



PRAYER NEEDED!

We continue in times of struggle within our lives. One of those struggles is within our denomination, the United Methodist Church. There are many who voice their concerns, and complain because no decisions are being made. Currently we are delayed in meeting as a General Conference, where UMC decisions are made, because of the pandemic limits across the world. Instead of complaining and voicing our opinions, we should be in prayer concerning all aspects of the Church. Our first step should always be to pray to God for His will to be done! When we don't get a fast answer to our prayers, we shouldn't revert back to discussing the situation, but we should continue praying. It's not about what we want, but it's about what God wants! So how do we make a difference in any of this?

The following is a quote that speaks to this. *"There has NEVER been a move of God in the Church without PRAYER! I mean when God is MOVING! I don't care how smart you are, how degreed you are, how business oriented and organized you are, how charismatic you are, etc. It is the intimacy with God that conceives the ministry/move that allows the birth of what God wants. In other words, we have to talk to God and Him talk to us deeply. It is not a 5 second or minute type of praying. That's not intimacy. I am talking about that fervent kind of prayer. That kind of prayer that keeps you up all night or wakes you up early. That kind of prayer where it's not my will Lord, but Your will be done. That kind of prayer that causes heaven to move and unites God's people. I am still stirred by Pentecost Sunday and what could possibly be if the CHURCH prays with anticipation, expectation and hunger for GOD to move--not our flesh--but our spirit."* This is a quote from Rev. Angela Lewis, our future District Superintendent. It is part of a statement that she posted on Facebook on May 24th.

1 John 5:14 CEB tells us this, "This is the confidence that we have in our relationship with God: If we ask for anything in agreement with his will, he listens to us." This process of prayer should be used for all circumstances that we are struggling with. Prayers should be intimate with the Lord over a time that's longer than a moment of our time. We should always ask for the answers to our prayers to be according to God's will, not ours. Complaints don't help, but fervent prayers do!

Prayers are needed in all situations! Join me in making a difference through prayer by seeking God's involvement in all things, according to God's will.

Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie

The Generous Sunshine of Summer

Sit in the generous sunshine of summer -
a bright blue sky overhead.
Join millions of leaves.
Join grasses and trees.
Soak up the warmth from heaven.

Pause in the generous shine of summer.
Look for a cool, clear brook.
Rest in the shade
That summer has made.
Rest and refresh the soul.

Bask in the generous sunshine of summer.
Indulge in its timelessness - the quiet unfolding of nature itself,
Abundantly giving,
Abundantly living.
Beauty transcends the earth, and leads to eternal worth!

~Peggy Ferrell





Joys

Bob & Irene H's great-grandson Chase - recovery going well

Duane H. - feeling better

Pastor Ruthie - health improving

Concerns

Damon w. - recovery from injury Marvin F. - health Marilyn H. - health

Pam H. - health Nancy Mc. - health

Niles B. - cancer has returned, remember Rita, too

Pastor Ruthie & Pastor Don Trigg - health for both, and during their move

Harry & Nancy B. - health for both Pauline R. - health

Pam H's friend, Pat (also Pat's sisters & brother) - health of all

Nina (Pam H's sister-in-law's mother) - comfort & peace

Our sympathy to the family of:

Marley - the beloved dog of our secretary Becky and her mom



June

1st - Bruce Lindenmuth

2nd - Dick Baker

Rachael Ramsier

3rd - Rick Ullman

8th - Harry Britton

17th - Matthew Richards

23rd - Sandy Gasser

26th - Pat Seiler

29th - John Lunter



June

6th - Bob & Lisa Hartman

10th - Don & Ruthie Trigg

12th - Bill & Lori Ullman

13th - Bruce & Ruthanne Lindenmuth

22nd - Rod & Judy Britton

26th - Lee & Betty Winchell

Mary's Meanderings - June 2021

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers who try to live up to God's standard for husbands and fathers to those who aren't, please ask God for help. He only wants what's best for you and your family.

Now I am going to try to tackle the subject that's been swirling around in my mind for a few months and that is DISCERNMENT. The Webster definition is 1. "The ability to judge well" and 2. "(in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding." Wikipedia says "Discernment in the Christian religion is considered as a virtue, a discerning individual is considered to possess wisdom; and be of good judgment especially in regard to subject matter often overlooked by others." What does the Bible say about discernment? "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." The "apostle that Jesus loved" speaking in a letter in 1 John: 4:1.

