



For His Glory

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER
TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From Pastor David

Over the past month, our congregational reading plan has focused on the book of John, which we close out to begin our read-through of Matthew starting in October. If you haven't been reading along with us, I'd like to invite you to join us as we begin reading Matthew's gospel this month, and if you're so inclined, joining us for Bible Study over what we've read on Tuesdays at 10:30 am or Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

So often, our reading of the Bible comes broken up into sporadic pieces, a few verses or a chapter here, moving to another book over there, and so on and so forth. I have enjoyed reading large blocks of the gospel, which is something that I haven't done in some time. Reading five or more chapters of John's gospel at a time has opened up the book to me in wonderful ways. One thing that I've come to understand in reading through John's gospel is just how much Jesus was pressured and pursued by those who sought to kill him, especially towards the end of his ministry. As Jesus' hour to go to the cross approaches, he seems to be constantly moving, from one location to another. Appearing in public to teach, heal, and show God's glory; only to face opposition and withdraw to solitude at the edges of civilization for a time before appearing again. Before this read-through, I hadn't appreciated just how much opposition Jesus faced before he allowed those who opposed him to take him to the cross.

It seems as John's gospel progresses that Jesus' signs grow greater and greater. One would think that as God's glory is revealed in Jesus in increasingly amazing ways that more and more people would flock to him and receive life in his name, that those who were skeptical would believe, and that those who opposed him would join in his ministry. The final sign of Jesus' public ministry is when he raises Lazarus from the dead. John tells us that there were many people there comforting and supporting Martha and Mary in their grief when Jesus called Lazarus out of the grave. I find it difficult to believe that anyone would doubt Jesus after such an act, yet many did. In fact, the raising of Lazarus is the direct catalyst for the religious leaders to begin their plans to take Jesus' life.

John's gospel is full of a tension between following Jesus and following religion. The stories John tells rarely contain neat answers, but lead us to ask questions. Questions of ourselves, of our own relationship with Jesus, how we serve Jesus, and even of how our religion may hamper our ability to fully know and serve Christ. I know that I've said it before, but I will say it again and again and again. There is a vast difference between being the church and doing church. Often, what we take for granted as faith revolves around doing church rather than being the church, the embodied presence of Christ in the world. I love Jesus, but I often struggle to be his disciple (as did his own disciples). The religious leaders who conspired to kill Jesus knew how to do church, and were protecting what they knew and loved. All because Jesus came into their established world and demanded more from them.

Through his telling of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, John makes the same demands of us that Jesus made to those who encountered him. We have a choice, each moment of each day. To go through the motions of faith, do the right things, say the right things, but not engage beyond the surface. Or to allow Jesus to disrupt what we take for granted and lead us to an intimate relationship with himself, which once established should pour out from us in love to the world. Please don't hear me say that church isn't good, that worship isn't good, because it is. It becomes a problem however, when we go through the motions, the ritual, and that is all we make of faith, when we do church. And believe me when I say, I'm good and very comfortable doing church. John pushes me, hard, to expect and demand more of my faith. To be the church, to never be satisfied with how things are, to be constantly seeking to deepen my relationship with Jesus through worship, prayer, study of scripture, and receiving the love and grace of forgiveness and new life. Yet, I struggle with being the church. Because John shares how Jesus calls his disciples to not only know him and receive his love, but to also live their lives in such a way that Christ's love and presence are unmistakable in all they say and do for others. This is being the church. This is where Jesus pushes me to take my next steps and question how I am a part of what Christ is doing in the world. Do I spend enough time in the community serving and sharing? Do I hide the love of Christ living in me so I don't have to engage with others? Do I freely offer what I can to help those in need? Do I condemn and judge or do I see others as Jesus does?, Do I allow the Spirit to lead me to invite others to meet Jesus whom I know and love? How is Christ calling you to be the church today?

This month we'll be preaching on some of the suggestions we received from you! For the first two weeks in October we'll hear two stories from the Bible that are not normally shared in church. Beginning on October 16 we'll begin a three part sermon series called God-In-A-Box that will focus on how we often limit God and God's activity in our lives and world to our own, often narrow understanding, and explore how we can open the boxes we place God in so we can receive the fullness of relationship and life that God offers us. We hope that you'll join us as we worship and dive into God's word this month!

Please go to www.troymethodist.org/umc-future for recaps of our informational meetings regarding the future of the UMC, FAQ, and timeline for Troy UMC and our discernment process regarding remaining a United Methodist congregation or disaffiliating.

Spiritual Formation

For September, the sermon series was Blessed to Bless, looking at stewardship through the lens of our membership vows as United Methodists. The membership vows are that we will share our gifts, prayers, presence, service, and witness with others. While Pastor David was preaching about gifts and service, he mentioned that to share our gifts, we have to know what our gifts are. Later that day, I met with our Stephen Ministers for continuing education. We looked at the enneagram and how knowing ourselves (the good and the not-so-great) can help us better serve those who come to Stephen Ministry for support.

