



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Patricia Cleary

Pastor's Page –October 2015 The Story

Excitement about The Story is building. We embark on this 31 week journey beginning Nov. 1st. Throughout October you can visit the display in the library to see the resources for The Story. They are as follows:

1. The main resource which everyone will want is the **hardback book**. It comes in an NIV version or King James, whichever you prefer. I will be using the NIV for worship and study group.
2. If you will be working on it in Sunday School or study group, you need to check with your leader to see whether you need the **adult study guide**.
3. We have one **audio version** (on CD) of The Story, if that is something you can use (visually impaired people get first choice). Also, Kathy Gordon has discovered that for \$4 it can be purchased to download to your **Kindle**.
4. There are three other age appropriate versions of The Story: youth, elementary age and young children. For the children's fun and instruction there are trading cards that go with each lesson.
5. In addition, there are **videos** for use in Sunday School or study group to introduce the lessons. It is wonderful to have such a depth of resources. On top of what I've already mentioned are **online resources** available to download. If you are interested, see me for login information.

You will be hearing a lot about the "Upper Story" and the "Lower Story." The authors Max Lucado and Randy Frazee refer to the "Upper Story" meaning what God does to fulfill his plan to save the world. Sometimes they are things God initiates and at other times they are God's response to what humans do. The "Lower Story" is our story – what goes on on earth and the response people make to God's initiatives to save us, both the good responses and bad.

At its heart it is a love story summarized in John 3:16: God so loved... that he gave... so that we might believe... and not die ...but live eternally.

We are blessed to be able to offer the basic book and adult study guide at greatly reduced prices. However, if you are in a position to donate more for them, that would be appreciated.

Looking forward to sharing The Story with you,

Pastor Pat