So how do we get discernment? Tim Challies, blogger, author and book reviewer suggests 5 ways.

1. Start with Proverbs.
2. Fear the Lord.
3. Ask God.
4. Walk with the wise.
5. Persevere.

I have often thought that maybe Adam and Eve did not finish the whole fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and that is why we still struggle sometimes today to know what is right and what is wrong. Authors Norman L. Geisler and Jason Jimenez in their book "The Bible's Answers to 100 of Life's Biggest Questions" say "There are many opinions floating around about what is right and what is wrong. With all the moral confusion in our society, it's difficult to figure out what people should actually believe. No matter where you go, questions like these arise: Doesn't everyone have the right to determine what is right and wrong for himself or herself? Isn't everything relative to the individual? Without question, relativism is one of the foremost -isms of our time. It claims that there are no absolutes and that anyone who thinks there are absolutes is absolutely wrong. But isn't this one of the basic problems with relativism? Absolutely. Moral disputes imply universal moral laws. We can't say something is right and something else is wrong unless there is a standard by which to measure them. Thus, there must be an ultimate standard that measures the two so they can be compared."

If ever in our lifetime do we need discernment it is now as our leaders give us mixed messages. With the pandemic it is a matter of life and death. Hebrews 5:13-14 says "Anyone who lives on milk being still and infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

In the end it is God who has made the moral laws, taught them to the ancients through Moses and now to us in Exodus 20 and has written them on our hearts and consciences. Romans 2:15.



Fireside Chat



From the Finance Chair

Fireside Chat with the Finance Chair,

Hurrah! The Finance Team held our first in person meeting since a year ago when COVID shut down in person group meetings. We met around a box of tables in fellowship hall on May 18th with a masked band of members. It was so good to see each other that I forgot to start the meeting with prayer and went right to our financial praise reports.

Sherri Lance gave us a report that our apportionments were paid up to date as of the end of April - Praise God! Amen. Now if we can keep this going for the rest of the year we'll be in good shape. The report for the Admin. Council Board the week before showed the rest of the bills paid as well.

Bruce Lindenmuth has started the 2020 audit of the church books. He hopes to have it done within a month or two.

Heather Richards, Preschool Treas., sent a report that Preschool was solvent and planning to open in the fall after having to be closed last year because of COVID and social distancing problems in the physical size of our classrooms.

Lynn and Mark Turnbow had finished setting up for the May 19th Food pantry and left their Food Pantry treasury report letting us know that they too were solvent with enough cash to allow for stocking up when a bargain came along. The dinners on food pantry days have been missed as a social gathering for our pantry guests, church members, and community friends and we have been asked when and if we will be doing it again. The answer is that we hope to be able to start up again in the fall.

Checking the special giving for "Flood Buckets" in May, we have reached our goal of 4 (one for each person from our church who will be "at" Annual Conference in June). Since we didn't do this last year, any extra giving will be sent to help cover what we didn't give last year. Sherri will send this in at the end of the month.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! I wish all finance meetings could be like this one.

Martha Baillis,
Finance Chair

Trustee's Corner



Items since last month:

- Keim Exteriors replaced parsonage front siding and shutters resolving paint ball gun vandalism damage from last year. Wayne Co. Court had vandals cover \$1700 cost of repairs.
- Trustees propose removing large trees next to entryway. Major limbs have been dying, suspect ant infested. The tree on the right is so large that leaves frequently clog gutters and we get water in corner of the office with heavy rain. Timing & replacement of trees TBD. Possible memorial opportunity?

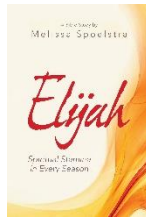
Women's Bible Study



Join us for a great chance to learn more about God's Word
and a wonderful time of fellowship!

We meet on Thursdays with a choice of:
10:00am in person led by Pastor Ruthie,
or 6:30pm led by Sara Ullman and Betty Winchell.
Contact Pastor Ruthie or Betty, if you need books.

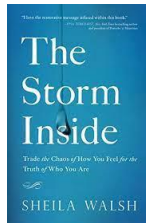
Here are the studies that are coming through 2021 and the beginning of 2022.
Yes, the schedule is already set!



