February 2023 BEULAHUMC.ORG

BEULAH BEACON

AVOIDING MISCONCEPTIONS

By Pastor Daniel Chun

As you are reading this beacon, we are amid a sermon series called "Misconceptions". Our series focuses on different misconceptions we have about the Christian faith. Ideas and concepts we may have thought to be true but in fact are not entirely true. And this is quite common when we consider the Bible and our understanding of it. For example, a common misconception is the question: "What fruit did Adam and Eve eat in Genesis 3?" A lot of people would instinctively say "An apple". But the truth is that we don't know what fruit it was. It could've been an apple, or it could've been an orange, a pear, or an apricot.

Here's another example: "What sea creature swallowed Jonah?" The immediate instinct is to say, "as whale!". But again, that's not entirely true. Scripture says that it was a "big fish" that swallowed Jonah. It doesn't specifically say "whale", but we often assume it because of the stories and traditions that we have been taught growing up.

These examples I share is not to say that all that we have learned is wrong. But rather, bring to light that there are things in our understanding of God and Scripture that may not be fully true to what we may think. And we, as Christians, are called to commonly reflect on our understanding of God to make sure that what we believe and understand is true to what the Scriptures tell us.

Misconceptions are common. But unfortunately, misconceptions can also lead to major issues. Because a slight misunderstanding about the gospel, can have major impact on our own and the lives of others. So, I would like to offer some practical tips on how we can avoid misconceptions and misunderstandings about the Bible.

1. Read, Read, Read.

There should not be any Christian out there who says, "I have read the Bible so many times that I don't need to read it anymore". There is no Christian in this world that has the whole Bible understood fully. Because very simply, our intellect and understanding does not come close to the complex understanding of God. So frankly, every Christian has something new that they can learn and understand from Scripture. We, as Christians, believe that the Word of God is active and alive. Meaning every time we read it, there is a possibility that something new can be given to us from it. We, as Christians are to read, read, read. That is why even in 2023, we are partaking in a Bible-Reading Challenge. By reading, it will practically clear up common misconceptions we may have had.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LENT

Pastor Don Gibson (Adapted from Rev. Penny Ford)

How do we approach the season of Lent with all of the amazing, mysterious traditions and experiences is a question I ask myself every year? How do we, God's people, make Lent relevant in 2023? It becomes seemingly more difficult each year to connect the liturgical seasons of the church to a world that seems to be running away from tradition. So, in light of the question "how do we approach this Lenten Season," I think a little refresher information might help.

SO, WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. While there in the wilderness, Christ fasted and prayed for 40 days. During His time there, He was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, He was ready to begin his ministry.

WHEN IS LENT?

It's the forty days before Easter; excluding Sundays. Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, officially begins the Season of Lent. Lent begins with a worship service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God and turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that

we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

WHY ASHES?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose, and we become dust. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" which reminded them that sin is uncomfortable and leads to death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered Him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, last year, burning them, and mixing them with a little water or oil.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO WITH ASHES?

At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

TOP TEN LIST: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

- 10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, video games, texting, tweeting, e-mail, and all things electronic for one day every week. (or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
- **9.** Start a prayer rhythm. Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your e-mail. Before you text someone, pray for them.
- **3.** Read one chapter in the Bible each day. (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
- **7.** Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)
- **6.** Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Give the money you save to help others in crisis.

- **5.** Create a daily quiet time. Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
- **4.** Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
- 3. Be kind to someone each day.
- **2.** Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.
- 1. Stop by Beulah each Wednesday (12 noon) during Lent to pray for the local church and our global church (or pray for the United Methodist Church during the lunch hour wherever you are.)

Avoiding Misconceptions continued from page 1 2. Always double check and never assume.

My high school teacher taught me to never assume. She would say "never assume because if you do, it can make an 'a**' out of 'u' and 'me'" Despite the harsh language, she's not wrong. Whenever we assume things about the content of the Bible, it can lead to biblical misunderstandings. It's always important to double check. Get into the practice of going back to the Bible to double confirm the understanding that we have about the Word. For example, were there actually three wisemen in the nativity story? By double checking you will find that it's not clear whether there were three or ten. By double checking, we build a good practice of relying on Scripture to be the conveyor of God's truth, not the things that we assume because we heard it growing up.

Thus, misconceptions are common. However, they can be avoided when we dedicate our time and energy into reading, reflecting, and double checking. Although most misconceptions about the Bible may seem harmless, misconceptions are still misunderstanding that can make a big difference in our understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

For the February issue of the Beacon, I would like to share the story behind a couple of hymns.

Be Thou My Vision begins with St. Patrick. St. Patrick was 16 when he was captured by pirates who sold him as a slave into Ireland. During this time, he became a Christian and entered adulthood knowing Gaelic and the Irish customs. Years later, he escaped and returned home to England where he chose to go back to Ireland as a missionary.

In the year 433AD, on Easter Sunday, a local Irish king made a proclamation that no one could light a candle or a flame in honor of a pagan Druid festival. Patrick, went to a hill and lit a bonfire in honor of Christ. When the Irish people woke up, they could see Patrick's defiance of the king's order. Patrick showed that God's light shines in the darkness. Years later an unknown composer wrote a melody celebrating Patrick's heroism titled "Slane". It was written in honor of Patrick and the hill where he built the bonfire was called Slane Hill.

Tradition says that in the 6th century an Irish Poet named St. Dallan Forgaill wrote a Gaelic poem in honor of St. Patrick titled "Rap tu mo Baile" As the years went by, Slane and Rap tu mo Baile fell into obscurity. In 1905, 1500 years later, Mary Byrone was a university student and found a 14th century copy of "Rap tu mo Baile".

THIS MONTH'S COMMUNION OFFERING



https://www.hearthavens.org/
(From the hearthavens website)

Heart Havens provides residential support to adults with a developmental disability, but it's so much more than a roof and a bed. At Heart Havens, we empower people to discover what they love and pursue their hopes and passions. Whether that's getting involved in community theater, giving back to the community through a pet food drive, or simply having a Super Bowl party with friends, we support our residents as they find a way to make their goals and dreams happen. Your gifts help us provide the people we support with the best life possible-- and even small gifts make a big difference!

SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of February, the Sherbourne Food Pantry is asking for donations of hot/cold cereals and canned/powdered milk. This can include Instant oatmeal, grits, and types of non-refrigerated milks found in the juice aisle of your local grocery store.

For your convenience there is a white donation cabinet located outside, under the Breeze Way, for after-hour drop-offs.

She translated it and the words "Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of my heart" came into view. She set the tune to the music "Slane". The hymn became famous overnight and was published in 1919. In 2019, the world celebrated the 100th anniversary of this beautiful hymn titled "Be Thou My Vision". (The Story Behind "Be Thou My Vision" Pastor Stephen, Sept 23, 2020 Bayview Bible Church https://www.bayviewbiblechurch.org/post/the-story-behind-be-thou-my-vision)

I Believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary was written by William and Gloria Gaither after being inspired by Corrie Ten Boom's testimony of surviving life in the concentration camp of Nazi Germany. Corrie had recalled a conversation when she told her father that she didn't know if she could survive martyrdom and his answer was that God would see her through, if that was what she was called to do. It turned out that Corrie Ten Boom was the only one in her family to survive the horrific concentration camp where she and her sister were sent for sheltering, hiding the Jews, and helping them escape. In 1997, the song was released by the Gaither Vocal Band and in 1999, "I Believe In a Hill Called Mt. Calvary" won Best Southern Gospel Performance at the Dove Awards. ("I Believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary" Is Your Reaffirmation Of Faith In The Face Of A Turbulent Era July 7, Country Thang Daily https://www.countrythangdaily.com/i-believe-in-a-hill-called-mt-calvary/)

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Oyster Roast: \$1,171 was raised during the Oyster Roast on Saturday, January 14. The proceeds from the roast are going to help

Lynn and Sarah Eastwood's work with Neighbors World Outreach's mission in Kenya.

Youth Retreat: The Belong Ministry (youth group) on Martin Luther King Jr. Day had an opportunity to have a one-day retreat that consisted of worship and fellowship. Through the theme - Heart of Worship, the youth explored the heart of worship, empowering them to love and be passionate for God. The one-day retreat was a blessing as the youth are excited for more to come. We continue to pray that our youth will grow deeper with God as they understand greater the depth of God's love for them.

New Member Bee Malone: Please welcome Bee Malone to the Beulah family. On January 1, Bee was welcomed into the congregation during the 11:00 am worship service. Bee transferred from Chester UMC to Beulah UMC.







