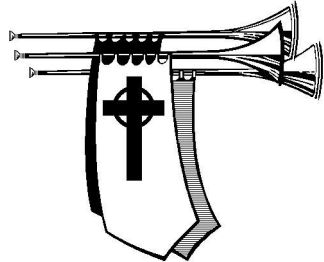



 Trumpet Call
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 1621 Thornton Ave.
 Butte, MT 59701
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED


Non-Profit
 US Postage
 PAID
 Butte, MT
 Permit No.
 300



TRUMPET CALL

April 2024
**ALDRSGATE UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**
 1621 Thornton Ave., Butte - (406) 782-2425







Aldersgate's Annual Rummage Sale
 will take place Friday, April 26 from
 5 PM to 8 PM and Saturday, April 27
 from 9 AM to 3 PM.

**RUMMAGE
 SALE**

Items can be donated as soon as
 April 22 and as late as April 26.



EMAIL
 If you need to contact us via email, please send it to:
aldersgatech@outlook.com



Line dancing will take place in
 the gym on Wednesdays starting
 on April 10 from 6:30 PM to 8:00
 PM.

**LIVE
 DANCING**



22: Dave Andersen & Mary Harsh



- 01: Nancy Cass
- 03: Seth Leypoldt
- 06: Elaine Schnell
- 09: Debbie Fisher
- 09: Joyce Kuecks
- 16: Phylis Rice
- 18: Cookie Jordan
- 21: Alice Peterson
- 23: Dan Lambert

- 24: Dorothea Vail
- 24: Joyce Clemo
- 25: Marilyn Paffhausen
- 27: Sherry Sullivan
- 27: Diana Surman
- 28: Sheryl Tremis
- 29: Ryley McLaughlin



Seth's Message

We all mark time in various ways. We are human and it is natural to think back over our lifetime. I have used the analogy of the bookmark that was shared with me by a colleague once. He was leading a devotional and had these bookmarks with him and mentioned to us that we use bookmarks to pause where we are reading or something we want to come back to. I have always thought of our past as bookmarks that we can return to. Sometimes the bookmarks are positive such as the birth of a child or the day we met the love of our life; other times those bookmarks signify pain as they “mark” a moment of grief in our life.

There is a third bookmark though that I have been thinking about. Five years ago was 2019. In that year we were living in western Nebraska. Our two older daughters were in college and our youngest was just finishing her freshman year in high school. In 2019, five years ago, was also a year of uncertainty for The United Methodist Church. In spring of that year, a special session of General Conference met in Saint Louis. I will not be rehashing the votes (I already did so in a sermon called “United? Methodist Church”) but the conclusion of that session was a very divided denomination. It was apparent that we were not going to be a united tent with beliefs ranging from conservative to moderate to liberal and spanning 10 million members all over the globe. In 2019 – five years ago – there was a march to the General Conference in 2020 to be held in Minneapolis. There was a hope that we could come up with a church that could stay together but disagree or another plan that would be an amicable divorce. As you might have figured out, the General Conference of 2020 did not happen because of something called COVID!

Sermon Series

UNTOLD STORIES OF THE BIBLE ... Have you ever come across a story in the Bible and thought ... “I’ve never heard that before?” The Bible is a magnificent book and unfortunately there are many stories that we know very well and hear quite often ... think of the Easter story or the prodigal Son. Well, for April we will be looking at some stories – straight from the Bible – that are rarely, if ever, preached from the pulpit. I think we will have a lot of fun this month.

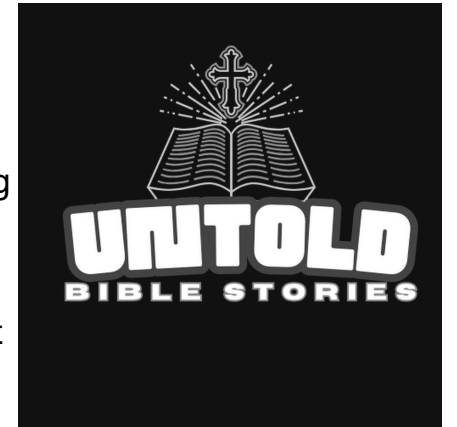
UNTOLD STORIES OF THE BIBLE

April 7th – “Beware of the Tent Peg”, looking at Judges 4.1-9

April 14th – “Lustful Camels and Crackpots”, looking at Jeremiah 2.12-13, 20-25

April 21st – “Elisha has a thin skin”, looking at 2 Kings 2.19-25

April 28th – “What’s in a Name, Really?”, looking at Romans 16.1-16



What does the Bible say about Homosexuality?

