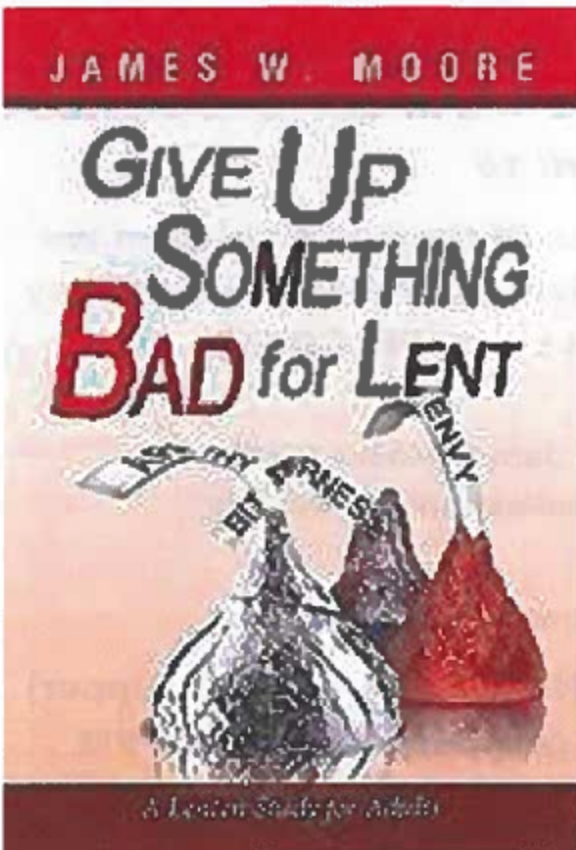
We collected \$203.42 by a noisy offering along with a \$100.00 donation, totaling \$303.42 for the CMU Wesley students spring break service trip to North Carolina to help with hurricane clean up. What a wonderful group of young adults!



#### COMING SOON ....

We will be having a second, special newsletter highlighting the teams, the members and a summary of the team's purpose. Please tuck this special newsletter away some place safe so you will have the information in the future, if needed.





The joint Worship Teams have picked the study *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by Rev. James Moore (UMC) as the theme for **LENT 2025** for both the Sunday sermon series and a mid-week study.

Many Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and as a spiritual discipline during the 40 days of Lent (Sundays are not included.) Often things like chocolate, ice cream, shopping, smoking, etc. are given up sacrificially so that we will be able to enjoy them once again after Easter. Rev. Moore challenges us to take it further—to give up something we are better off not doing at all. We will seek God’s help individually, and together, to focus on eliminating a habit or attitude that is destructive in our lives. Imagine giving up character traits, that we all have, like envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. Our lives can be so much better—we can be more Christ-like, more like what God needs us and wants us to be!

Wednesday, March 5	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	– Lent begins
Study #1	Wednesday, March 12	<i>Give Up Something Bad for Lent</i>
Study #2	Wednesday, March 19	<i>Give Up Harsh, Condemning Judgements</i>
Study #3	Wednesday, March 26	<i>Give Up the Enemies Within</i>
Study #4	Wednesday, April 2	<i>Give Up Running Away</i>
Study #5	Wednesday, April 9	<i>Give Up a Bad Habit</i>
Sunday, April 13	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
Study #6	Wednesday, April 16	<i>Give Up Pettiness</i>
Thursday, April 17	<b>Holy or Maundy Thursday</b>	
Friday, April 18	<b>Good Friday</b>	
Sunday, April 20	<b>Easter</b>	<i>Wrap Your Arms Around Something Good for Easter</i>

Afternoon classes will be at the SLF facility from 2-4pm, Evening classes will be at the BUMC facility from 6-8:30pm with a simple supper. If you are interested in attending the Lenten Adult Study, there is a sign up at the table in the Gathering Area or you may call either office to enroll.

## Upcoming Events:



**Tuesday,**

**Wednesday, March 5th - ASH WEDNESDAY**— ashes and prayers can be received from 7-11 am at the East entrance of SLFUMC or from **12-1 pm or 5-7 pm at portico entrance of Breckenridge UMC**

**Sunday, March 9**—Daylight Saving Time Begins

**Sunday, March 9**—Sunday Brunch—@ BUMC

**Wednesday, March 12**—Dorcas Circle Meeting@ 1 PM  
Lenten Adult Study Class #1; 2-4 pm @SLFUMC  
6-8:30 @BUMC

**Thursday, March 13**— ULT host elected leaders dinner 6PM @ BUMC

**Monday, March 17**— Happy St. Patrick's Day

**Wednesday, March 19**—CK Circle Meeting @ 9:30 AM  
Lenten Adult Study Class #2—2-4@SLFUMC  
6-8:30 @BUMC

**Wednesday, March 26**—Lenten Adult Study Class #3 2-4 @ SLFUMC  
6-8:30 @BUMC



**Dave & Mary Beth Locke**

March 8, 1980

**Mike & Jackie Cooper**

March 16, 1985

**Jeff & Karen Short**

March 27, 1993



### United Women In Faith Potato Bash

When: **March 16, 2025** after church service

Where: Fellowship Hall @ SLFUMC

Cost: Donation only



Don't Forget...  
Sunday, March 9 —  
Move your clocks 1  
hour ahead

**8. Isaac Bramer**

**8. Cita Chamberlain**

**11. Mary Ruth Gay**

**18. Waylon McGill**

**21. Larry Katt**

**23. Emersyn McGill**

**27. Brenda Sherwood**

### FELLOWSHIP HALL

If you are in need of having the Fellowship Hall's heat regulated, please call Mike Cooper (989) 395-4003 or Nancy Gee (989) 620-1875. Mike or Nancy have the ability to adjust the heat remotely.

**SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:**

Nancy—Thursday 8am-1pm

**Email Address:**

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

**THE METHODIST MESSAGE**

**“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”**

**First United Methodist Church**

125 Third St.

P.O. Box 248

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-842-3632

9:30 AM worship

**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”**

**\*\*Please notify the church if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.**

United Methodist Church  
125 Third St.  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
Return Service Requested