As I reflected on Pastor David's statement during the sermon and our discussion during Stephen Ministry, it clicked for me that to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ, we must have a certain amount of self-knowledge and understanding. We must understand how we think, make decisions, and react to situations that come up in our lives. Without knowing our starting point, how do we lay aside the things that separate us from God or Jesus and pick up the things that help us be more and more like Jesus on a daily basis? By understanding who God made us to be, we can find what spiritual disciplines and practices help us stay connected to God using the personality or hardwiring that God gave each one of us. That understanding can help us know what ministries we can best support through our presence, gifts, and service. That understanding can help us mature in our relationships with others as we learn who we are and maybe adjust how we react to situations in a more healthy and life-giving way. So this month, I offer you some tools to aid you in understanding yourself and your gifts as you grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

When it comes to knowing your personality, there are a lot of different personality tests that you could take that would give you some insight into how God might have hardwired you. For Stephen Ministry, we used the enneagram. There are a lot of resources about the enneagram, both in books and on the internet, and some resources that use the enneagram to point back to spiritual formation and spiritual connection with God. So here are two that I found for my conversation with the Stephen Ministers.

Enneagram Institute – www.enneagraminstitute.com – has a enneagram test (does cost to take the test) but they also have a lot of basic information about the enneagram, its history, and how to use the enneagram for self-understanding.

Lisa Notes blog - <https://lisanotes.com/enneagram-for-spiritual-growth-series/> - This blog has 29 posts about the enneagram and how to use the enneagram for spiritual growth specifically. She also has links for different ways to take the enneagram test, both paid and free. She also offers spiritual practice ideas that connect to each post about the enneagram.

I also have a book in my office about the enneagram if you would like to use a printed resource. I would be happy to lend it to you.

When it comes to spiritual gifts, there are a lot of different resources for determining what spiritual gifts God may have blessed you with. As Pastor David mentioned during his sermon, we are not given spiritual gifts to use for ourselves and our own benefit but to serve others and be the light of Christ in the world. The link below is for an online spiritual gifts inventory offered by the United Methodist Church discipleship ministries.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

Spiritual Formation continued next page....

Spiritual Formation continued..

If you take the spiritual gifts inventory and have questions or would like to know how you might use your specific gifts at Troy UMC, Pastor David or I would be happy to talk with you and help you find a ministry of the church where your gifts would be a good fit. I am also happy to sit with you and find other resources as you explore your personality and spiritual gifts.

ShaShawna Bush
Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation

Stephen Ministry

Recently I was connected by a church in Killeen to see if we still had an active Stephen Ministry and Stephen Ministers available to help a woman in Temple who was going through a hard time. Thanks to the support of this congregation and Pastor David, we have an active Stephen Ministry and Stephen Ministers available to help someone when they are struggling, even someone who is not directly connected with our church family. This call reminded me how connected we are and how connected we should be as believers of Christ. God created the church to offer community and connection to each other and a connection back to God for those who follow Christ.

Life can be hard at times, and it is even more challenging when we don't have a community or connection to walk alongside us in the hard or dark moments of life. That is something that Stephen Ministers are trained to do, walk alongside you and be a connection for you or someone you know. Stephen Ministers are there when we don't want anyone to know your business or when we don't want to bother family and friends with your struggle. So don't struggle alone; reach out for help and connection. Reach out for a Stephen Minister.

For more information about Stephen Ministry or to request a Stephen Minister, please call me or email me.

ShaShawna Bush
Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Stephen Leader
254-541-5530
shashawna@troymethodist.org



October Gospel Reading - Matthew

10/02/22	1-6, Psalm 37
10/09/22	7-12, Psalm 111
10/16/22	13-17, Psalm 121
10/23/22	18-22, Psalm 65
10/30/22	23-28, Psalm 32



October Adult LYFE Group

We all remember the 90;s popularity of the “What would Jesus do?” slogan and merchandise. There were WWJD bracelets, wristbands, T-shirts, hats, and much more, year after year.

Despite disagreements in how WWJD should be thought of and lived out in one’s life, WWJD had and continues to drive effective outcomes that balance two realities about Jesus: Christ’s deeply loving approach to personal relationships and His constant focus on truth in action and character. God is both perfectly loving and perfectly truthful, and Christ’s life displays this for all who are willing to learn from it.