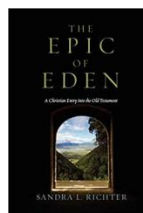
Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season by Melissa Spoelstra
July 8th-Aug. 19th (6 sessions)



Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life by Beth Moore
Sept. 2nd - Oct. 21st (6 sessions)



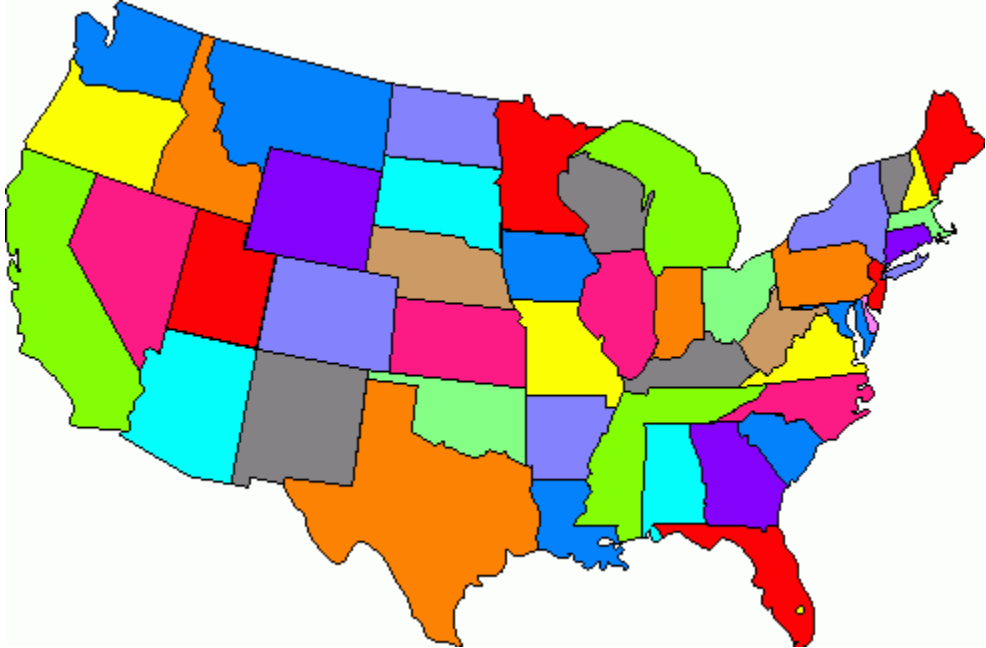
The Storm Inside:
Trade the Chaos of How You Feel for the Truth of Who You Are
By Sheila Walsh
Nov. 3rd - Jan. 20th (8 sessions)



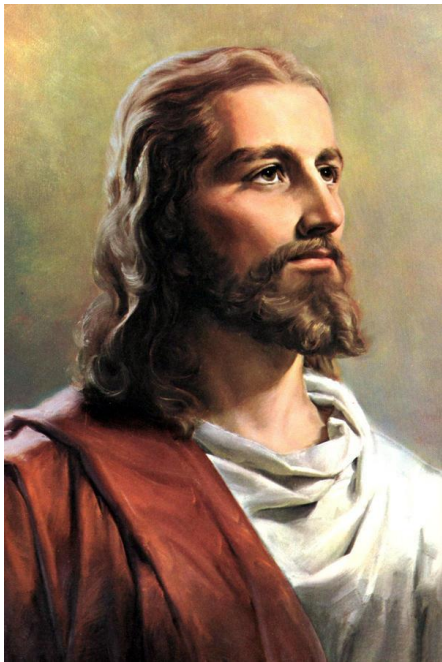
The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament
By Sandra L. Richter
Feb. 3rd - April 21st (12 sessions)

Consider joining the Women's Bible Study group.
It is a great opportunity to grow in your spiritual
walk with the Lord, plus the fellowship.

A father wanted to read a magazine, but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Cutting out all the states, he gave it to her and said, “Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our country today.”



After a few minutes she returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. “Oh,” she said, “on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together.”





Thank you to everyone who continues to support the funding & volunteering for the food pantry. Our May Food Pantry, we had 11 families (0 new), 34 people and 30 sets of bags given out. If you hear of anyone needing food, please have them call the church office to come pick up a food supply during office hours, or they can contact Pastor Ruthie to set up a different time to pick up. Our next Food Pantry will be Wednesday, June 16th, 4 - 5:30pm.



Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"
"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."
The child thought about this for a moment, then said "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Never has the world had a greater need for love than in our day. People are hungry for love. We don't have time to stop and smile at each other. We are all in such a hurry! PRAY.
Ask for the necessary grace. Pray to be able to understand how much Jesus loved us, so that you can love others.

~Mother Teresa