

# NOWATA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

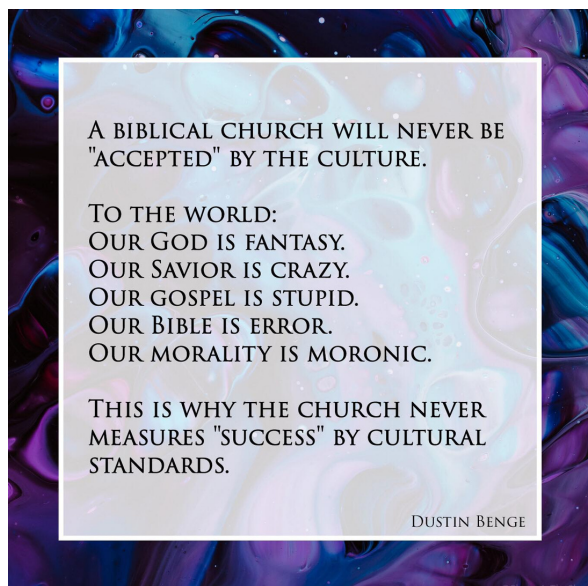


## Abandoning High-Mindedness

*Written by Pastor Jeffrey Rickman*

I have a buddy. My buddy doesn't pretend to be an educated elite. In fact, he is suspicious of pretty much anyone who behaves that way. His world is pretty black and white. What is right is right, and he likes it. What is wrong is wrong, and he does not like it.

I find it comforting to be in my buddy's presence. I know where I stand with him. I know his principles. I don't have to worry that he's going to suddenly change his loyalties. I don't have to suspect that he is lying to me. Because he is the type of man he is, I know I can call on him at any time for aid. I'd like to think he knows the same about



me.

A recent study came out, showing that educated clergy, those with master's degrees and upwards, behave pretty differently than pastors for whom ministry is a second career or a labor of love. It turns out, the more education a person has, the more likely they are to adopt the positions of the cultural elites of our day.

My Master of Divinity degree was earned at Boston University School of Theology. I was indoctrinated by the cultural elites of our day. I heard their arguments, read their treatises, ate with them, and gave three years of my life with them.

Then I went and served five rural churches, three in Idaho, then two in Oklahoma. I spent time in the local jail, the local school, in people's homes and workplaces. The real world cured me of my high-mindedness. Or, rather, I am still being cured of it. I needed to spend time with people like my buddy who don't have the energy or the time for

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postmodernity or new trends. I needed to spend time with folks who hunger for peace and salvation.

It is true that there are times in which simple common sense isn't enough to prevail in challenging circumstances. Those times are rare. I would like to think I can be helpful in such times. But other times, most of the time, I believe God is glorified when I simply get out of the way and let folks connect the dots in the scriptures to their lives. I have been proud to see, not just my buddy, but several other brothers and sisters in Christ, take ownership of their faith more over the last few months. I hope you all continue to trust me as a capable friend and shepherd as you continue to grow in Christ.

*“Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:20-21 KJV*

## Corner of Appreciation

We want to express our appreciation for those who serve our church in various ways on Sundays and throughout the week.

Karen Wilson, Terry McKee, Cassey Saucedo, Kristie Bunney, and Roberta Maly prepared a wonderful potluck meal on February 26.

# Coming Up in March

- March 3  
Jill S.'s birthday
- March 4  
Delaware Methodist Breakfast  
7-10am
- March 5  
Singing at Nowata Nursing  
Home, 6:30pm
- March 6  
Hayden M.'s birthday
- March 7  
Raven H.'s birthday
- March 14  
Administrative Board  
meeting at 6:30pm
- March 20  
Brynn B.'s birthday
- March 25  
Janice D.'s birthday
- March 26  
Potluck after worship

## 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

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# Let's keep feasting on God's word. Join us in the 'Bible Reading Challenge'

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 feast on God's word each day!

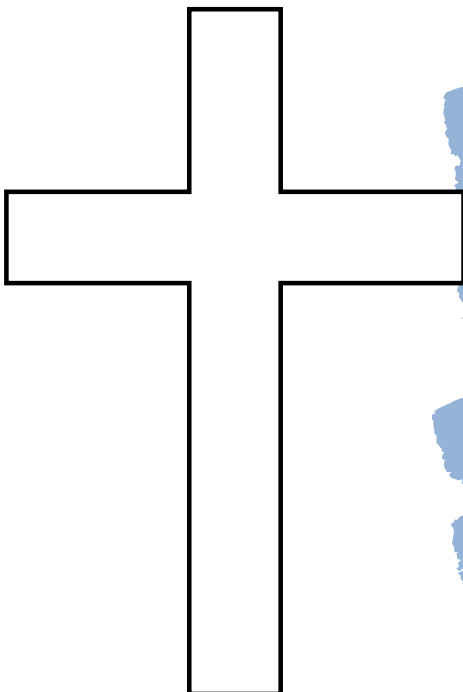
### MARCH 2023

- WED **1** Ezra 7-10, Psalms 33 & 35
- THU **2** Psalms 36-39, Proverbs 15-16
- FRI **3** Nehemiah 1-7
- SAT **4** Nehemiah 8-13
- MON **6** Proverbs 17-19, Psalms 40-41
- TUE **7** *Catch-Up Day (optional: James 1-5)†*
- WED **8** Philippians 1-4, Psalm 42, Proverbs 20
- THU **9** Job 1-3, Romans 1-3
- FRI **10** Job 4-7, Romans 4-5
- SAT **11** Job 8-10, Romans 6-8
- MON **13** Job 11-14, Romans 9-10
- TUE **14** Job 15-17, Romans 11-13
- WED **15** Job 18-21, Romans 14-16
- THU **16** Job 22-27
- FRI **17** Job 28-33
- SAT **18** Job 34-37, Proverbs 21
- MON **20** Job 38-42
- TUE **21** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Philippians 1-4)†*
- WED **22** Ecclesiastes 1-6
- THU **23** Ecclesiastes 7-12
- FRI **24** James 1-5\*, Psalm 47
- SAT **25** 1 Timothy 1-6
- MON **27** Psalms 64, 88, 105 & 130, Romans 8\*, Ephesians 2\*
- TUE **28** 2 Timothy 1-4, Psalm 48, Proverbs 22
- WED **29** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Ephesians 1-6)†*
- THU **30** Jeremiah 1-6
- FRI **31** Jeremiah 7-12

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for ways to serve your church and community? Our church hosts several groups that can help you engage your faith and minister to others, and we are also tied to several local groups that minister to the community.

- ✔ **Women's Prayer Group, contact Sara Beth Rickman**
- ✔ **Singing at the local nursing homes, contact Bobby Wilson**
- ✔ **Care for children during worship or discipleship groups, contact Sara Beth Rickman**
- ✔ **Care for the church property, contact Mike Staehle**
- ✔ **Volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, contact Brynn Barron**
- ✔ **Volunteer at a local food bank, contact Vicki Mendell**



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## ***What Do We Believe?***

*What is our only hope in life and death? That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ (New City Catechism, Question 1)*

*What is God? God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will. (New City Catechism, Question 2)*