

A Note from the Pastor . . .

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” - - - Psalm 119:105

Many of us are familiar with the verse from Psalm 119 printed above. Even if we do not know much about the Bible, we are pretty sure the Psalmist is referring to God’s Word, the Scriptures, when he writes about it being a light that guides us.

I recently read a devotional that uses that verse and shares some thoughts about it. I have reprinted it below:

It is night. I am sitting in the dark living room. Boring! I can’t read. I can’t do a word puzzle. Right next to me sits a lamp. Now I can ignore this lamp and continue sitting bored, not being able to read or walk through the room, even stubbornly going ahead doing these things badly because I can’t see properly. Or I can turn on the lamp, receive its light and function much better. There must be an action on my part. The benefits make it worth my effort.

A Bible sits on the table. I can ignore it and flounder through life, or I can pick it up and use it for the lamp God intended it to be. My decision determines the outcome. I am responsible to take action.

God’s Word is a lamp. It will enable me to have courage when I have none, discernment when I feel dumb (or numb) and guidance when the way seems dim. God’s Word will guide me to know courage, discernment, and wisdom.

It seems a little silly to think I might sit in the dark and ignore a lamp, doesn’t it? Yet, every day, someone, somewhere, ignores the Bible, God’s lamp for our feet. (Author unknown)

As I read that devotional, I thought about how much the Bible has been a lamp for my feet, giving me the guidance I have needed in life. I thought about how much I have grown in Christ as I have read, studied, and prayed over God’s Word. What I know of Jesus, our Blessed Savior, I didn’t learn in seminary or even at Blue Mountain College. I met Jesus in the words of life found in the Scriptures. I met Jesus through the guidance of my parents and in their strong faith and love. I met Jesus in worship services, at Sunday School and at Vacation Bible School. And God’s Word has guided and sustained me through years of ministry and service.

Have you turned on the lamp of God’s Word in your life? Maybe you don’t even know where to start. (The Gospel of John is a great starting place.) Here at Aberdeen FUMC, we have so many opportunities to study God’s Word together. There are some great Sunday school classes; we have Sunday night Bible study and will soon be starting a study of “Practices of the Christian Life.” Any of these will be helpful in studying God’s Word.

Now, pick up your Bible (and open it!) – and watch God turn on the light.

See you in church,
Mary