

# NOWATA METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Digging In for Discerned Doctrine

*Written by Pastor Jeffrey Rickman*

This morning I started listening to a podcast called Upstream, on which the host interviewed the author of a new book called The Great Dechurching, a Mr. Michael Graham. Graham spoke primarily from a statistical base, talking about trends of religious decline in America. For the first time in our nation's history, a minority of Americans are members of religious communities in any capacities. With few exceptions, religious communities are in decline in our nation. They have been for some time.

*In this issue:*

- October events, PAGE 3
- Bible reading plan, PAGE 3
- Church vote, PAGE 4
- Messiah's Mansion tabernacle replica, PAGE 4

*Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.*

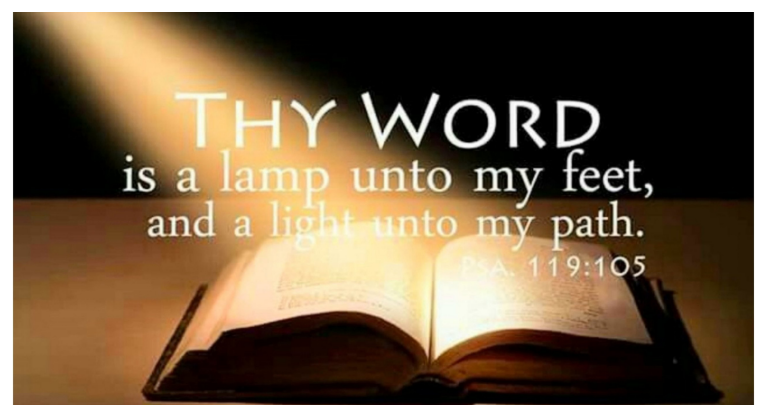
— E. Paul Hovey

Our church belongs to a denomination that was considered one of the “Seven Sisters of Mainline Denominationalism.” These denominations identified themselves with the ‘mainline’ area of city centers, which were populated by upper-middle class people with certain sensibilities. They married themselves to a worldview called ‘Modernism,’ which imagined humanity to be perfectable and progressing towards a bright future in which our combined efforts would bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. Of course, this worldview hasn’t been borne out. Even so, those in leadership in the mainline denominations, including The United Methodist Church (from which we recently disaffiliated), refused to go back to a more traditional understanding of human nature and the role of the church in society. Rather than stand against the norms of a world bent on destruction, the project of any compromised Christian group becomes to find ways to bless the direction that the culture wants to go. At that point, it loses its purpose.

This is the decision before every denomination: Is it willing to offend and/or lose people for the sake of standing on truth and/or principle. For too many denominations, the answer has been ‘no.’ Rather, many a denomination is complicit in keeping their people ignorant of their doctrinal distinctives. People belong to their given tradition only because they were born into it, or raised in it, or married into it. Very few know their doctrinal heritage and are able to articulate it and connect it to scripture. We are at a very impoverished place!

As the churches I serve approach a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church, I will be urging all members to spend a significant amount of time and energy learning the doctrinal and historical reasons as to why such a group exists, such that they might be more engaged and joyful in their denominational relationship than they were under the UMC. The age of doctrinal ignorance is ending. Only those who take the time and make the mental and emotional space for learning will be able to withstand the cultural forces of anomie that are undoing Christendom in the West.

This is as it always has been and as it should be. The era of easy-beliefism is over. The era of believers who burn hot for their Lord continues. I’m eager to teach true and good doctrine to the sheep in this pasture. I hope they are eager to learn.



## Corner of Appreciation

Karen Wilson, Terry McKee, and Kathy Smith coordinated a lovely potluck in September.

Brynn Barron, Cassey Saucedo, and Whitney Smalley have helped in the nursery when our paid workers are unavailable.

Mike Staehle continues to care for the church lawn week after week.

