

CONNECTIONS

A NEW YEAR...A BETTER YOU...MORE LIKE JESUS!

Pastor Lee Carlson

In a timely placed television ad, which is airing just before the new year, I momentarily watched an *extremely fit man and woman* selling exercise equipment along with *fat-burning* supplements. I was left to assume I could look like them if I bought their products. But, just in case I had any doubts, they even offered *me* a guarantee that in three months, I would lose a tremendous amount of weight and drop clothing sizes. The challenge was basically, "A New Year...A Better You!"

Well, it's a new year, which means new resolutions and a fresh opportunity to make some changes in our lives. If you are like me, your resolutions usually include a list of things you want to do or not do.

Statistically, those resolutions rarely take root in one's life. Isn't it true, some of our New Year's resolutions are simply recycled year after year?! Let's change these results and begin to think differently this year. As we enter 2022, would you be willing to change your focus from *doing and/or not doing* to *becoming*? Between January and Easter, I will share practical, biblically based messages, rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and which are taught throughout scripture, with a focus on *becoming* more and more like Christ. The following stand-alone message and two message series will challenge us to turn our focus from the busyness of doing more to *becoming* more like Jesus.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

January 9: "The Application of the Whole" - August 11, 1755

A tradition within many United Methodist congregations is the Wesley Covenant Service. This service provides an opportunity for the congregation to renew their covenant with God. It is a distinctively Methodist practice which can be traced back to the first covenant service held by John Wesley on August 11, 1755. Although that first service took place in August, it soon became the custom for the covenant renewal to take place early in the year, as a day of solemn reflection and rededication. Historically, these were times of great spiritual blessing.

For example, Wesley wrote, "We had a larger congregation at the renewal of the Covenant than we have had for many years; and I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of his grace, healing all their backslidings."

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES CONTINUED...

January 16 – February 20: “*Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets*”

We never know what or who hangs in the balance of the decisions we make; but we do know that our decisions determine the direction and quality of our life. We all know the easiest person to deceive is the person in the mirror. When we do the hard work of being honest with ourselves, we’re on our way to not selling ourselves on a potential regret. The truth is our life is more than random, disconnected events. It’s a story being written. Whether it’s a thoughtful response or an emotionally fueled reaction, we write the stories of our lives one decision at a time.

When we ask ourselves the right questions, answer honestly, then act appropriately, we make better decisions with fewer regrets. But, what are the questions we should be asking? In this series, we’ll discuss five of them. *Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets* will set you up for success in every season of life, for the rest of your life.

February 27 – April 17 (Easter): “*The Walk: Five Essential Practices of The Christian Life*”

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life. In our Lenten series, we will focus on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and which are taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

Please join me on this journey of faith as we seek Jesus and in the process, become more like Him!



New Small Groups

Life is all about decision making, and we are *who* we are and we are *where* we are because of the decisions we have made. Every decision starts with a question, and good questions can lead to good decisions. A new small groups and sermon series is about to begin! "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" takes a look at not only how to make effective Christ-centered decisions, but also how to ask ourselves the right questions. This six-week series will begin the week of **January 16**. Small groups are forming and will be offered in daytime and evening settings, in-person and on Zoom. Look for the display during coffee hour on **January 9**, or email Denise Waling for more information dwalling@shenumc.org



January

2022

Connecting People to Christ and Community

Happy New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am-Traditional 9:15am-Shen Kids 10:15am-Coffee hour 10:45am-Contemporary service	3 10:30am- Staff mtg 1pm- Creative Hands	4	5 9:30am- Journey Bible Study 6pm- Youth Group 7:30pm- Worship Band practice	6 9am- Patchwork of Love 1pm- Service Mtg. 7pm- SPRC 7:15pm- Chancel Choir	7	8
9 9am-Traditional 9:15am-Shen Kids 10:15am-Coffee hour 10:45am-Contemporary service	10 10:30am- Staff mtg 1pm- Creative Hands 7pm-Program Council mtg	11 9am- Patchwork of Love 7pm-BAG team	12 9:30am- Journey Bible Study 6pm-Youth Group 7:30pm- Worship Band practice 7:30pm- EWA mtg	13 11:30am- OTSL luncheon 1pm- Service Mtg. 7:15pm- Chancel Choir	14	15
16 9am-Traditional 9:15am-Shen Kids 10:15am-Coffee hour 10:45am-Contemporary service 6pm- Carlson group	17 9:30am-Smith small group 10:30am- Staff mtg 1pm-Creative Hands	18	19 9:30am- Journey Bible Study 6pm-Youth Group 7pm-Walling group 7:30pm- Worship Band practice	20 9am- Patchwork of love 1pm- Service Mtg. 6pm-Jr. Chimers 7pm- Junior Choir 7:15pm- Chancel Choir	21	22
23 9am-Traditional 9:15am-Shen Kids 10:15am-Coffee hour 10:45am-Contemporary service 6pm- Carlson group	24 9:30am-Smith small group 10:30am- Staff mtg 1pm-Creative Hands 7pm-Church Council	25 3pm- Comm. Dinner	26 9:30am- Journey Bible Study 6pm- Youth Group 7pm-Walling group 7:30pm- Worship Band practice	27 7am- Men's breakfast 8am- Women's breakfast 9am- Patchwork of love 1pm- Service Mtg. 7:15pm- Chancel Choir	28	29
30 9am-Traditional 9:15am-Shen Kids 10:15am-Coffee hour 10:45am-Contemporary 6pm- Carlson group	31 9:30am-Smith small group 10:30am- Staff mtg 1pm-Creative Hands					



Shen UMC Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is looking forward to our Church School curriculum and activities in 2022!

This year, our ShenKids will be learning about The Life of Jesus and the Confirmation class will continue to grow in their understanding of the Methodist Church and their own faith journey. Our ShenYouth will be following the sermon-series topics and will start by learning how to make better decisions with fewer regrets.

Some activities to look forward to this year include dinner-and-a-movie events, Wednesday night Youth Group, Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, and Workcamp, Pumpkin Patch, Trunk or Treat, Christmas-movie Night and more!

This year in July, we are planning to have a Work Camp Mission trip for youth in grades 6-12! For more details, please see Anna Savino. There will be an informational meeting with Pastor Lee regarding the trip on **Jan. 19**, at 6:30pm, in the Hearth Room.

If you are interested in being a teacher or helper for Church School, please let Anna Savino (asavino@shenumc.org) know and/or come to the Shen UMC Church School Teachers and Helper Information Meeting on Sunday, **January 23**, from 10:20-10:35am in the Hearth Room!



Shen UMC

971 Rt. 146
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Shenendehowa UMC Sunday Online Worship

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service

PASTORS & STAFF

Lead Pastor, *Rev. Leland Carlson* - pastorlee@shenumc.org
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