Admin Meeting: On Tuesday, February 17th 100+ members of Beulah UMC gathered for an informational meeting with the Three Notch'd District Superintendent, Dr. Hyo Lee. This meeting was in response to the request for more information about the Discernment for Disaffiliation Process- a request made by the Admin Board in the November 2022 Town Hall meeting. Dr. Hyo Lee provided a time for Q and A as well as the process for a season of discernment. Following the meeting, and based on the information provided, the professing membership of the church voted to begin the Discernment for Disaffiliation Process. Pastor Don has contacted Dr. Lee regarding the results of the vote and more information regarding the Discernment Process will be forthcoming. Please join us in praying for the organizing of this Discernment Process and consider your own participation. If there are any questions, please speak with Pastor Don.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 03 **Mariners Dinner**
- 07 **Hugging Hearts**
- 09 Finance Meeting
- 13 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 14 Mary Farmer Circle of Love
- 15 Wesleyan Stratton
- 16 Rebekah Fellowship
- 17 Historical Society Of Chesterfield
- 21 Beulah's Best

Prayer Shawl Ministry Springdale Bible Study

Hugging Hearts

UMM Dinner and Meeting

22 **Confirmation Classes Start** Wednesday Worship Meals Start

Ash Wednesday Service

- 23 **UWF Mission Meeting**
- 24 Centenary Kitchen
- 26 **UWF Soup Luncheon**
- 28 **Prayer Meeting**

REOCCURRING WEEKLY

8:30 Worship Sunday

Sunday School

11:00 Worship

Youth

Monday Card Ministry

> Men's Bible Study **Ensemble Rehearsal** Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Scouts

Tuesday Wednesday **Cub Scouts** Staff Meeting

Thursday Beulah Land Quartet

> **Discernment Team** Family Group Night

Girl Scouts

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



WINTER LECTURE SERIES

The Senior council is hosting a Winter Lecture Series presented by the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia. All lectures will take place at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Admission is free for Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members. The first lecture is **Friday**, **February** 17. Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Power, the U-2 Incident, and Controversial Cold War Legacy. Guest speaker Gary Powers, Jr. Chairman Emeritus of the Cold War Museum.

Information about this lecture and the other lectures can be found at the Information Center.



FEBRUARY PROMPT

February is "Make a Card" month. We are challenging each person to think of one or more people you wish you write a card to. In your card, share a scripture that spoke out to you that will also be an encouragement to the one you are sending the card to. We pray that each card sent is an opportunity for the Good News to overflow to the ones who receive it.

FEBRUARY READING

01 Romans 12

02 Romans 13-14

03 Romans 15

04 Romans 16

05 Sunday (Catch-up day)

06 | Corinthians 1

07 | Corinthians 2

08 I Corinthians 3

09 I Corinthians 4

10 | Corinthians 5

11 | Corinthians 6

12 Sunday (Catch-up day)

13 I Corinthians 7

14 | Corinthians 8

15 | Corinthians 9

16 | Corinthians 10

17 | Corinthians 11

18 I Corinthians 12

19 Sunday (Catch-up day)

20 I Corinthians 13

21 I Corinthians 14

22 I Corinthians 15-16

23 II Corinthians 1

24 II Corinthians 2

25 II Corinthians 3

26 Sunday (Catch-up day)

27 II Corinthians 4

28 II Corinthians 5

Root Cellar

root-cellar.org

`Tu B'Av

By Barry Iglehart

"Tu B'Av" is the day considered as the "Jewish Valentine's". And while we as Gentiles may celebrate this in February with a connection to Saint Valentine, TuB'Av is later in the year, to the point, Summer, and usually in August. Yes, it is a celebration of romantic love. However, there is no Biblical mandate and is also associated as a harvest festival, of the grape. In ancient times, particularly around Jerusalem, eligible young women would dress in borrowed white dresses and dance together in the vineyards to catch the eyes of eligible young men.

Move forward, modern day. "Tu B'Av" has found a new audience. While we would celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, many Jewish folk co-opted February 15th as their own and calling it "Ain't Valentine's Day". Can we really blame anyone? It's easy to see their viewpoint with the day's overarching associations in a Christian background. Still, we both recognize the existence of romantic love. But there is once again so much more wrapped up in the word love.

