



## United Methodist Church of the Pines

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January 3 - 9, 2021

### Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

*What the new year brings to you will depend, in part,  
upon what you bring to the new year. - Vern McLellan*

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The year 2020 is now in our rearview mirror, and many Americans are not sad to see it go.

It has been a long time since there's been so much stress in one 365-day calendar year. Not only did the Covid-19 virus disrupt everything, but it was also a presidential election year.

So now that we're in 2021, we are filled with hope. Out with the old; in with the new. This year, we hope and pray that a fail-proof remedy will emerge to combat this virus.

We've had to *defend* ourselves against the virus. We are asked to keep a space of 6 feet between ourselves and others. When in public, we need to wear a face covering. Churches were closed as were movie theaters and sports arenas. Oh, yes, 2020 was an unusual year! A year ago, we had no idea!

So we have been defending ourselves by staying home and alone as much as possible. But behind the scenes, scientists have been on the *offensive*, too, working feverishly to develop a vaccine or antidote to beat the virus.

We're ready for something new. We're tired of the old way of living.

Sounds familiar.

The apostle Paul speaks of the old and the new frequently. He notes that God is a God of new things. He also says that "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Here is encouraging news to remember for the year 2021: God is a God of new things. God will be with you, as God has in the past. Therefore, we do not fear.

May I suggest a Bible verse for you to remember for the year 2021? "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread ... because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Write this verse down, or underline it in your Bible. Memorize it if you can. It will be a big help to you in the coming year, 2021!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for preserving me throughout the past year!*

*For the new year, I continue to trust in you. Amen.*

# CHURCH CONNECTIONS ACTIVITY PAGE

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Genesis 1-5

**Monday:** Genesis 6-12

**Tuesday:** Genesis 13-18

**Wednesday:** Genesis 19-23

**Thursday:** Genesis 24-29

**Friday:** Genesis 29-32

**Saturday:** Genesis 33-36

*Read through the Bible in one year!*

*Each week, daily readings will take you through the Bible in one year.*



## LEFT OUT

**Directions:** Insert one letter set from column A in the space provided in column B to form a six-, seven- or eight-letter word. Each set in column A can be used only once.

### COLUMN A

ARB  
AVO  
ELL  
ETH  
GIB  
HIN  
ILL  
KEA  
MAC  
MOG  
NOO  
TUI  
XIS

### COLUMN B

1. FORE \_\_\_\_ \_ N  
2. SP \_\_\_\_ \_ XES  
3. HO \_\_\_\_ \_ ENY  
4. GRI \_\_\_\_ \_ ED  
5. LI \_\_\_\_ \_ BLE  
6. TAN \_\_\_\_ \_ LE  
7. GRA \_\_\_\_ \_ TY  
8. FL \_\_\_\_ \_ R  
9. UR \_\_\_\_ \_ RA  
10. GE \_\_\_\_ \_ OX  
11. DW \_\_\_\_ \_ ER  
12. SE \_\_\_\_ \_ MS  
13. SP \_\_\_\_ \_ WAY

## GENESIS PAIRS

**Directions:** The Bible readings this week are from Genesis 1-36. Sort the names listed here into pairs. Each name can be used only once.

(Use the white space to do your work.)

Rebekah  
Ark  
Cain  
Abraham  
Adam  
Noah  
Abel  
Ishmael  
Sarah  
Isaac  
Jacob  
Eve  
Rachel  
Leah  
Hagar  
Esau

### ANSWERS:

1. forenoon  
2. sphinxes  
3. homogeny  
4. grimaced  
5. likeable  
6. tangible  
7. gratuity  
8. flavor  
9. urethra  
10. gearbox  
11. dweller  
12. sexism  
13. spillway

### Genesis Pairs:

Adam/Eve  
Cain/Abel  
Noah/Ark  
Abraham/  
Sarah  
Isaac/Rebekah  
Jacob/Esau  
Rachel/Leah  
Ishmael/Hager





As we begin the new year, we find ourselves still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and we still need to commit to wearing face masks, practice social distancing, washing our hands and refraining from being in groups of people. It's been challenging for everyone! Staying connected with you is very important to our Church of the Pines' congregation.

And, one of the ways to do this is through our "Church Connections." The first issue of 2021 is enclosed. There are scripture readings, prayers, devotionals, and activities, which can be mailed or emailed to you. It's easy to subscribe and it's FREE! Call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) and indicate your interest and whether you want it to be emailed or mailed to you.



If you haven't attended Church of the Pines' worship services on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. **YOU ARE INVITED!**

If you have a Facebook page on the internet, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/> just prior to 10:00 a.m.

If you don't have Facebook, you can watch a video after the service ends by going to our church website at [www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://www.umchurchofthepines.org) and clicking on "Worship Service Videos" and then click on date of the service.

Pastor Mark Gilbert also leads a Prayer Service on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. You can participate by going to the same sites as listed above for Sunday worship.

You can also listen to Church of the Pines Sunday sermons by using your phone. It's simple....just use your telephone and call 1-715-203-1990 and listen to the most recent sermon. It's easy...and you can listen any time and at your convenience.



If you have a need and would like to be lifted in prayer, please call Church of the Pines at 715-356-3041 or email [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org). and we will pray for you.



If you are alone or you know someone who is isolated and could use a friend, let us know and we can connect you with one of our Community Care Calling Crew members who will give you a call of encouragement and support. Call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email at [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) for more information.