



Valparaiso First United Methodist Church
January 8, 2025

This Sunday



Sunday, January 12, 2025

SERMON: *Ezra and the Work of Restoration: Ready to Rebuild*

PREACHING: Pastor Jared Kendall

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Ezra 1:1-5

Please monitor your email for the links for on-line worship Sunday morning, around 8:00 a.m. Full recording of the **9:15 a.m. worship service** will be available by 1 p.m. on our Vimeo page:

www.vimeo.com/Valpofumc

ATTENDANCE FOR

JANUARY 5, 2025

In-Person: 170

On-Line: 555

725



Take a moment to chuckle...

A HYMN FOR EVERY PROFESSION:

Paratrooper: "Now on Land And Sea Descending"

Philosopher: "I Am Thinking Today"

Skeptic: "Almost Persuaded"

Shopper: "Sweet By And By"

Speech Therapist: "He Never Said a Mumbling Word"

Steeple Builder: "Lift High the Cross"

Voice Teacher: "Sing Them over Again to Me"

What bites but doesn't have teeth? *Frost.*

What did the icy road say to the car? *Wanna to go for a spin?*



SAVE THE DATE:

January 20th: MLK Day- Faith in Action Service Opportunity (see page 5)

March 5th: Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins

March 9th: Daylight Saving Time begins- Spring Forward.

April 13th: Palm Sunday/Beginning of Holy Week

April 17th: Maundy Thursday

April 18th: Good Friday

April 20th: Easter Sunday

ENEWS SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

ISAIAH 60:1

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

⁶⁰ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

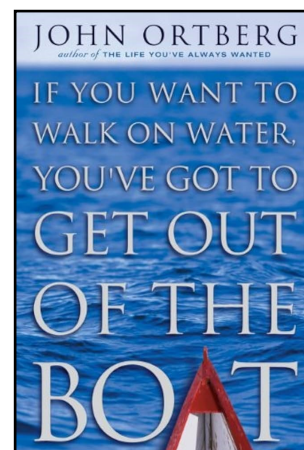
NEW SUNDAY GROUPS

(beginning January 19th)

10:30-11:30 am each Sunday

If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out of the Boat (Led by Mike and Jill Wells)

- How long does the class last? 6 weeks
- Where will it meet? Parlor
- Is there a book involved? Yes, you can search for the title and author and purchase it online.



You're one step away from the adventure of your life. John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

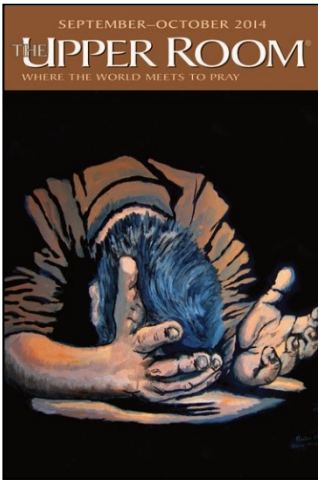
Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, "Come"?

Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord.

The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. There's just one requirement: If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.

In this Christianity Today Award-winning read, bestselling author John Ortberg pushes you to take the last step that separates you from the adventure of your life. And, as a result, you will learn to:

- Recognize God's presence
- Discern between faith and foolishness
- Not only expect problems, but field them when they come
- Reorient your thoughts about failure and see it as an opportunity to grow
- Wait on the Lord
- And, ultimately, connect more deeply with God



The Upper Room (Led by Pastor Cathy Allison)

- How long does the class last? Ongoing
- Where will it meet? Tower Chapel
- Is there a book involved? Yes, the daily devotional, *The Upper Room*, can be picked up here at the church.

Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together, listening to God and to each other. Join us as we share a longer devotional time on Sunday mornings. Each week is a standalone session. We will use *The Upper Room* Daily Devotional Guide. You will find each week's discussion in the back of *The Upper Room* Daily Devotional.

Studies for Men and Women

There are ongoing classes for men and women that meet each Sunday morning before the main worship service. The women's study meets in the Parlor, while the men's study meets in Tower Chapel. Both classes get together at 7:45 am.

Christian History and Biblical Literature (Led by Tom Oakwood)

- How long does the class last? Ongoing
- Where will it meet? Choir room (lower level)
- Is there a book involved? No.

This group meets weekly to discuss Christian History and Biblical Literature. The two topics alternate, with Christian History discussed one week, and Biblical Literature the next. This group is for those who want to dig deeper into the issues that helped influence the forming of Christianity and the interpretation of Scripture.

Please feel free to read about each class, and then sign up on the sign-up sheet with your class title.

MISSIONS



The Mission of the Month for January is Family Promise of Porter County. This non-profit organization has a mission of helping families experiencing homelessness or low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Families come to FP in crisis and they help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support. You can learn more at familypromisepcin.org

Local Missions Faith in Action will be offering a service opportunity on MLK day January 20th. There will be a sign up sheet on the next 3 Sunday mornings to sign up in 2 hour shifts to help weave the mats we are making for the homeless. There will be 6 slots available for each shift. 8am-10am, 10am-12 noon, 12-2 pm, 2pm -4pm, and if people are willing, 4-6pm. Please consider this service opportunity and sign up. The sign up sheets will also be at the welcome desk through the week.

The new shelter Daybreak is opening in February. The 24 beds in the primary shelter will be overseen by live in staff. However they need volunteers to staff the emergency overnight heating/cooling part of the shelter. Shifts will be from 7-11, 11-3, and 3-7. There will be 2 training sessions that will be offered and volunteers must attend 1 of them. If you are interested please contact Shawn Blank at sablank68@paladincpia.com



WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

Donate Via Web or Text

Easily support our ministries by visiting valpofumc.org/giving and scroll down to the big green “GIVE NOW” button. Or, text “Give” to 219-946-5955. You will receive a response back with how to complete your gift. With either option, if you have given online to the church before, you can “sign in,” otherwise you can just stay on the “give now” tab without having to sign into our system.



A big thank you for those that contributed to the Christmas offering. Total raised was \$4,708 that will be split between the Children’s Ministry here at ValpoFUMC, the Bashor Children’s Home and for paying student lunch debts in the Valparaiso schools. Thank you so much!!!!

End of year contribution statements will be mailed out next week via the USPS.

If you haven’t already picked up your offering envelopes for 2025, they are in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

If you know of any community events that you think our readership would be interested in, email the information to Dr. Christopher Ebert at communications@valpofumc.org. or choirs@valpofumc.org