

New Living Water Class!

Lectio with the Lectionary

Lectio Divina means “sacred reading” of the Scriptures. The Lectionary is the three-year cycle of Scripture readings chosen by the United Methodist Church to be used in Sunday worship. Each Sunday includes an Old Testament passage, a psalm or part of a psalm, a passage from one of the New Testament letters of Paul, Peter, James, or John, and a passage from one of the four Gospels. See this resource on the Lectionary: <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/lectionary-calendar>

Members of this new class will read two of the four readings from the Lectionary in the week *leading up* to the Sunday in which those readings will be part of worship. The two readings will be chosen according to the reading that the preachers have chosen as the subject of their sermons. So, for example, the Lectionary for October 16 offers references to Jeremiah 21:27-34, Psalm 199:97-104 or Psalm 19, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, and Luke 18:1-8. The preachers plan their sermons weeks in advance, so, for example, Mark may choose to speak on the 2nd Timothy passage and Johnny may choose to speak on the Luke reading. The class will read those passages *daily* (that is the method of Lectio Divina to do so) the week before October 16.

Then, in class we will follow this schedule:

Call To Prayer; Prayer of Confession and Pardon; Prayer for Illumination
Reading of Scripture passages
Discussion of passages
Closing Prayers: Apostles Creed, Lord’s Prayer
Benediction

The reason we don’t read the Scripture passages the week *after* they are used in worship is because of the purpose of Lectio Divina: to hear God speaking directly without any outside interpretation, use of commentary, or even reference to the wonderful words of wisdom we will hear from our pastors.

So the only “textbook” for this class is the Holy Bible!

Members of the class will use one of several methods of prayerful reading that we will discuss when the class begins:

Entering the Story—bringing the scene in the passage to life as you picture yourself within it as a member of the story or an observer.

Feeling the Splinter—accepting, recognizing, and praying over a verse or two that bothers you; that pricks your conscience.

Video Meditation—viewing the text or story as if it were a movie, answering questions such as, “What is the structure or plot?” “What happens next?” “What are the conflicts and resolutions?”

Theological Meditation—asking what the Holy Spirit is teaching you about God.

Paraphrase—putting the passage into everyday language.

Memorization—committing the “splinter” passage or another to memory.

Gazing—experiencing a rare gift of union with God that comes about through grace.

Class will meet during the regular Sunday School (Living Water) period in the Library (off the hallway behind the Fellowship Hall).

Facilitators of the class will be Chris Garcia, Tonita Branan, and Marianne Leventry.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Classes will begin September 11.