

February

Pastoral News

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Hello friends...

If you happen to be at church, or watched online recently, you may be aware that we have been talking and practicing praying without using words...(at least fewer words than usually, lol). Here is what we have done and what's still to come.

01.12.25 - Practicing Breath Prayer

Explore an ancient prayer practice that reminds us that God is as close as our breath and that helps us be more mindful.

01.19.25 - Praying in Color

Praying in color can be an alternative to written prayer journaling. People typically use colored markers or pencils, but any art media works, e.g. collage.

1.26.25 - Praying to music

2.2.25: Embodied prayer

2.9.25: Praying through images

2.16.25: Using Sign Language

2.23.25: Using Prayer beads

03.02.25: Painting in the Spirit

- Caritas Challenge
- Prayers Needed
- Birthdays
- United Women of Faith

February Calendar

2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd
Worship @ 10:30

4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
Tops @ 9
Prayer Group @ 10:30
Bible Study @ 11:00

6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
Crafting Group 9 till noon

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
Parks & Rec

“We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.”

Prayer has a purpose. Prayer is meant to affect our philosophy, our way of thinking. It is not a voicemail where requests are left. It is not a help line where insight can be gained to fix a part of one's life. It is not a therapy couch where one can dump his heartaches and receive an understanding gaze. Prayer is not a bank where money can be obtained to fund a life of ease. Some of these may be aspects included in prayer, but they are not what prayer is. Prayer is a place where our minds are changed from being carnally bent to being permeated with holiness. *(Posted on April 27, 2016 by zach.kincaid)*

Paul knows this experience is normal, for he writes, “We do not know what to pray for as we ought” (Rom. 8:26). He doesn't excuse prayerlessness (hence, “as we ought”) but he does acknowledge the reality we face. There are several reasons we may go mute before the Lord, whether shame, confusion, discouragement, skepticism, lament, complacency, fear, anger, distress, or weakness. The list goes on.

So, when we take away our very own words, or when we simply have no words... something interesting happens to us, we become somehow vulnerable or childlike, there may even be a sense that we are not in control anymore (shocking as that may seem). When we pray without thinking...always remember, the Godhead is at work in our weakness to pray. So lets us not be afraid to come before God without having anything to say...

...the Holy Spirit's very responsibility is to be our Helper (Jn. 14:26). Paul confirms this in Romans 8:26: “The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning's too deep for words.” These groaning's of the Spirit parallel our own inward groaning (Rom. 8:23). The Spirit does not give up on us when we are without words. He is there in the wordlessness, groaning with us...Amen

Hope to see you all next Sunday

Peace, pastor René

February Birthdays

15th - Jayden Grater

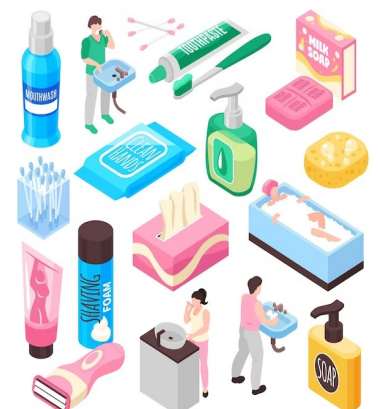
20th - Bob Newell



Caritas Challenge

Hygiene Products and Cleaning Products!

Tooth Brush, Tooth Paste, Soap, Razor, Shampoo, Feminine pads, Mouth Wash, Q tips, Tissue, Windex, Clorox, etc. . .





P R A Y E R

Hand of God to Touch

Peace on Earth
Our Church
All Caregivers
Peace for the Middle East and Israel
Our country
Neil - job issues
Health decisions

Health and Healing

Old friends and their health
Dorothy
John

Continued Prayers

Mark Walker
Lynn
Gail Liberty - loss of husband
Roxy
Hawk
Kelli
Jean
Granddaughter Brandy
Sindie Price
All those suffering from cancer

Prayers of Gratitude

“For unto you is born this day on the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

Soup Pot Luck

February 16th

Bring your favorite soup to
share with all of us!





CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

This article contains excerpts from the latest letter from Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society.

It has been said that our theology is often best expressed in our hymnody. I woke up on January 21st thinking about hope. A hope that is sustainable, resilient and disciplined. The refrain to one of my longtime favorite hymns came to mind and lifted my spirit: “On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

My hope is indeed built on the blood, righteousness, and witness of Jesus. Yes, along with me, I invite the collective We, to wholly lean on the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the one who was and is the way-maker, healer, teacher, liberator and prince of peace, “God with us.”

Jesus, the one who rebukes retaliation and calls for a radical commitment to a love that extends to neighbors and “enemies.” This same Jesus that calls for an expansive understanding of neighbor and a generous grace that compels me to pray more and worry less.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...” (Matthew 6:25 -NRSV)

As a United Methodist, I am inspired by a Wesleyan motivation to do all the good we can because of a call to love God and neighbor. This good we do is not because we are so “good,” but because the Bible tells us that our sacredness is connected to the sacredness of the rest of God’s creation and humanity, which we have stewardship responsibility.....

Most Americans believe a country has a right to control its borders. However, we as a Church have been called to promote the dignity of every person and resist the temptation to embrace criminalization, incarceration and mass deportation as though these are the best and only solutions to the complex issue of U.S. immigration. Mass deportations is incompatible with our recently adopted Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, and many of the proposed Trump administration policies are deeply un-Christian.

“We affirm the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees, including displaced and stateless people...We urge United Methodists to welcome migrants, refugees and immigrants into their congregations and commit themselves to providing concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.” (United Methodist Social Principles: Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees, Political Community)

The President’s proposed plan to deport millions of immigrants highlights a question of moral significance if we claim we want to do no harm to address the problem of undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

Jesus does not give us the example of building walls and excluding the poor and the sojourner on the move. Jesus does not foster faith and build hope by devaluing those who are desperate or different. The judgement of nations is based on a choice of compassion over cruelty and indifference, attentiveness and mercy over selfishness, grace over greed, and love over hatred.....

We should never be offended when we are asked to lead with grace and mercy. This is the way of Jesus Christ and our United Methodist way. And so, we sing “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

Bishop Julius C. Trimble, GBCS



United
Women
in Faith

As supporters of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith also support the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

While firefighters have been diligently working to control the Los Angeles-area wildfires a week after this tragedy first struck, we know there is still uncertainty. Strong winds are visiting the region this week, threatening to spark new flames. The people impacted by these fires are on many of our minds; even as they adapt to their new reality, some reach out to care for their neighbors, inspiring us all.

One of the blessings of being in a connectional church is that we do not weather these calamities alone. Just as the larger connection has offered its support to us as our neighbors felt the impact of wind, flood waters and flames, we can support those in LA with our prayers and financial assistance for imminent needs and for when they are ready to rebuild.

Beyond prayer, there are excellent opportunities for you to offer your support as first responders continue to fight to control the remaining fires.

You can donate directly to UMCOR to support its disaster relief efforts in the United States (including these LA fires.)

To give umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/

Call 1-888-252-6174

Send a check to Global Ministries/UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York NY 10087-9068. On the memo line of the check write Advance #901670

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COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday
at 9am