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A Publication of Mediapolis and Sperry Global Methodist Churches

January 2025

Sperry

11756 Sperry Road
Sperry, IA 52650
9:00 AM Sunday Worship
10:15 AM Adult Small Group

Mediapolis

601 North Street
Mediapolis, IA 52637
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Mailing Address

PO Box 38
Mediapolis, IA 52637

Office Telephone

319.394.3131
After hours emergency
phone number: 319.768.8593

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM
1:30 PM—4:00 PM
Closed Mondays

E-mail

Office
mepomethch@mepotelco.net
Pastor Bruce Smith
pastorbrucesmith@gmail.com
Deacon Tracey Burgus
traceyburgus@gmail.com

Web Site

www.mepochurch.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/mepochurch
www.facebook.com/sperrychurch

As I write this article, I can't help but to reflect on the year behind us. There were so many blessings, and plenty of struggles as well. At the same time, I can't help but think of the possibilities in the new year ahead of us. There will undoubtedly be blessings in each step of the way, but we know there will still be struggles that will undoubtedly cause us some distress. Even with thinking of all that is behind us (both good and bad) and the possibilities ahead of us (both good and bad), still there is a pulling in the moment to focus on today. I am reminded of these words from Jesus in Matthew 6:34. "...don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. "Today's trouble is enough for today. Recently, I received troubling news from Africa stemming from the continued split of the church that's still unfolding in different ways throughout the world. In this case, violence and loss of life were part of the fallout. I still don't know all the details, but all the details don't change the fact that violence over such a problem is not and has never been the answer. Yet we find ourselves in this spot, where brothers and sisters through Christ are at such odds with one another, it has been taken to an unacceptable level. I don't know the full context, and it's quite probable that whoever acted this violence out brought their own

personal context and expectations into it. Last week over Christmas Eve, I made the statement that as I watched the Chosen's "Holy Night," I thought about how so many people must have been stuck in their own world, with their own pains and their own situations, not even realizing they were about to experience God coming down to be among us. People still get stuck in that mindset today - being lost in whatever they've got going on or whatever is happening to them, and they don't realize God's love through Christ or God's presence through the Holy Spirit. I pray that never happens with us, but most important right now is that we all pray together for believers around the world to realize the depths of God's love and to stand in that love, so they can be a witness for Jesus to those hurting around them. Let's pray that for us, too, because while we might not be seeing levels of violence like this, we sure do know the feelings of division and what those feelings bring. Pray with me for hearts of peace in the New Year, both across the globe and right here among us.

In Christ,

Pastor Bruce



During the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth I am often focused on the needs of the world around us. There are many who are less fortunate than others and who find themselves in situations of need. Some people during this time of the year struggle with depression and anxiety which may be caused by the loss of relationships, financial difficulties, grief over the loss of loved ones, loneliness, isolation, separation anxieties and a host of other reasons that trigger these responses. Others have not yet heard of or received the gift that God so freely gives. Whatever the circumstances may be, it is evident that ***Our world needs a Savior!*** We know that these are not the first sinful or difficult times that the world has experienced. All those years ago God's people were experiencing the same kind of needs as the world experiences today. Civilization continually experiences periods of darkness and will do so until Christ returns and everything is made right! Thankfully believers can cling to the truth that God does not change. He is the same God today that He was yesterday and will be tomorrow. ***Hallelujah!*** His plan

for humanity from the start has been one of redemption and salvation. Praise be to Him who provided His son that we might have light in the darkness. The truth found in God's word is where His people have always found Hope, Renewal, and Peace! God is in control and the outcome for those who love Him and claim Him as their own, has already been determined. For this reason we can look toward the future and celebrate this new year of 2025 with expectation and joy! Many in the world around us do not know the Lord or the abiding joy that he brings. Therefore we live out the commandment to show and share His love with the world that they too may know the truth and experience the joy of salvation! As we pray for renewal, protection, blessings, and grace in 2025, let us also pray that He would show us new ways to share the gospel and new ways to reach out to the world! I pray that He will bless each of us and our efforts as we endeavor to serve Him!