You are invited to join us for our study on what the Bible says about homosexuality. We’ve had one meeting where we looked at the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19.1-29) and concluded that it is really about rape and gang violence than anything else. We have five more weeks and we are meeting twice a day. Our next lesson will be during the Sunday school hour at 9 am with a duplicate lesson at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon.

We hold to three very specific rules during our discussions: 1) We respect each other; 2) We understand that others have a different opinion; and 3) We keep our class to one hour.

The reason I am rehashing this timeline for you is that General Conference for The United Methodist Church is finally meeting again; and a lot has happened. We had a global pandemic, congregations successfully petitioned to disaffiliate, and now the church is gathering to meet under very different circumstances. Is the church different than it was five years ago? Yes. Will there be changes at General Conference? Yes. Will things change for the Aldersgate United Methodist Church? No. We have maintained our denominational identity, we continue to preach the Gospel, and we offer ministry to the hurting people of Butte. This hasn't changed.

General Conference is April 23 through May 3 in North Carolina. You can follow the proceedings at www.resourceumc.org. May God be with you and our church just as God was in 2019.

Seth



WAPRIL

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:00 Bernbos Meeting	2 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Mining City Choir	3 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:30 Sandwich Ministry 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day	4 7:00 Ad Council Meeting	5 7:00 Men's Breakfast	6
7	9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 2:00 Homosexuality Bible Study 5:30 Kids/Youth Meal	8	8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day 6:30 Line Dancing	11	12 7:00 Men's Breakfast	13
14	9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 2:00 Homosexuality Bible Study 6:00 Youth Group	15	17 8:00 Women's 4th Day 12:00 SRPC Meeting 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day 6:30 Line Dancing	18	19 7:00 Men's Breakfast	20
21	9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 2:00 Homosexuality Bible Study 6:00 Youth Group	22	24 8:00 Women's 4th Day 5:30 Choir 6:30 Men's 4th day 6:30 Line Dancing 7:00 Ad Council Meeting	25	26 7:00 Men's Breakfast 5:00 Rummage Sale	27 9:00 Rummage Sale
28	9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 2:00 Homosexuality Bible Study	29	30 6:30 Square Dancing 7:00 Mining City Choir			



It is Lent.

As Christians we celebrate two seasons. Christmas and Lent. Lent being the most important, the time of spiritual preparation before Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends 40 days later on Easter (actually 46 days, as Sundays are not included in the count). Lent was intended to be a 40 day time where we set aside a time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

In the Bible, the number 40 holds special significance in the measurement of time. During the flood, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses fasted on the mountain for 40 days and nights before God gave the 10 Commands. The Jewish people spent 40 years in the wilderness after fleeing Egypt, and the prophet Elijah traveled for 40 days and nights to reach the mountain of God in Sinai. Most relevant for us in studying Lent was that the Temptation of Jesus occurred after he spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

It is Lent.

For me that means a time of remembrance, a time where I try and read and reflect on the Easter story every day. For me that means reading and reflecting on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross.

- 1. **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do”**

(Luke 23:34).

- 2. **“You will be with Me in Paradise”** (Luke 23:43).

- 3. **“Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!”**

(John 19:26 – 27).

- 4. **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”**

(Matthew 27:46).

- 5. **“I thirst!”** (John 19:28).

- 6. **“It is finished!”** (John 19:30).

- 7. **“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit”** (Luke 23:46).

It is Lent.

What always strikes me about the last seven words of Christ is that there is no hyperbole, no demands or commands, no regrets or anger, and no preaching. The words reflect no second thoughts, no getting off the cross until the crucifixion was complete, and the sacrifice was made.

Not even for the Son of God. And yet it seems to me that these seven last words are representative of the central values of our faith:

That even in the midst of great injustice, forgiveness is the foundation of the Kingdom of Heaven. That I, we, have never suffered any wrong greater than that suffered by Jesus and that we never have an excuse not to forgive.

That we know we live in a broken world and we long for the day when all will be restored, and paradise will be reality.

That in the end we think about our loved ones, our family, and friends, and even in death, make provision for others.

That Life is hard, sometimes it feels like God is far away, and it is normal to feel forsaken and wonder why.

That Jesus was wholly human, with our same physical needs, and suffered as we suffer, when those needs were not met.

That all things eventually end, death comes to all, and our time should be used wisely so that we can say we accomplished all that we were called to do.

That at the end, we lay down our burdens and trusting in whom we have believed, pass over into the care and arms of a Gracious God.

It is Lent.

Brad Belke