Our word "love" translates into Hebrew as "ahabah". Like our own word, the Hebrew has several different aspects and levels. All of which goes far deeper than simply finding it very enjoyable. In each of them the idea of giving is paramount. We are to give of ourselves to each other and to God. There is a Biblical mandate for this perhaps starting in Deuteronomy, repeated in the Gospels by Jesus himself and echoed in the Epistles. Perhaps you've heard of the Greek word "Agape" which meaning is a selfless act of love that doesn't seek or even think of repayment. We are not perfect, in any sense of the word. But if we believe on Jesus' name, follow His teaching obeying Scripture, and do so willingly with joy and thanksgiving, I truly believe we're moving in the right direction. Baruch ha'shem! Blessed be the name!

MARCH BIBLE PROMPT

During the Month of March people from the congregation will be sharing the Daily Bible reading on our Facebook Page. We will prerecord these readings at the end of February. Please sign up at the Information center or contact the office if you would like to participate in the sharing of God's Word.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are in the process of updating our church membership. During the month of February, your membership information will be in the Narthex. Every church member has their own individual envelope, we ask you to pick up your and your family's information, check the information for corrections and or updates, make those corrections, and then return it to the church office by **February 28, 2023**. This information you provide will affect the church's future directory, so it is very important to return your information even if it is all correct.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

THE FUTURE OF BEULAH'S UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

As our church enters the "Season of Discernment" prior to voting on whether to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church, it is important to know that no matter how the congregation votes, our unit of United Women in Faith will continue. United Methodist Women has always been an organization whose members are not required to be women or members of the United Methodist Church. We have always been in mission with women, children, and youth, and that will not change. If Beulah votes to disaffiliate, there is a way for our unit to continue to support the mission projects that depend on us for their existence. Our support is vital, and we aren't going anywhere. Join me in praying that whatever happens will be according to God's Will.

UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guider is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

WITNESS

I like to work with people, and I like to serve. I feel a calling to help those who don't have a voice. As a retired nurse, I knew I could make a difference during the pandemic. I had previously volunteered at the Bidwell Riverside Food and Clothing Pantry, and I wanted to start volunteering again during this time of increased need. Volunteering at the Bidwell Riverside Center just made sense to me. It was established in 1893 because a few Methodist women saw the need in Des Moines, and the center continues to serve low-income families today. The food pantry and childcare center help families get the support they need to become self-sufficient. I volunteer to be blessed and to bless others.

- Marilyn Burch, Volunteer, Bidwell Riverside Center, Des Moines, Iowa

PRAYER

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, and Chile, and our United States missionaries serving in California, Colorado, Connecticut and Delaware..

SOUP LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Mark your calendar for this year's HOT SOUP LUNCHEON sponsored by Beulah's United Women in Faith. Enjoy homemade soups and chili, fresh baked breads, and desserts, and, of course, some 'Souper' Good Fellowship! The Luncheon will be in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 am worship service. Sign-up at the Information Center. All proceeds go to Missions supported by our UWF.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

The nursery is looking for volunteers to serve one or two Sunday's a quarter. The Nursery is a vital ministry to our church families and worship services. If you are interested in helping, please sign up at the Information Center or see the church office for more information.

BUS MINISTRY

We would like to begin the bus ministry again – providing transportation for the first Sunday of each month (no CDL required). There is a sign-up sheet at the Information Center or see the church office for more information if you are interested in driving.

CENTENARY KITCHEN

Beulah has a team of people who go to Centenary Kitchen to prepare and serve food for the homeless. The team goes on the fourth Friday of the month, leaving the church at 9:00 am and returning around 1:00 pm. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful outreach, please contact Jane Schmierer at 804-778-4993 or Linda Mustain at 804-748-2319.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VALENTINES FOR HEART HAVENS!

