

# Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

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***"Sharing God's love with our neighbors,  
Inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ"***

## ARTICLE

At our first session of the Bible study on Christian Disciplines last week, I made some closing comments off the top of my head, but also from my heart. They struck a chord with some of the participants and so I went back to transcribe my words to share with all of you.

"With this Bible study and I intentionally chose this. I don't want this to be something that we are just learning about. I want us to DO this. I feel like our church is at a turning point. And it could literally go different ways. And I am doing my doggonest to guide us in a way of life and a way of growth and a way of positivity. And I think the way that is going to happen is through the spiritual life of our people."

"You know Jesus changed the world with twelve and together we are way more than twelve. And Jesus is with us and God is with us. I think it is important for us to really get in tune with that again. We are not just going through the motions. We are not just "doing church." I really want us to do some of these disciplines and grow in our faith. I feel like as

we are faithful in doing that, the Lord is going to shower us with blessings."

There are twelve topics outlined in this study. They are Quiet Time, Prayer, Bible Study, Worship, Evangelism, Social Justice, Missions, Giving, Discipling, Time & Gifts, Guidance and Christian Community. Most of you are already faithful in many of these, but all of us have areas in which we can grow. You will note that many of our membership vows are reflected in this list. ***As a member of Christ's universal church, and as a member of this congregation, I will faithfully participate in its ministries by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.***

I encourage you to get this study for yourself. It is titled Life Guide Christian Disciplines and you can find it on Amazon or Intervarsity Press for \$12. The Lord knows what we could do if we all come together united in purpose... literally. Steve

## **BRAIN-STORMING SESSION**

Join us Saturday, February 4th from **10:00 a.m.** until noon to share inspirations and ideas. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE! We will have doughnuts and coffee and juice and get you out by lunchtime. We plan on fleshing out some details for our planned new backpack/food/homeless ministry. We will also discuss ideas for a niche fundraiser that will help ease the financial burden as well as increase our visibility in the community.

We did not want to just call this a “planning” session because it will be more than just putting events on a calendar. It should also be more grounded than a mere “dreaming” session because we want to follow up with our ideas and make them reality. Pray this brainstorming session is blessed with a vision for our congregation.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

It is hard to believe Lent will be here soon. Was it not just Christmas? Pastor Steve will have a brief informal Imposition of the Ashes in the Youth room on February 22 at 6:30 PM before the youth meeting. In the meantime, be in prayer about something you may “give up” or focus on during this time leading up to Easter.

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

We do not have a date or time set yet, but we are planning on having a Rummage Sale in early spring so go ahead and set items aside for donation. If you bring them to the church, please place them on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks