



St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

New Heights By George MacDonald

Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Long delays in the life of faith can wear us down. Our faith itself doesn't grow cold or heavy, but our assumptions and misperceptions about God's timing and means can seem to choke the faith out of us and leave us awfully disoriented. We long for resolution and fulfillment and God's plans so often seem to stretch the process out. We become weak, tired and powerless, wondering how long we can continue holding on.

God offers encouraging words to the weak, tired, and powerless. He promises new strength, soaring heights, and a spirit of endurance. He energizes our legs for the distance, revives our hearts with expectations, and reaffirms his purposes once again. Like a marathon runner gets to that point of exhilaration where he or she forgets the pain and fatigue of the race, renewed faith takes us to new heights. We feel as if we could wait forever though we hope we won't have to. The assurances of God give us patience and joy in the meantime.

How do we get to such heights? They are a gift for "those who trust in the Lord." The more we exercise trust—that place of rest in the spirit that comes when we

lean back into his goodness—the more our strength and energy are renewed. We can't ascend to new heights by trying, and we can't give rest to our legs by stopping. But when we feel like we can't go back and can't go on, we can remember the kindness and faithfulness of the one we believe. We can reaffirm our trust in him and discover his strength for our need.

Whenever you find yourself in that awful, awkward place of not being able to move forward in faith and not being able to go back to the beginning—that sense of being stuck or suspended without any resolution in-sight—reaffirm your trust. Tell God you need strength and ask him for encouragement. Soon enough, your energy will return, your wings will spread, and you will see from a higher perspective. Your faith will look different from above.

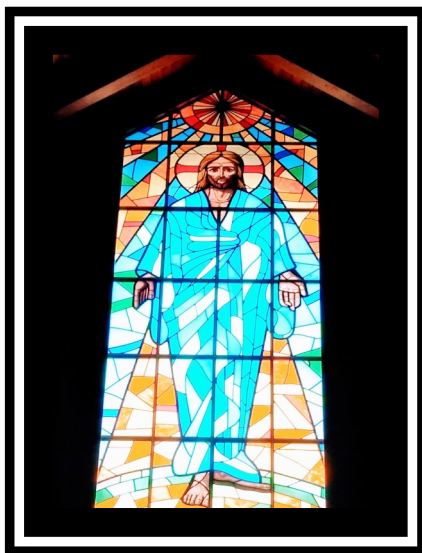
The principal part of faith is patience.

GEORGE MACDONALD

When I read this devotional, that old adage "Patience is a virtue" comes to mind. What also comes to mind is that I have never really had that virtue. I think in my older age I have developed a better degree of patience. I am always laughing and chastising Sarah and Emily for their lack of it but then I remember how I was.

April 2025

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Devotion (cont.)

Isn't the world we live in today geared for lack of patience? We can "Google" or use "AI" (artificial intelligence) to find the answer to any question we have instantaneously. If we want to watch a movie we can find it immediately on one of the internet movie services. At one time, at least, we had to go to the store and rent one. If you want food, you can get it delivered to your house in just a few minutes time. Amazon will deliver most things you order in just 2 days time. Not much patience necessary anymore!

God has a tough job competing with all the world has to offer today! Maybe He needs a direct line so that He can answer our prayers instantaneously! I'm kidding, of course. But no wonder we have a difficult time as Christians waiting for God to answer our prayers. BUT God does. In HIS time, on HIS terms, according to HIS plan.

Our job, as a Church Family and as Christians, is to pray for those who are "feeling fatigued" and help feel God's presence when maybe they don't.

We have all been there. We have all felt like we have run a "marathon" and don't have the strength to take one more step. Whether it is due to an illness, the loss of a loved one, stressors in life, or other issues God is still there and He hears you. Sometimes His timing is not our timing and waiting is the most difficult part, especially when we are tired and broken.

If you are struggling with "fatigue" of faith, ask God for strength and encouragement. Send out prayer requests in our prayer chain. Let our wonderful church family pray for you! Before you know it, you will be "running a marathon" with new "faith" legs and soaring with wings spread. I think our faith will look AWESOME from this "higher perspective", as the writer states. Don't you??

Blessings

Sondra

GARAGE SALE & CRAFT FAIR/CAR SHOW-

St. John Family

It's that time again!! Yes, you got it...Garage Sale and Craft Fair/Car Show! Planning is starting and dates have been set. The Garage Sale is June 6th and 7th. The Car Show and Craft Fair is on Oct. 18th.

As you do your spring cleaning, look for things you would like to donate to the Garage Sale. Please do not send clothes. If you have items to donate, you can drop them at the church. Sondra is there on Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am to 4 pm.

Please mark your calendars with these dates so you will be available to volunteer. We will need many helpers to pull off these events. Our church family is always wonderful about providing what is needed. Please be in prayer about your role to help.

If you have questions, please contact Beverly "Memaw" Plain, 270-302-4999.

St. John Singles Group

The St. John's Singles Group met at South Bar-B-Que at 11:30 am on Dee's Diner for a time of food and fellowship in February. This month of March, we will be meeting at Ole the 15th. Hope to see you there for some good food and fun.

ST Benedict's and Help Office News

Thank you for your support of St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter. Because of your donations and support we are funded through July. St John is able to feed about 50 men on the first Monday of each month. It takes about \$125 to serve ham and cheese sandwiches, lettuce and tomatoes, potato salad, beans and ice cream. The meal is very well received by the men and it is always a blessing for those who serve the meal. Thanks to everyone who serves a meal, donates monetarily, or prays for these men.

