

# The Pastor's Post

## Beam me up, Scotty

I admit, I'm having fun as we work through some of the more well-known phrases from the TV shows of *Star Trek* and how they might align with Scripture verses from all six chapters of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

I believe that we are created in God's image, and part of God's image is deriving pleasure from ALL of His Creation and seeing Him everywhere we have a mind to look. Our imaginations are one of those gifts He so freely gives. Along with Star Trek, we are going to have fun with *The Gospel According to Winnie-the-Pooh* and poke around with lessons from *Pokemon* this summer.

Along the way, we're also going to consider *If These Stones Could Talk* as a Lenten series and then a ten-week adventure through the ten plagues of Exodus: their back-story meanings, how the Israelites and we are delivered, and how the plagues relate to today.

There are about 12-weeks remaining of 2023 that are open regarding subject matter and Scripture. Feel free to offer suggestions, we may decide to go in that direction. Maybe not, but suggest anyway.

Also, we have a new music leader/musician in Alexa (Lexi) Smith. Are there any contemporary songs you like that might fit? Ask her. Lexi has offered to help us rekindle our bell choir. Let us know if you're interested.

This year, let's explore strange new worlds and discover grand new truths, seek out new life and new callings, and boldly follow where only One has gone before. Engage ...

Pastor Dave



### Bible verse to remember ...

Proverbs 2:7-8 He holds success in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones. (NIV)

### What's your favorite Scripture Verse? Tell me.

### Inside this issue

The Church Split .....	2
CE Streaming .....	2
Your Ministry Space ...	2
Think about this.....	2
Will You Pray.....	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Book of Discipline .....	3
My Prayer or You.....	4
Pastor's Bible Study ...	4
Scripture that Speaks .	4
Jan. — Mar.+ Sermons	4
Call to Prayer .....	5
Coloring Page.....	5

## What about the church split?

Churches continue to vote to disaffiliate, and others have determined to remain in the auspices of the United Methodist Church. Interestingly, a judge in Georgia has blocked that state's UM churches from disaffiliation until after the 2024 General Conference. With the ability and guidelines that have always been in our Book of Discipline to disaffiliate, and separation of church and state, I don't know how that judgment is even possible.

As I wrote in the last Pastor' Post, I continue to pray for God's guidance on this issue and I am still instructed to follow the guidance of our current BoD and offer Christ to ALL. Whether it is this season of church split or any of the other previous breaks, God was, is, and will always be on His throne.

Galatians 3:28-29 – *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* We are ALL one-in Christ.



### Streaming Message

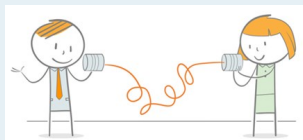
Our online presence is growing, but I feel we are falling short in some of our outreach.

Online worship is for shut-ins, those out of the area, and as a way to "check us out."

The problem is we sometimes get lazy in our evangelism and forget we still need to be invitational to our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

**Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ!**

Contact Clif Smith at [tech@cenewark.org](mailto:tech@cenewark.org)



John 11:35 *Jesus wept.*

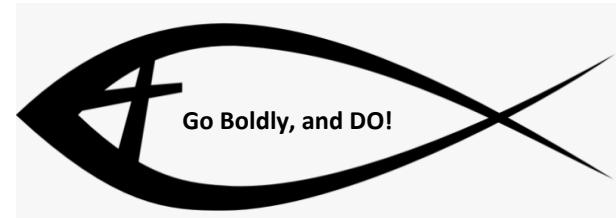
## THIS SPOT SAVED FOR YOUR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Here's a question: if you couldn't fail, what ministry do you have a passion and longing to try? What's stopping you. Let's try it together.

If you think it, let's talk about it.

There's a mission that God has given you a passion for and a mission that He has enabled you to accomplish for His glory. There are people waiting for your response, not alone, but with all of us serving with our own particular talent.

None of us has to do it all. We serve best, when we serve together. I'm all EARS!



### Think about this,

"If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear."— **Winnie the Pooh.**"



**You never know when you'll be called upon to pray.**

It was just a day like any other. Fans tailgated, decorated their cars, painted their faces. There was excitement building: this game had playoff ramifications. Kids were having their cotton candy and nachos with slimy cheese sauce, more than a few adult beverages had been consumed. It was a definite party atmosphere. And then ...

Do you remember where you were when the shuttle Challenger; when 9/11; when Columbine, Sandy Hook, or Uvalde; when ... Where were you when Neil Armstrong; when the Berlin Wall; when Youtube, the first Black President, you heard your first grandchild say ....

Positive or negative or somewhere in between, all days have potential, and start somewhat the same. What we do with them changes like Central Ohio weather. We may be going about a typical day, and in a moment, have an incredible need to pray. Will people look to you in that moment? Will you rise to the occasion, or say, "Nope, not me."

When Damar Hamlin hit the ground and wasn't moving, no one was looking for polished prayer, but someone that knew Who to go to in that moment. Please know this, someone will be counting on you to know Who. Whether it's for praise or for God's help, they will be looking to you.

