



Pemberton UMC

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

If You Train it.....

I am your constant companion. I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden. I will push you onward or drag you down to failure. I am completely at your command. Half of the things you do you might just as well turn over to me and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly. I am easily managed-you must merely be firm with me.

Show me exactly how you want something done and after a few lessons I will do it automatically. I am the servant of all great men and women; and alas, of all failures as well.

Those who are great, I have made great. Those who are failures, I have made failures. I am not a machine, though

I work with all the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of man. You may run me for profit or run me for ruin-it makes no difference to me. Take me, train me, be firm with me, and I will place the world at your feet.

Be easy with me and I will destroy you. Who am I? I am habit! (Quoted from John Maxwell, Thinking For A Change.)

As we enter into a New Year, it's a time of reflection of the past year and the hope for the future. If you are like me, there are accomplished goals vs failures (growing edges, well, call them). When I read this part of the book, I thought it was originally about the Holy Spirit, only to realize it was about habits. I began thinking about everything in my life that has become a habit. I also thought about what should be habits, but I struggled with them.

I began to wonder if there were any examples in my life where I created a new habit.

I thought about the week that I lost my church and house keys. I couldn't remember where I left them; they weren't in their normal spot or what I thought was the normal spot. I couldn't get into my house, couldn't get into the church. I asked several people at church if they had seen them. I tried to retrace my steps, and then, one random day, I found them in the window seal of the church. How did they get there? Who knows? I decided that something had to change. I put the keys on a key chain I could put on my wrist; I also found a place where I could leave my keys. It took a while, but with daily practice, I could create a new habit. So far, I haven't misplaced my keys since the start of the new habit.

This speaks to 2 things that I want to point out. First, I had to recognize that my current system wasn't working and needed a plan to change the behavior. Then, when I have a plan, I have to work on the plan. I had to be consistent for many days to get to a place where I didn't. It took a while for me to get the hang of it, but after about a month, I no longer had to make a conscious decision about the keys, I had trained my habit.

So, when I started to think about my keys as a material thing, I realized that I could apply that same thinking with some adjustments to my spiritual journey. Several things would be great as a habit. Imagine continually looking for God throughout the day and imagine that with little effort, you could begin to see the presence of God in every area of your life.

Imagine that whenever someone made you mad or upset, you instantly prayed about the situation. Imagine every time something good happened, you automatically thanked God for it, genuinely and sincerely. Imagine praying without ceasing. Imagine loving your neighbor even when you don't want to, or they seem to give you no reason to.

Now that you have the visual of all the stuff you imagined. Don't you want to make a change? Now, read the first paragraph again and see how to make it a habit. If you tell your mind what it will do and are consistent, habit with the power of the Holy Spirit will take over for you. We can do it if you train it.

Hebrews 12:11, All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy



Upcoming Events

January 7, 14, 28 - Reflections with the Pastor - Immediately following service – 45 minutes - 1 hour Chance to discuss the sermon, topical questions, etc.

January 9 - Administrative Council - Pastors Office - 7:00 PM
(All are welcome to attend)

January 13-Family Fund Day- Wesley Hall 3:00-6pm

January 18- Senior Luncheon - Location TBD - 12:30 PM

January 21- Light refreshments - Immediately following service.

January 25- SPRC and Worship Committee Site Visit
RSVP- Dinner will be served.

February 18- Celebrating our Donors during worship, followed by a covered dish

July 20, 2024- Sight and Sound Daniel 10am-8pm (see sheet below for more details



New Year, New Ideas, New You



I would create New Year's resolutions for myself for many years, not even remembering them by the end of January. However, there are things we can strive for in the New Year. So here is a list of 12 things to consider for 2024.

1. Gain God's Vision - Set Goals for the New Year

Ask God what He wants you to focus on in this new year.

2. Find a Bible Reading Plan

You Version Bible App

<https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans/>

Bible Study Together:

<https://biblestudytogether.com/top-best-bible-reading-plans/>

3. Do Healthy Things

Think about options and start replacing unhealthy choices with healthier ones. Look for things that are better for you physically, mentally, and spiritually. For example, I am spending less time on social media to make more time to read the Bible, pray, or journal.

4. Manage Your Finances Better

Take stock of your finances and consider ways to grow what God gives you. Don't only try to grow what you already have, but look for ways to reduce spending where possible.



5. Listen More

Not only listening more to God: When you're with loved ones, stop what you're doing and listen to their heart.