The Help Office is continuing to see increased levels of need. I am part of the Monday crew that works filling food orders in the food bank. Any food or hygiene items left in the cloak room will be taken to the Help office. There is always a need for crackers, baked beans, instant potatoes, laundry pods and dish soap.

Thank you for your support of St Ben-

edicts and the Help Office.

Vicki Hast

The dates we serve at St. Benedict's are

| | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Apr. 7 | May 5 | June 2 | |
| July 7 | Aug. 4 | Sept. 1 | Oct. 6 |
| Nov. 3 | Dec. 1 | | |

Not sure about the dates, check out the calendar feature on our website,

stjohnnum.org .



RECIPES

Crockpot Steak Bites

Ingredients:

2 lbs. beef sirloin cut into bite-sized cubes

2 tbsp. olive oil

3 garlic cloves minced

1 cup beef broth

1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce

1/4 cup soy sauce

2 tbsp. brown sugar

1tsp. Smoked paprika

1 tsp. dried thyme

Salt & pepper to taste

For serving:

Rice or mashed potatoes.

Directions:

1. Cut beef, pat dry and season generously with salt and pepper.
2. Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Sear the bites in batches until browned on all sides.
3. Place the steak bites into the crockpot, add the garlic.
4. In a mixing bowl, whisk the broth, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, brown sugar, paprika, thyme and pinch of pepper. Pour the sauce over the ingredients in the crockpot.
5. Cover the crockpot and cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours, until the steak is fork tender.



FAMILY LIFE

Spring is officially here! The weather may tell us differently but we know a re-birth is coming!

April—Put on your bowling shoes (or rent them) or your cheerleading face for an early evening of bowling. Afterward, meet at Freddie's for a bite to eat. Time and date TBA.

May—Anyone in the mood for a Potluck? We will celebrate the Mexican “Cinco de Mayo” holiday after church on May 6th with good food and fellowship. If you have any decorations the committee can use to “set the mood” please place them in the Fellowship Hall by May 1st. The décor may be colorful, but

they may not be all Mexican. Bring what you like to eat—it is a true potluck.

June—the church is busy with the garage sale and Annual Conference this month. Following these even another Game Night is planned for the 29th with a variety of board games for the ages 3 and up. Join us—we had a blast last year. Details TBA.

Looking forward to all that Spring brings—

Dorothy Koepplinger

270-401-8702

CHOIR NOTES

Finally!! April Showers bring May flowers!! We should have so many flowers in May. This rain is really causing so many problems for so many. I pray for the people under water and dealing with the flooding. What a huge mess this has caused! I remember the drought in the fall and have always heard that Mother Nature balances herself out. I am assuming this is the balance but it seems like a lot. Maybe now that April is half over, the sun will shine and we will get lots of vitamin D.

Coming this month is our Easter Cantata, “Worthy Is The Lamb”. We will perform it on Sunday, April 20th during the service. We will have a few more practices before the

performance; Saturday, April 12 @ 10 am and Wednesday, April 16 @ 6 pm. There may be other special called practices, but those are the ones on the calendar so far. If you are interested in making a joyful noise and worshipping God with others, come join us on Sunday mornings. We love each other, laugh with each other and love the Lord. You will leave with a great feeling about your week!!

Blessings

Sondra Jones

Food & Fellowship

Here it is ... the schedule for the 2025 Supper Club. We meet once a month for dinner at a local restaurant. Food and fellowship is had by those who attend! Here are the dates and locations for this year. You will also find the restaurant choices in our bulletins and on the calendar on our website stjohnnum.org.

See you soon!!

Make sure to get these on your calendar and be ready to have some FUN! All times are 5:00 pm.

Apr. 22 Cracker Barrel

May 27 Olive Garden

June 24 O'Charley's

July 22 New China

Aug. 26 Briar Patch

Sept. 23 Old Hickory

Oct. 28 Cracker Barrel

Nov. 25 Moonlite

No meeting in December!

Supper Club
FOOD & FRIENDS

Methodist Men's News

Thunderstorms with damaging hail was the news of the morning, but 32 ladies and gentlemen braved the weather and joined us for a wonderful breakfast and time of fellowship at our March meeting. As always we want to thank our cooking team for the great food! Our next meeting will be April 19, at 8:30 am. Hopefully, we will have better weather. We would love to see you there! Let's remember those who are not

feeling well, and pray for a quick recovery. Blessings to all.

Jim



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Garden of Gethsemane
 Mount of Olives
 Last Supper
 Pharisees
 Passover
 rooster
 Herod
 tomb

The Good Shepherd
 Kingdom of God
 Ressurrection
 Sanhedrin
 Calvary
 Pilate
 Jesus
 sin

King of the Jews
 Mary Magdalene
 Lamb of God
 Barabbas
 crucify
 blood
 Peter

crown of thorns
 Roman soldiers
 disciples
 parables
 Prophet
 cross
 Satan



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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We're on the Web!
www.stjohnum.org

Check us out on Facebook!

Twitter: stjohnumc1

Apr.13, Palm Sunday
Apr.15, Singles @ Ole South @
11:30 am

Apr. 17, Maundy Thurs. Serv.
@ 5 pm

Apr. 19, M. Men's Breakfast @
8:30 am

Apr. 20, Easter Cantata @ 10
am

Apr. 21, Fam. Life Mtg. @ 5 pm

Apr. 22, Supper Club @ Crack-
er Barrel @ 5 pm

Apr. 28, Mount. Miss. Pick-up

