

## ***“Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.”***

— I Timothy 4 : 13 (NASB)

One of my seminary buddies is the pastor of a church in North Carolina. He recently made a post on Facebook, challenging his congregation to make it their goal to read through the Bible during 2024. He encouraged his people to use an app for



YouVersion®  
The Bible App™

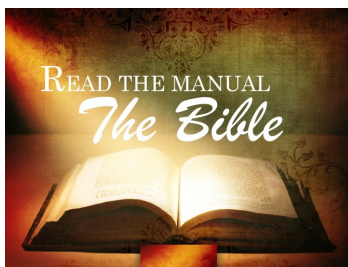
Official App of The Bible Series

their phone called YouVersion. He said that it can be downloaded for free, that it has many different translations of the Bible, and it offers different reading plans.

It also has a place on it where the user can store reminders for prayer. I had never heard of this one before, but it sounds pretty good. I believe I'm going to check it out. Maybe you can, too.

I've used some different types of reading plans in the past. Honestly, I don't think you can go wrong when it comes to making a plan for reading the Scriptures. We need to daily ingest the Word of God, for the sake of our spiritual nourishment. It works just like regularly eating meals. We have to take in the appropriate amount of vitamins, calories, and other nutritional essentials so our bodies can stay strong and healthy. The same is true for our spiritual condition. The discipline of Scripture reading is a non-negotiable when it comes to growth in Christ. So many people have said to me, "I don't

read the Bible because I don't understand it." And my answer back to them is usually, "No, you don't understand the Bible because you don't read it." It's like reading an owner's manual for a new car



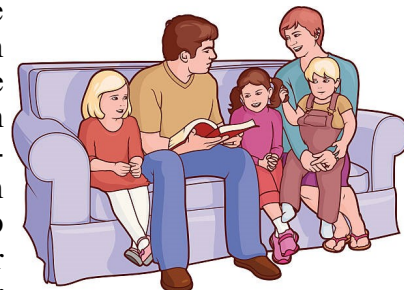
or a new appliance you put into your home. Once you read the manual, then you'll know how to operate it, where the buttons are, what all of the displays mean, and how to overcome a problem if you see a warning light.

Understanding God's Word takes time and effort. But what could be better than knowing God's will and plan for your life? We learn these

things when we get serious about reading His Sacred Word. I have to be honest; it doesn't happen overnight. It can sometimes take what seems like eons to comprehend some of the teachings that the Scriptures provide. But, when that little light finally comes on, and we begin to understand more fully what God has intended for us, it brings so much joy.

I had a professor in seminary who taught classes on Christian Education. By the time I took his class, he had been at Asbury for quite a few years. Early on in his tenure, he came to the conclusion that there weren't any really good textbooks that dealt with his topic. So, he wrote one. And that was the text he used for his classes. But, I will never forget what he told us on the first day of the semester. He said, "I know that you all have an extraordinary load facing you in the coming weeks. And I know that you'll have so much collateral reading to do for all of your other classes. So, I want to make a deal with you. Promise me that you'll read my book sometime in your life. That will suffice for me the reading requirement for this class." I learned something that day from Dr. Herb Byrne. A workable plan doesn't have to require a lot of rigorous "dos and don'ts." So, I'm not going to challenge anyone

to find a plan on an app or in a Bible Study booklet or on the interweb. I'm going to challenge each of you to come up with a plan of your own that works for you. Just make it your plan to get into the Word of God daily. Maybe you can read a verse or two before breakfast. Or, possibly you can find time to read over a passage in the afternoon. I know many people who read the Bible just before going to bed. Whatever the case, read the Bible! As Father Mulcahy (from M\*A\*S\*H) once said, "You can't miss when you've got good material." The Bible is the best material you can find. Let's get into the Word of God!



Pastor Pete

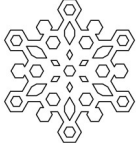




## **Church Leadership Meeting**

Monday, January, 2024  
at 6:30 PM  
in the Fellowship Room

Please plan to attend this monthly meeting if you are part of the Leadership Team.



# *With Thanks*



## **LAST CALL....**

to get those Directory Information forms filled out and turned in. A form can be obtained from the information table or you can just email the information to Rhonda at [secretary@nauvooumc.org](mailto:secretary@nauvooumc.org). Information needed is Name, Address, Phone numbers (home and cell), E-mail address, Children at home and Birthdays and Anniversaries of all in the household.

Also, if you know of someone that we need to include in the Directory like a college student away, shut ins or a family member that still wants to be in our Directory, please let me know.

*Thank you, Rhonda*



Thank you for the prayers, calls and visits during our Mother's illness and during visitation. We also want to thank the Service Stewards for the delicious meal after the funeral.