Blessings!
Tracey

NEED PRAYER OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Organized prayer teams are available to minister to your needs. Please contact the church office with your prayer requests.

MEAL MINISTRY

The purpose of our Meal Ministry is to provide meals for families in our congregation who are recovering from an illness, surgery or childbirth. If you are aware of anyone who may need meals, please contact the church office.

Please call the church office if you or a family member will be admitted into the hospital.

Thank You!

*Sunday
 Worship*

IN PERSON

9:00AM @ Sperry
 10:00AM @ Mediapolis

ONLINE

10:00AM

[www.mepochurch.com/
 sermons.html](http://www.mepochurch.com/sermons.html)

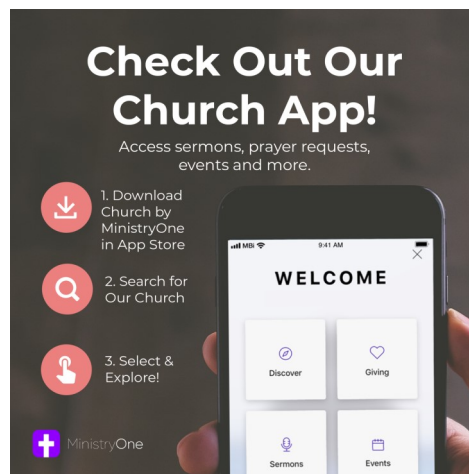
www.facebook.com/mepochurch

PARKING LOT

10:00AM

Mediapolis Methodist Church
 (live only) over 87.9 FM

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
 be to *follow you*
more closely
 and to
trust in your
loving guidance.



JANUARY DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

One of the best ways to know God is to become acquainted with the full counsel of His written Word.
This reading plan will guide you through all 66 books of the Bible in the coming year

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Genesis 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Genesis 42 – 43 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Exodus 31 – 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Genesis 5 – 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Genesis 44 – 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Exodus 35 – 37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Genesis 9 – 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Genesis 47 – 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Exodus 38 – 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Genesis 13 – 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Exodus 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Leviticus 1 – 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Genesis 18 – 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Exodus 5 – 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Leviticus 5 – 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Genesis 21 – 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Exodus 8 – 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Leviticus 8 – 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Genesis 24 – 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Exodus 11 – 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Leviticus 11 – 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Genesis 26 – 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Exodus 14 – 16 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Genesis 29 – 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Exodus 17 – 20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Genesis 32 – 35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Exodus 21 – 23 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Genesis 36 – 38 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Exodus 24 – 27 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Genesis 39 – 41 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Exodus 28 – 30 | |



01/01 Nicholas Isom
01/02 Alton Allen
Nolan Whitaker
01/03 Gary Earnest
Sarah Smith
01/05 Mindi Manning
Kari Stephens
01/06 Keely Keitzer
01/07 Dan Keitzer
Logan Thie
01/08 Jerry Miller
01/09 David Hicks
Cara Hammond
01/12 Linda Jones
01/14 Kathleen Dziulko
01/15 Caitlin Tade
01/16 Conner Kester
01/17 Jonathon Thomson
01/18 Bill Moehle
01/21 Fred Carruthers

01/22 Ken Davis
Mike Green
Cara Schnedler

01/23 Katie Powers
01/25 Kyle Hicks
01/27 Bobby Thomson
01/28 Jeff Sands
01/30 Dale Edmonds



01/16 Travis & Kendra Meisgeier
01/27 John & Rita Cortum

In case of bad weather,
cancellations or changes
to the service schedules will
be posted on KBUR
and on the home page of
our church website
www.mepochurch.com.

This Month...

Communion will be celebrated
on Sunday, January 5th

Prayer Group @ Mediapolis
Tuesdays, January 7 & 28—
6:30 PM

Prayer Group @ Sperry
Thursdays, January 9 & 23
6:15 PM

2nd Sunday Social @ Sperry
Sunday, January 12—following
the worship service

SPRC
Tuesday, January 14—6:30 PM
@ Mediapolis

Sperry Ad Council
Tuesday, January 21—6:00 PM

Mediapolis Ad Council
Tuesday, January 21—7:30 PM