



Westminster

United Methodist Church

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Blessings to all in the name of our savior Jesus Christ,

Well folks, we are ready to start 2022 and I am praying for a very good year. We all know that God has great plans for all of us and especially for the Westminster United Methodist Church. We are called to make disciples and that is just what we are going to do in this year, and every year until our Lord returns. I can say this with all confidence because I have seen what we can do in the face of adversity. 2021 was, for sure, a year of adversity and we, not only survived but I believe we have thrived.

There have been a lot of things that could have broken us, but we know where our strength comes from; our strength comes from the Lord. As you all know, Donna and I were involved in a terrible auto accident. While we were out of commission, we saw the incredible workings of an amazing church. It could have been devastating for our church, but so many people stepped up and did an amazing job of leading. Discipleship continued as it should by the laity of a church who has a passion for our Lord.

We have also been hit hard by the covid-19 pandemic in the last few months. Our prayer chain has been on fire with so many that were hit by this virus. We have seen the mighty power of prayer as many gathered to pray for those hit the hardest. We have seen how God answers prayer and cares for those who follow Him.

There is no doubt in my mind that Satan is working hard to slow us down and even to try to stop us from doing what God has called us to do. I also know that we are not about to let that happen. In fact, we know that things are going to get worse in the future as we move closer to the return of our Lord. So I want to encourage you all to stand strong, be alert and always be ready.

Stand strong knowing that our God is all powerful, all knowing and ever present, and that He will never leave us or forsake us no matter what. We need to remember that God has an eternal plan for us and all we need to do is follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

Be alert knowing that there are people out there that do not know the Lord Jesus Christ unto salvation. Be alert for every opportunity to plant the seeds of faith. We are told to be salt and light, and that means to share the light of Christ and the preserving power that only Jesus can give, to people every day and everywhere.

But more than anything else we need to be ready, in our own hearts, for the return of our Lord and Savior. This is no time to be deceived, but to truly know where we stand in our relationship with Jesus. As we enter this new year, let us examine our life in light of the teachings of the Scriptures and make the necessary changes to walk closer with Christ. We cannot know the day or the hour, the week or the month or the year, but we can know that a day will come when we will stand before the Lord either at the Great White Throne Judgment or at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you don't know which is good and which is bad, I encourage you to look them up. What a great way to start the New Year: BIBLE STUDY!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

"Catch on fire and people will come for miles to see you burn!" - John Wesley