*Karen, Jeffrey, & Brenda, The Helen Malone Family*

Thank you for your donation to St. Francis Catholic Outreach in memory of Greg Warner. Our mission is to help those struggling with food insecurity, clothing insecurity and being able to meet basic human needs. Thank you for joining us in our mission in Mr. Warner's memory.

*St. Francis Catholic Outreach*

The cookie exchange was wonderful...sorry you missed it, Pete and Trish. Our friends, Doug and Scarlett were very impressed and enjoyed it all!

Thanks to all those who set it up, especially Jennie. That afternoon added to our Christmas spirit and joy. Love, *Susie and Don*

Thank you for your continuous support each May at our scholarship banquet. You have made a difference in the lives of many students. You are an important part of our school community.

Merry Christmas, *Chris Rapp*, Principal PWHS

Thanks again for your willingness to help HOF Orphanage. We appreciate all that you have done. HOF is doing fine right now. The gangs are in other areas now.

Another year is almost gone. How the time has flown by. God has blessed the orphanage. We don't have anyone sick right now and God is supplying the food needs. For Christmas, enough money has come in for all 18 boys, Director and 4 other workers to get \$35 this year plus a bigger meal for Christmas and their New Year Independence Day celebration. We also have a different vehicle. We could not get the pickup truck when the gangs were in our area. We waited one year to take possession. It is very important to have a vehicle. The have to go to many places just to get food and when we need to take all the boys on an outing like swimming in the ocean, all 18 boys can be transported easily in the truck. And also to take evangelist mission trips. Also, we will be able to pick up the needed beds and mattresses which we paid for many months ago.

May God continue to bless you. Have a Merry Christmas! Love, *"Mom" Barb Richter*

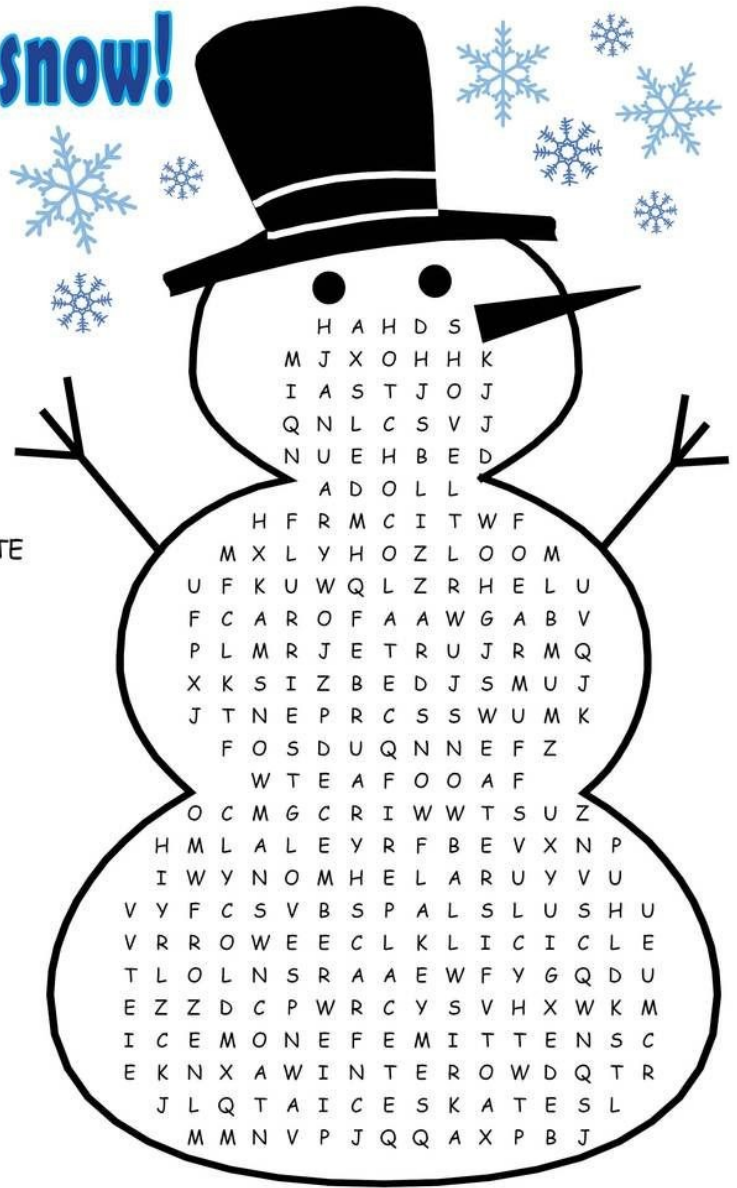




- 1 Becky Sparks
- 1 Pam Richards
- 1 Roy Lucas
- 3 Gabby Sparks
- 4 Bennie Lyons
- 5 Gary Sparks
- 9 Dick Riddle
- 10 Ben Sparks
- 11 Joyce Coleman
- 14 Cathy Coleman
- 15 Caiden Robinson
- 16 Janet Weghorst
- 17 Spencer Cutlip
- 18 Shane Perry
- 18 Thomas Sparks
- 20 Delaney Maple
- 23 Karen Ciraso
- 26 Diann Cook
- 28 Michael Davis
- 28 Connie Shy
- 31 Kayla Ballengee
- 31 Jason Ballengee
- 31 Barb Warner