You were created for that place, that time, and that situation. Don't pray to not be called upon, pray for God to equip you for the moments He calls upon you. He's counting on you!

**Anniversaries & Birthdays**

Alexa Lexi Smith	Jan. 5
Freda Russell	Jan. 9
Mitchell McKee	Jan. 28
Jerry Severson	Feb. 18
Mary Wiard	Feb. 27
David McKee	Mar. 8
Craig/Phyllis Hindman	Mar. 11
Annette Pagura	Mar. 21
Bonnie Polinko	Mar. 27
Ruth Spence	Mar. 29
Becky Westerfelt	Mar. 30
Dave Pagura	Mar. 30

**The Book of Discipline**

Did you know there's a United Methodist Church policy on investments? P. 163(K)

We affirm the importance of international trade and investment in an interdependent world. Trade and investment should be based on rules that support the dignity of the human person, a clean environment and our common humanity. Trade agreements must include mechanisms to enforce labor rights and human rights as well as environmental standards. Broad-based citizen advocacy and participation in trade negotiations must be ensured through democratic mechanisms of consultation and participation.

Our Book of Resolutions also has much to say on the topic. All UM investors and users of financial services, whether institutional or individual, are strongly encouraged to use these guidelines.

That sounds worthy to me!

Christian Endeavor UMC Pastor's  
Deeper Dive Bible Study

**A Prayer for Our Day**

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

Dear Lord:

Thank you for the gift of renewal and hope. We regret the past, worry about the present, and are fearful for the future. In You, the past doesn't matter, You are with us in this day, and hold the future in Your perfect control. Praise God, for the gift of renewal and hope. Amen!



The studies usually last about an hour or so. We dive deeper into the subject from the previous Sunday's Scripture reading and message.

Monday evenings at 6:00 PM , online. Contact Clif Smith at **TECH@CENEWARK.ORG** for connection details.

Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the church sanctuary.

If there are other questions you have about Scripture or a current topic, don't hesitate to contact me. I may not have all the answers, but I'm sure we can have fun trying to figure it all out. **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**

**Scripture that Speaks: The Word of God for the People of God**

**Luke 19:39-40**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” “I tell you,” He replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” NIV

**SERMON THEMES and Schedule; January—March 2023**

**STAR TREK SERIES**

January 8	Ephesians 1	To Boldly Go
January 15	Ephesians 2	The Sum Is Greater than Parts
January 22	Ephesians 3	To Whom Much Is Given,
January 29	Ephesians 4	Humility Is Wisdom
February 5	Ephesians 5	God Is not Logical
February 12	Ephesians 6	Shields Up, Christian
February 19	Ephesians, various	Make It So

**LENTEN SERIES: IF THESE STONES COULD TALK**

February 22	Exodus 32:1-24	If These Stones Could Talk
February 26	John 2:1-11	Jesus: Master Winemaker
March 5	Psalms 118; Matthew 16	A Rock Solid Foundation
March 12	Luke 21:1-11	Invest in Copper
March 19	John 8:1-11	Don't Get Stoned
March 26	Ezekiel 11:17-21	Stone Can Be Made Soft
April 2	Luke 19:28-40	Gravelpits and Auditoriums
April 6	Matthew 4:1-11	Eat Rock
April 7	Matthew 27:50-60	Earth Shook, Rocks Split
April 9	John 20:1-18	The Stone Was Rolled Away

## Thanks to All Who Lift Us in Prayer



**Here's something for all of us to consider:**

**You are a piece of someone's puzzle. You don't know where you might fit in, but you do. They are incomplete without you. A dozen isn't a dozen if Even just one piece is missing. Our spot in someone's puzzle cannot be filled by another. Our spot is ours alone. You are precious, vital, and absolutely necessary. There are no extra pieces in Creation.**

**There is simply no power in all Creation greater than that of God's people lifting their voices together for another. There is no better partner than that of being someone's praying partner. There's no greater trust than that of someone who will pray for another without comment or judgment or breaking confidence.**

**Someone is counting on you today. The prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective. Pray without ceasing, pray for those you love the most; pray for those you love the least. Just pray!**

Christian Endeavor UMC  
1415 Londondale PKWY  
Newark, Ohio 43001



*Christian Endeavor UMC*

## Are You Looking for Answers?

SO ARE WE! Let's search for them together.

There's so much we don't know or understand about the Bible, ourselves, society. Have you ever thought, "I believe God really is good, I just don't why He allows evil." Ever ask yourself, "I want to be better; so, why do I keep stumbling over the same stuff all the time?"

We're just everyday people, just like you. Why don't you join us at Christian Endeavor UMC, 11:00 AM this Sunday. You can offer up a prayer concern or check us out online first if you'd like: **CENEWARK.ORG**.

Contact Pastor Dave at **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**.

### Pastor's Post

1415 Londondale Pkwy.  
Newark, OH 43055

Phone: 614-204-3349  
Fax: 740-964-9636  
E-mail: [dapagura@insight.rr.com](mailto:dapagura@insight.rr.com)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

