

March 2023

# The Flame



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

Fan into flame the spirit of God that is within you. 2 Timothy 1:6

## ARLINGTON METHODIST

### PASTOR'S PONDERING

#### Passage of the Month

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10*

#### Mission of the Month

**Arlington Fire Department**

Well, it is apparent that Punxsutawney Phil was correct in that spring was going to be delayed by six weeks (I personally think we may need to add several weeks to his initial assessment!). The winter keeps hanging on—keeping everything under a blanket of snow and prolonging our hibernation. Is spring ever going to here? Will the warmth of the sunshine ever melt the cold of winter, bringing warmth to our inner being—to our soul? That is what it means to have a longing for something. When was the last time you felt it—your own longing? As Ruth Haley Barton asked, "When was the last time you felt... your longing for love, your longing for God, your longing to live *your* life as it is meant to be live in God? When was the last time you felt a longing for healing and fundamental change groaning within you?"

So often we avoid these types of questions, but they may be the most important questions you can ever ask yourself. It may be difficult because we have been taught by "religion" that we should silence our desire—distancing ourselves from it. We actually become suspicious or afraid of its power because are not our desires full of human deception and sinful urges? Worse yet, what if we touch that place of longing and desire within and let ourselves really feel how deep it goes, only to discover that those desires cannot be met? What will we do then?

These are the deepest questions of our human soul, and there are not any simplistic answers. In the midst of my own discomfort, I have found it reassuring to enter into God's story—the Holy Scriptures—and discover that Jesus himself routinely asked people questions that helped them to get in touch with their desire and name it in his presence. Jesus brought focus and clarity to his interactions with those who were spiritually hungry by asking them, "What do you want? What do you want me to do for you?"

Do you remember the story of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)? We do not know how long Bartimaeus had been spending his days begging by the side of the road, but when he heard that Jesus was passing by, he had a sense of new spiritual possibility. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus could do something for him that nobody else had been able to do. Perhaps Jesus could do what he had been hoping for and dreaming of for so long.

And over the noise of the crowd, after reaching down deep inside and touching that place of human need and desire, Bartimaeus cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus heard him that day, above all the other voices that were clamoring for his attention.

The honesty, the desperation, the humanness of the cry was completely arresting. The people around him were embarrassed by such an honest expression of need, but Bartimaeus's soul cry captured Jesus' attention and stopped him in his tracks. Jesus asked the question that required Bartimaeus to name his desire: "What do you want me to do for you?"

What is your soul longing for? What do you want Jesus to do for you? Are you lost, confused, hurting by things in the past—ashamed of mistakes? Do you long to know that you are loved unconditionally, and desire forgiveness? Call out to Jesus before He passes by. He will hear you above the noise of this world. You will be made new—given hope and joy that fills all the empty space hidden deep inside.

If you know Jesus, do you desire for more of God than you have right now—longing for love, desiring deeper levels of spiritual transformation than you have experienced so far? Then call out to Jesus. The Holy Spirit that dwells within you will continue to strip away that which is false and destructive in your desire and fan into flame those desires that are good and true. Allow this Lenten season to transform you.



#### HAPPENINGS

- 1 The Journey @ 6:30pm
- 2 Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- 5 Communion Sunday
- 8 The Journey @ 6:30pm
- 9 Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- 12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!
- 12 Worship Service
- 15 The Journey @ 6:30pm
- 16 "Rejoice" @ 1:00pm
- 16 Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- 18 Baby Shower 10am
- 19 Worship Sunday
- 20 First Day of Spring!
- 20 Admin Meeting @ 6pm
- 22 Feeding SD Truck @ 9:00am
- 22 The Journey @ 6:30pm
- 23 Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- 26 Worship Service
- 29 The Journey @ 6:30pm
- 30 Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- April 2 Palm Sunday & Communion

## The Way to Scriptural Prayer

By: Terry Teykl

John Wesley said, "God will do nothing but in answer to prayer. Whether we think of, or speak to God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him. Proceed with much prayer, and your way will be made plain."

Recently I had the privilege of writing a history of prayer in the Christian tradition. It was quite clear that the Lord's Prayer was the benchmark of prayer. Throughout the centuries Christians dropped their "plumb bob" on this prayer. And they got their bearings. This prayer was the basis and model for prayer. It was a summary of the Gospel. This prayer was the most memorized, quoted, and sung by the church. It was the center piece of prayer for the church fathers.

Plus, the prayer was so unique. For example, Jesus told us to pray for our daily bread. The word he used was "epiousios." This word was not in the classical Greek of the New Testament. Scholars thought perhaps Jesus made up the word. Until it was discovered on some domestic parchments. The word literally meant grocery list! I wonder if mother Mary would give Jesus a grocery list as in "epiousios" to go to the market. In other words, He is not only concerned with meeting our deepest spiritual needs, but He wants to be our source for the commonplace necessities of life. How amazing is His love for us.

### A Suggested Pattern of Prayer

As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your time of prayer. Each day's prompt has a Scripture reference for you to pray through. As you pray allow time also to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. When you have prayed through the Scripture and prayer point, you may be led to add your own prayers. Pray and consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month.