# Coming Up in October

- October 1  
Singing at Osage  
Nursing Home, 6:30pm
- October 3  
Deana G.'s birthday  
Vicki M.'s birthday
- October 5  
David S.'s birthday
- October 7  
Delaware Methodist  
Breakfast, 7-10am
- October 8  
Sherri C.'s birthday
- October 10  
Administrative Board  
meeting at 6:30pm
- October 16  
Kate S.'s birthday
- October 18  
Merri L.'s birthday
- October 29  
Potluck after worship
- October 31  
Kody W.'s birthday

## Happening Every Week

Worship: Sundays at 11am

Women's Prayer Group:  
Wednesdays at 10:30am

Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
from 9am-12:30pm

### Contact Us

PO Box 129  
109 West Shawnee Avenue  
Nowata OK 74048  
(918) 273-1562  
nowatamethodists@gmail.com  
nowatamethodists.org

The 'Bible Reading Challenge' began in September. It's not too late to join us as we feast on God's word daily.

Join us in this essential spiritual discipline. Read what you can, and don't be discouraged if you get behind. There are "catch up days" built in to the plan. It is a blessing to read God's word each day!

### OCTOBER 2022

- SAT **1** 2 Peter 1-3
- MON **3** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Galatians 1-6)†*
- TUE **4** Leviticus 1-4, Hebrews 1-2
- WED **5** Leviticus 5-8, Hebrews 3-4
- THU **6** Leviticus 9-12, Hebrews 5-6
- FRI **7** Leviticus 13-16, Hebrews 7-8
- SAT **8** Leviticus 17-20, Hebrews 9-10
- MON **10** Leviticus 21-23, Hebrews 11-13
- TUE **11** Leviticus 24-27, Psalms 17, 19
- WED **12** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Ephesians 1-6)†*
- THU **13** 1 John 1-5, 2 John
- FRI **14** Numbers 1-5, 3 John
- SAT **15** Numbers 6-10, Jude
- MON **17** Numbers 11-15, 1 Corinthians 1-2
- TUE **18** Numbers 16-19, 1 Corinthians 3-4
- WED **19** Numbers 20-23, 1 Corinthians 5-6
- THU **20** Numbers 24-27, 1 Corinthians 7-8
- FRI **21** Numbers 28-31, 1 Corinthians 9-10
- SAT **22** Numbers 32-36, 1 Corinthians 11
- MON **24** 1 Corinthians 12-16, Psalm 44
- TUE **25** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Psalms 78-80)†*
- WED **26** Deuteronomy 1-4, Mark 1-2
- THU **27** Deuteronomy 5, Mark 3-7
- FRI **28** Deuteronomy 6-10, Mark 8
- SAT **29** Deuteronomy 11-15, Mark 9
- MON **30** Deuteronomy 16-20, Mark 10



# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP VOTE

*October 15, 2023*

*After worship*

*All membership vote on joining the Global Methodist Church*

The Administrative Board of our church has recommended that we join the Global Methodist Church at their convening conference in November 2023. We will be taking a vote of the church membership to determine if we will join.

We have a long heritage built upon our Savior Jesus Christ and many saints that came before. Please be in prayer for our church as we discern God's desire for the future of Nowata Methodist Church.

Visit <https://globalmethodist.org/faqs/> for more information about the Global Methodist Church.

## Singing at the Nursing Home

Bobby Wilson is always looking for another opportunity to sing with the folks at the nursing homes in town. He has arranged another time of singing and ministry THIS Sunday, October 1, at 6:30pm at Osage Nursing Home. Stay tuned for many other opportunities to minister to these sweet folks.

## Messiah's Mansion: A Replica of the Tabernacle

From October 21-29, there will be a true-to-size exhibit of the tabernacle that the Israelites built under the instruction of the LORD in the wilderness. Our church is planning to take a trip to tour the tabernacle replica and stay for a brief time of learning. Stay tuned for more details!  
[messiahsmansion.com](http://messiahsmansion.com)

*Bountiful Tables continues to minister to mothers and families each Monday afternoon. If you would like to order food, you can contact Cori Davis at (719) 425-6452. Visit with Sara Beth Rickman or Whitney Smalley if you would like to learn how you can support the ministry.*