Remember, it's WWJD, not WWJLHTH (What would Jesus let happen to him?), and there in lies the power of His story. God sent us Jesus intentionally. Jesus taught and loved intentionally while living among us. We should honor His gifts by praising intentionally and leading a life full of Christ-like action. We can use such an intentional approach to master some of life's harder lessons, such as:

- Letting go of the past
- Finding forgiveness
- Owning your self-identity (shaking the idea that I am not good enough)
- Avoiding busyness (seeing through the illusion that we are accomplishing something when, in fact, we are not)
- Rejecting any fear of failure
- Developing an intimate relationship with God

During the month of October, discussions will focus on how being intentional affects us all throughout our lifelong journeys, both inside and outside of the church.

We will begin small by tackling the definition of intentionality and how scripture speaks of leading our lives intentionally. Next, we will further that discussion by examining smaller group dynamics, which will allow us to focus on the family unit, specifically the role of being a parent and/or spouse. There will also be topics surrounding how the church can offer collective intention to its affairs, before finally moving outside the church walls and finding ways to live intentionally throughout our local community and beyond.

In Him,
Brett Payne

Troy ISD Luncheon and Staff Development

TUMC will be hosting Troy ISD on Oct 10th for a luncheon and staff development. This luncheon is sponsored by the Mission and Evangelism Team. Our United Women in Faith have graciously agreed to help oversee desserts. We are asking ALL church members to help prepare desserts for the luncheon. We will need quite a few as we are serving approximately 220 people. Desserts can be brought to church on Sunday, Oct 9th or the morning of the 10th. Thank you so much for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Calling all kiddos!!!! We need your help. As we serve the teachers and staff of Troy ISD on Oct 10th we would love to have our children/youth in our congregation to help serve them this day. If you are able, please join us at 11:00 on that Monday to help tell the teachers THANK YOU for all that they do.

TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 29 OCT

GARAGE SALE ~ FOOD ~ BAKE SALE
VENDOR BOOTHS ~ QUILT RAFFLE
SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

GARAGE SALE - FRI 7:30AM - 6PM, SAT 7:30AM - 1PM
SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY 8AM - 1PM
LIVE AUCTION SATURDAY 2 PM

BBQ CHICKEN LUNCH BY TOOTER CREECH & CO.
SAT 10:30AM - 1:30PM - ADULTS \$12, CHILDREN \$10
TO GO MEAL PICKUP AVAILABLE 254.938.2364

2500 FM 935 - 2 Miles East of I-35, Troy Exit
 For More Information
 Call 254.938.2364 or visit www.troymethodist.org

Troy United Methodist Church

Kids

Fall Festival Activities

Saturday, Oct 29
9am - 1pm

@ Troy United Methodist Church
2500 FM 935

Free Admission & Free Activities

Activities:

- Bouncy House
- Cupcake Walk
- Arts & Crafts
- Face Painting
- Pumpkin Decorating

www.troymethodist.org
 or call us at
254.938.2364

Fall Festival Help Needed!



The Fall Festival is coming up on October 29th, and a lot of help is needed to ensure the event is a success. We need help in the kitchen, at the garage sale, in the children's area, at the welcome desk, and during the live auction beginning on Wednesday all the way through Saturday. Volunteering is easy this year; scan the QR code or click the link to sign up. See Kirby Bush (Fall Festival Chair), Pastor David, or ShaShawna Bush if you have any questions about volunteering. Please click the following link <https://forms.gle/ri577t3ZjoTTw3TN7> or scan the QR code to sign up to help!

Celebrate Troy UMC!

We've had a busy and full summer of living out our lives as disciples of Jesus! We're beginning something new this month, where we take time to intentionally celebrate where we've served Jesus, seen His work in our congregation, and how we're growing as His disciples. Each quarter we'll celebrate our congregation and how we're living into always becoming more committed disciples of Jesus. We invite you to click the following link: www.troymethodist.org/celebrate or to follow the QR code to celebrate all that Jesus is doing in our church!



October Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Daniel Roberts
- 9 Oneta Taylor, Kay Tyler
- 10 Charlie Porter
- 11 Cameryn Stewart
- 13 Edward Mendoza, Jessica Medrano
- 15 Gary Allison
- 17 Robert Oliver, Lindsey Hester, Madison Naser
- 18 Landry Hart
- 19 Cohen Ketcham
- 24 Kade Stewart
- 28 Nancy Holmes, Jill Ross, Preston Roberts, Kelli Tedrow, Sydney Richter
- 30 Tim Kirkscey
- 31 Nancy Mercer, John Williams, Kirby Bush, Andrew Pausewang



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Marcus & Alyssa Ketcham, Richard & Jennifer Naser
- 4 Josh & Casey Pausewang
- 7 Rodney & Tracie Tedrow
- 15 Matt & Kacy Jarma
- 19 Sean & Ellen Huffman

Memorials

In memory of Carolyn Faulkner by Richard and Betty Hester