6. Build Meaningful Relationships

Honor God by loving your neighbor and making meaningful connections everywhere you can. Make this the year of building closer relationships with the people God put in your life.

7. Expand your Horizons

Find ways to broaden your perspectives with new experiences and new people.

8. Memorize Scripture

Choose scriptures that stand out to you in your reading.

9. Becoming a Praying Person

Create prayer books and walls, or put your prayer for the day on a sticky note.

10. Make a Difference

How can I utilize my gifts for the community, family, and friends?

11. Be Open to New Ideas

What can I do differently this year- your year doesn't need to be the same as last year.

12. Develop a Heart of Worship

Choose activities that will live Christ up in your life, and God's peace will drive out anxiety



Member Profile



Name - Sherry Parks

Marital Status - Independent

Where are you from - I was born in North Carolina. Raised in Va Beach. Lived my adult life in Eastampton and Mt. Holly New Jersey.

I have lived in five states that I have memories of North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, and New Jersey. My Dad retired from the Navy so I lived in a few other states when I was very young that I do not recall. My favorite of them all was Va Beach. It was a fabulous place to grow up.

My biggest pet peeve is riding in a car with the windows down for two reasons - in the winter I freeze - all year long I hate when my hair blows in my face.

Some things I like to do for fun are to spend time with my family, teach Savannah new things, explore new breweries and wineries, and read (especially the Harry Potter series).

One thing I would like people to know about me is I have dyslexia pretty bad, I didn't learn to read till fifth grade and struggled my entire childhood to learn. However, after an amazing teacher took the time to teach me to read by memorization I was able to excel in school. As an adult, I attended college and received my master's degree in Education. This is not a brag it is to show others you really can do anything you set your mind to even when your mind works against you.

I think my special talent is graphic arts, instructional design, and teaching adults.

FunTimes



IGNITE CONFERENCE



TRUNK OR TREAT

Preparing for Advent/Christmas



Pemberton United Methodist Church

BREAKFAST With SANTA

SATURDAY DEC 16TH
9 AM - 12 PM

Free Photos With Santa

PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, COFFEE

Donations Welcomed

Pemberton United Methodist Church

SAT. JULY 20, 2024



From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres. *New Script, New Music, New Concepts, New Costumes, New Special Effects, New Everything!*

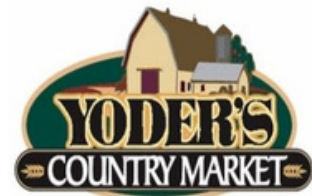


INCLUDES :

- Sight & Sound Theatre Matinee Show
- Buffet Lunch @ Yoder's Restaurant
- Round-Trip Motorcoach Transportation *via JC Tours*
- All Taxes & Gratuities (Except Driver)

ITINERARY

10:00 AM	DEPART: Pemberton, NJ, 45 Hanover St. @ Pemberton United Methodist Church
12:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:30 pm	Depart for theatre
2:15 pm	Arrive at theatre
3:00 pm	Showtime
6:00 pm	Depart for home
8:00 pm	Approx. arrival home



\$167 per person

\$ 116- Children under 10

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

Pastor Tiffany Murphy

856-292-5294



□□□□ _____ **PLEASE FILL OUT RESERVATION FORM BELOW** _____

Sat. 07/20/24S&S Theatre "DANIEL"

GROUP: Pemberton United Methodist Church

NAME: _____ # of People Attending: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: home _____ /cell _____

PEMBERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY

2nd and 4th
Tuesdays
10Am to 12Pm

Donate



The food is a gift, given in the name of Jesus
Christ from Pemberton United Methodist Church

In person Worship Sunday's at 10:45 am You can find
us on Facebook Live (@Pembertonumc.).
We offer Bible Study and Youth Group.

Food Pantry Director: Lisa Challender
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy
Phone: 609-894-8015

PEMBERTON UMC

42 HANOVER ST | PEMBERTON , NJ 08068

[with PastorMyWall.com](http://www.PastorMyWall.com)

Food needed for the Pantry

You are welcome to donate gift cards or cash

Cans of vegetables(including potatoes)

Cans of soup(chicken noodle, Campbells, progresso and healthy choice)

Box cereals(adults and children)

Cans of fruit

Cans of tuna

Cans of spam

Cans of chicken

Peanut butter

Jelly

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Oatmeal

Loads of Love 4th Tuesday by request