Rebekah Fellowship will be selling handmade valentines (\$1 each) to raise funds for Heart Havens which is an organization that provides homes and services for adults with developmental disabilities. The valentines will be at the Volunteer Desk on **Sunday February 5 and February 12**. You may hang them on the Valentine tree or take them home by February 12.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is happening! From Tuesday, June 20th, to Friday, June 23rd, elementary school students from the community will be coming to have a week of FUN BIBLE SCHOOL. Please save the date and share the news! If you wish to volunteer, please contact Pastor Daniel Chun or Karen Clanton



SUMMER MISSIONS 2023 - THE JEREMIAH PROJECT This summer, the youth group (Middle and High School) will be going on missions! Partnering with The Jeremiah Project, students will have an opportunity to travel to Romney, West Virginia to serve God through home-repair ministries (painting, yardwork, building, etc.). The dates for missions are Monday, June 25th to Saturday, July 1st. Sign-ups are available now at beulahumc.org/youthmissions2023. The deadline to commit and register is **Sunday, February 19th.** If you have any questions about the Mission trip, please contact Pastor Daniel Chun.



BEULAH'S BEST FEBRUARY MEETING

Beulah's best will meet **Tuesday, February 21** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be the Smoke house Blue Grass Band. Come enjoy refreshments and socialization from 10:00 until 10:30 when the program will start. Hope to see you there.



Visit the Information Center to order cookies from the Girl Scout Troop that meets here at Beulah.



Cookies will be delivered to the church on Sunday, February 26.



GIRL SCOUTS

Several church members have inquired about the Girl Scout troop and their cookies. We have reached out to them, and Troop 3106 has supplied an order form for anyone who would like to order cookies. They will deliver the cookies on **Sunday, February 26** in between the services and then join us as guests for the 11:00 service. If you would like to help support our local troop, the order form is located at the Information Center (pay by cash at time of pick up).



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP MEALS

Starting **Wednesday, February 22**, at 6:00 pm, we will gather for the first Wednesday Worship Meal of the year. The Sanctuary Choir will be cooking a pancake dinner. Then after the meal is the Ash Wednesday service. All Worship Meals are by donation, all are welcome to attend. Please sign up at the Information Center.



CONDOLENCES

We offer love, support, prayers, and condolences to the family and friends of Phyllis Throckmorton. Phyllis joined the Lord Thursday, January 19. The Service of Celebration of the Life of Phyllis was on January 25, 2023. You can see her obituary through the link below.

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesdispatch/name/phyllis-throckmorton-obituary?id=38718281

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

- **02** Betsy Q Forbes Marvin Waldrop
- **04** Mary Love Walston
- 05 Skip Mulligan
- **06** Eric Cunningham Allen Mason
- **07** Cathryn Keller Robert Mays
- 08 Nancy Kiger
- 09 Nancy Snow
- 11 Gladys Roberts
- **12** Caryl Harris
- **15** Carolyn Salmon
- **18** Joanne Barreca Peggy O'Brien
- 20 Riley Turner
- 21 Gretchen Craig
 Betty Moore Scavone

- **22** David Dudley Jane Spain
- 24 Richard Arnold
- **26** Virginia Rosen Barbara Ross
- **27** Gloria Bradmon Solomon Ogunware
- 28 Cindy Staneart
- 29 Jeanne Hensel

MARCH

- 01 Jennifer Smith
- 02 Rosanna Strauss
- 03 Dale Childrey
- **05** Bobby Glick Carole Morris
- **06** Kenneth Foster Ronald Mann
- **07** Joan Garton Deborah Rhodes

THANKS

To: Beulah Friends

From: Barbara Dudley, Worship Chair

Now that the Advent/Christmas season is over I wanted to thank my Christmas "ANGELS" who are always so willing to help me when I ask them. They are Carolyn Salmon, Pat Soyars, Sandra Sanderson, Barbara Tinsley, Nancy Morris, and David Dudley. What a blessing they are to me and Beulah Church.

To: Beulah Friends From: Cathy Keller

The Keller family want to thank Pastor Pam for Harry's beautiful Military Service in Amelia. We appreciate all the kind words and thoughts that were written on the many cards we received. Love to you all.

To: Beulah Friends

From: Diane and John Kuti

We want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, and support during this difficult time for our family. We are fortunate to belong to such a caring congregation.

To: Pastor Don Gibson and Beulah From: D B and Mary Love Walston

I would like to thank Pastor Don and others who reached out to Mary Love and my self recently. We appreciated the visits while at the hospital, rehab and then at home. We are grateful for the cards, calls, and especially for the food. Thank you.

To: Elaine Johnston

From: Suzanne Davis and all the Office Volunteers

A big THANK YOU for getting the folding machine up and running again. You have blessed us all.