

JANUARY 2024 BIBLE STUDY

Living in Light of Eternity, led by Mary Reitano. Free study materials will be provided. Monday Jan 8, 15, 29 from 4-5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall and dinner at 5:45 PM on Jan 22. Please sign up on bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or email maryalisonreitano@gmail.com.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2024

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to spend more time in God's Word in 2024? There are multiple ways to help develop a dedicated Bible reading time in your life. A good place to start for Bible reading options is the website Bible Study Together (<https://biblestudytogether.com/top-best-bible-reading-plans/>). There are some copies of a 5 day-a-week Bible reading plan available in the vestibule and in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Pastor

Like many of you, Lanita and I were blessed to see our family over the holidays. As you may know, we have two grandchildren, Everly and Wilder. Having them in our home brought to mind the old saying, "**the apple of someone's eye.**" One dictionary definition of the saying is "a person or thing that someone loves very much." (Merriam Webster) Not to diminish our love for our children, but grandchildren fit this description so well!

I understand the apple of one's eye originally referred to the central aperture of the eye, or the pupil. It came to mean something, or more usually someone, cherished above others. The phrase in the Bible refers to God's people being the apple of His eye, as in Deuteronomy 32:10, "**In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye...**" (NIV)

Also, David prays in Psalm 17:8 that God will protect him as he vowed to protect his chosen people, "**Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings...**" (NIV)

And the phrase is also used to describe how one should carefully guard important teachings, as in Proverbs 7:1-2, "**My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.**" (Prov. 7:1-2)

Yes, you may have "an apple of your eye," someone you cherish above all. The promise of Scripture is God has an "apple of His eye" as well, and it is you!

+ Kevin

OUT OF THE ASHES OFFERING

We collected \$1695 on Christmas Eve for Out of the Ashes, a faith based recovery ministry in Forest City, NC. It is the only place in western North Carolina for the underserved and uninsured to receive drug and alcohol addiction treatment and emergency shelter at no cost to them. Their building recently suffered a fire and they are seeking to raise funds to rebuild and continue their ministry. Thank you for your generosity!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry Lunch Outing.
Friday, January 12, 2024 to the
Hare and Hound Restaurant in
Landrum, SC. Meet at the church
at 10:30 AM for carpooling.
Sign up to attend on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Ministry will be sponsoring a Blanket Drive for Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach during the month of January. We'll be collecting new blankets of all sizes. Drop off donations at the table in the Fellowship Hall.

COFFEE FOR VETERANS

Meets Thursday, January 11th at
10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
All veterans are welcome!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Our Children Need You! The Chapel's Sunday school ministry is in need of volunteers to facilitate a preplanned lesson each week. If you are interested in engaging in this rewarding ministry by volunteering for an upcoming Sunday school date, please sign-up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact Laura Cruz at 828-980-5662 or laura-kathryne2003@gmail.com for more information.

JANUARY 2024



Upcoming Events

Chapel Chili Cookoff
Saturday, Jan. 27th @ 5 PM
In the Fellowship Hall
Prizes, fun and great chili!
Sign up to bring chili in the Fellowship Hall
Sponsored by Men's Ministry

Lake Lure Classical Academy
National Honor Society "Coffee House"
Saturday, Jan. 27th, 10 AM-3 PM
In the Fellowship Hall
Coffee, desserts, and entertainment!
This is a fundraiser for the LLCA NHS