# Let it snow!

BLIZZARD  
COAT  
COLD  
DECEMBER  
EARMUFFS  
FEBRUARY  
FIREPLACE  
FLURRIES  
FROZEN  
GLOVES  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
ICE  
ICE SKATES  
ICICLE  
JANUARY  
MITTENS  
SCARF  
SHOVEL  
SLED  
SLUSH  
SNOWBALL  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
SWEATER  
WINTER



## ATTENDANCE

December 3	98
December 10	73
December 17	122
December 24	92
Candlelight	116



## OFFERINGS

December 3	\$ 3,075.00
December 10	\$ 4,939.00
December 17	\$ 2,721.00
December 24	\$20,362.65



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\*PayPal app and account required

213362



Scenes from the Christmas play:

## *The Greatest Gift Ever*

We want to thank all of the children that participated in the play on December 17th !

You did a great job!!

Thank you Cathy Coleman, Bev Mignerey and Everyone else that helped in any way!







# Nauvoo United Methodist Church

## 2024 Budget

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>
1000	Global Gen. Ch. Conn Funding	2,158
1010	Allegheny West Prov. Ann. Conf.	6,474
1100	Van	—
1200	Choir Expenses	200
1300	Church Utilities	18,000
1400	Conference Expenses	1,000
1500	Custodial Supplies	300
1510	Custodian's Salary	3,000
1600	Education/Literature	1,000
1700	Evangelism	2,000
1800	Fellowship Activities/Service Stewards	2,500
1900	Flowers/Bible/Gifts	750
2000	Insurance-Church/Parsonage/Van	8,000
2100	Lift Expenses	—
2200	Miscellaneous	2,000
2250	Missions	4,800
2300	Office Supplies/Repairs	1,500
2400	Pastor's Poor Fund	500
2500	Parsonage Utilities	7,500
2600	PERSONNEL Fed/Fiscal Withholding	2,300
2610	PERSONNEL Pastor's Reimbursements	6,000
2620	Insurance: Church Share Pastor	21,000
2630	Pension Church Share Pastor 10%	8,500
2640	Pastor's Net Salary	53,720
2641	Pastor's Health Savings	6,300
2642	Pastor's Pension 7%	5,856
2643	Pastor's Insurances	1,044
2650	PERSONNEL Secretary's Salary	3,000
2660	PERSONNEL State of Ohio W/H	100
2670	PERSONNEL Treasurer's Salary	3,600
2680	PERSONNEL Worker's Comp.	850
2700	Pianist	300
2800	Postage	300
2900	Pulpit Supply	450
3000	Real Estate Taxes	1,800
3100	Scholarship	2,000
3400	Trustee Improvement	10,000
3500	Special Activities	—
3600	Youth	—
3700	Children/VBS	1,500
3800	Disaffiliation Loan Payments	3,600
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$193,902</b>





## Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

Monday, December 11, 2023

**Attendance (7):** Pastor Pete Shaffer, Butch Cook, Son-di Conley, Denise Book, Jennie Entler, Rhonda Hammond, and Jamie Prater.

Pastor Pete called the meeting to order and said the opening prayer.

Minutes of the November Leadership Meeting were reviewed. Jennie made a motion to accept the minutes, Son-di seconded. All approved.

### **TREASURER REPORT:**

Beginning Balance: **\$18,453.55**

Offerings: 22,363.94

Expenses: (12,791.97)

Ending Balance: **\$28,025.52**

Offerings under by \$718.80 per week

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Pete Shaffer

AWAC now has 590 churches; 600 by 1/1/2024

Hillsboro Circuit now has 27 churches. It will probably be split, which means that we may have to move to another Circuit.

1<sup>st</sup> General Conference is in September in Costa Rica.

Worship Celebration on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at the Hillsboro Church from 3-5:00 PM. No agenda just wants to celebrate and worship.

### **SERVICE STEWARDS:** Son-di Conley

Love Meals in January, February, and March.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Karen was going to check on our deeds—All have now been signed. Hopefully they are finalized soon.

Jamie said the closing prayer.

**Next meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

## January Verse of the Month

**9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9–11

ESV

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