

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 73rd edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending December 18, 2020.

-----**Announcements and Resources**-----

Announcements

- 1) **Free Methodist Historical Center News** [Click here for the latest update.](#)

- 2) **FM History and Polity** The conference is planning to offer FM H & P in Wilmore or via Zoom this spring in a Friday evening / Saturday format. The dates/times are:
Friday - February 5, 6 - 9p
Saturday - February 6, 8a – 4p
Friday - February 19, 6-9p
Saturday - February 20, 8a - 4p
Saturday - March 6, 8a - 3p

Interested? [Please email me for more information or to sign up.](#)

- 3) **FM Apparel On Sale** The World Ministry Center is having a Free Methodist Logo Year-End Apparel Sale. The sale is for in-stock items only making quantities limited. If you are interested, please place your order as soon as possible. See the information below / attached.

- 4) **A Christmas Message From Our Bishops** [Click here to watch.](#)

- 5) **GRACE Training – For the Prevention of Abuse** A couple weeks ago, the Superintendents Team participated in this training session on preventing abuse, and especially child abuse, in local churches. This is excellent information that would be very helpful to your church leadership.

Below is the link and passcode for you to access the GRACE training. Note that the recording begins with some conversation so feel free to forward to the presentation that begins with Bishop Matt's comments.)

[Training Link](#) Access Passcode: Km+^wH8V

Also, attached / below are two resource lists provided by Rev. Mike Sloan, the GRACE presenter.

- 6) **Our Condolences and Prayers** to Mike and Rachel (Eagle Ridge Retreat Center Board Chair) Brown at the passing of Mike's father, Gene Brown, this week. [You can note the funeral details here.](#)

- 7) **FMC Pastors and Leaders Newsletter** – [the latest edition is available here.](#)

- 8) **Training Session** If you missed the training session on envisioning and developing God's calling on your specific church that was offered to us by Wabash Conference earlier this week, it was recorded and [can be watched by clicking here.](#)

- 9) **An Advent Thought** I read this short piece from Suzanne Bray as part of my devotions the other day, and thought I'd share it with you.

"All men matter. You matter. I matter. It's the hardest thing in theology to believe." –G. K. Chesterton

One of the good things about reading detective fiction, like Chesterton's "Father Brown" stories or the novels of Dorothy Sayers, is that it reminds us of the truth that all of us matter. Even if the murder victim was obnoxious, or completely insignificant in the eyes of the world, enormous quantities of time, money, and effort will be spent in bringing his or her killer to justice because murder is never justifiable

In detective fiction, as in the eyes of God, every life is important. At Christmas we celebrate our God, who became a human being and lived a human life so that all people might know him and find salvation.

Although it is sometimes hard for us to realize how much God loves us and our families and friends, it is often even harder to grasp His equally great love for some other people. How can such a bullying boss or corrupt politician matter to go? Or my friend's violent ex-husband? Or those drug addicts, immigrants, hoboes, gangsters...? We all have our own blind spots-those people we don't see through God's loving, compassionate eyes, but only through the lens of our own prejudices – and maybe those whom we don't see at all, those we somehow don't even notice are there.

Yet the Bible tells us clearly that all people matter so much that if we can't love the ones we have seen, we can't really love God. It's as simple as that. For all people are made in God's image, and, if we look hard enough, we can see him in each and every one of them.

December Birthdays (*that we know of)

Randy Scarborough	12 / 19	Dwight Winter	12 / 20
Al Buckta	12 / 21	Chris Cole	12 / 21
Bea VanValin	12 / 27		

*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to newsouthconference@gmail.com

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: We at Wilmore continue this Sunday in our series, "Here Comes..." looking at Jesus as the Lamb of God, come to take away the sins of the world. John 1 is our text.

Quote: "If we were less of what seems like ease in our lives they would tell more for Christ and souls...We profess to be strangers and pilgrims, seeking after a country of our own, yet we settle down in the most un-stranger-like fashion, exactly as if we were quite at home and meant to stay as long as we could. I don't wonder apostolic miracles have died. Apostolic living certainly has." — Amy Carmichael

Joke:



**Local Family Enraged They
Can't Attend Their Once-A-Year
Church Service This Christmas**

Blessings on your worship this weekend!

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