**Praying the Scripture:** The Lord's Prayer is Scripture and to pray it, is to pray truth. And the Father hears those who call on Him in truth. It can be used as an index prayer to be applied in all aspects of life.

#### Prayer points:

**Sunday:** Pray -- "**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**  
Praise Him for He is a good Father. (Psalms 145:9)

Pray that God's name would be Hallowed in Sunday morning worship before and after and that the Name of Jesus is foremost.

Pray that we speak the Name of Jesus often and in awe. (Hebrews. 1:1-4)

**Monday:** Pray -- **your kingdom come,**

Pray for your local schools, city leaders, and first responders. (Name leaders and first responders.)

Pray for God's authority over the crime and gang activities in your city. (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Intercede for young people.

**Tuesday:** Pray -- **your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Pray for the lost because it is His will that none shall perish. Say their names as you pray for them to be saved. (II Peter 3:9)

**Wednesday:** Pray -- **Give us today our daily bread.**

Pray for the needs of the poor, immigrants and oppressed people in communities and the world.

Pray expectantly that God would meet their needs.

Pray that God would favor the Global Methodist Church leaders with what is needed now.

Give thanks for God's bountiful goodness. (Psalm 100)

**Thursday:** Pray -- **And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

Pray that we repent of not repenting. (I John 1:9)

Pray for forgiveness for attitudes of pride.

Pray for forgiveness for the corporate sins of commission and omission in our nation and church.

Pray for honor and blessings on the leadership of the United Methodist Church.

**Friday:** Pray -- **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'**

Pray that we are not led into selfish gain, self-deception, lust, unbelief, judgmental attitudes, inordinate affections, etc.

Pray the captives are set free to be saved and enable the GM Church to grow by conversions. (II Corinthians 4:3-4)

Pray for protection from evil, especially for our pastors. (Psalm 91)

**Saturday:** Pray -- **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)**

Pray that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)

Pray that supernatural signs and wonders are the norm in GM Church congregations. (Luke 9:1-2)

**"This, then, is how you should pray:..." (NIV)**

*The March newsletter is provided to you by the Rejoice circle.*

## **Prayer Requests**

If you have specific prayer requests please contact our ministry team through our “Contact Us” tab on the website. We have a confidential prayer team that is willing to intercede to the Lord Jesus on your behalf.

### **Be in Continuous Prayer for:**

Our service men & women & their families  
Those suffering loss  
Our Nation  
Our Communities  
Our Church  
Our Leadership  
Our Youth  
Our farmers  
The people of Ukraine  
The people of Turkey & Syria



For your continuous prayers, you truly are making a difference in the lives for whom you pray.

### **James 5:13-16**

*Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective...*

# Parsonage Bible Study is Thursday Evening

6:30pm

Everyone welcome to join!

The *JOURNEY*

Wednesdays

6:30pm



## *Rejoice* Circle

REJOICE CIRCLE MET WITH 11 MEMBERS PRESENT FOR CIRCLE ON FEBRUARY 16.

HOSTESS DELIGHTED US WITH A VARIETY OF VALENTINE SWEETS. OUR VALENTINE ROLL CALL CONSISTED OF MEMBERS TELLING THEIR MEMORIES OF MEETING THEIR PARTNERS. WE LOVED EACH AND EVERY STORY.

PASTOR EXPLAINED THE PROGRESS ON FINDING SECURITY EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHURCH AND PARSONAGE. OUR RECENT INTRUDER PAID ANOTHER VISIT TO CHURCH THIS MORNING AND IT TOOK 3 POLICEMEN TO CATCH HIM. THIS IS VERY CONCERNING AS HE HAS ENTERED THE PARSONAGE AT NIGHT ALSO.

MEMBERS AGREED TO SPONSOR THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER FOR A MONTH IN 2023.

CARDS SIGNED AND SENT FOR [the next upcoming] BIRTHDAY AND A THANK YOU [was sent] FOR DONATING CARAMEL ROLLS FOR OUR 2022 MISSION CELEBRATION.

WE WILL HAVE A MEETING AT 1PM ON MARCH 7 TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW FOOD PANTRY POLICIES.

FUTURE EVENTS WILL BE SERVING THE FUNERAL [that is scheduled] IN APRIL, POSSIBLE JUNE BAKE SALE, AND HOSTING A COFFEE PARTY FOR PARKVIEW RESIDENTS THIS SUMMER.

AUCTION WAS HELD [for the Rejoice treasury].

NEXT MEETING MARCH 16TH, THURSDAY AT 1PM [all ladies are welcome who can attend].

*THUS SAYS THE LORD: SHARE YOU BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY, SHELTER THE OPPRESSED AND THE HOMELESS, CLOTHE THE NAKED WHEN YOU SEE THEM.*

[Rejoice Leadership]

[edited for privacy]\*

# Upcoming Events

## UPPER MIDWEST GMC NEW DAY CONFERENCE

**Calvary Fargo**

Fargo, ND

Rescheduled to be held

April 21-22

## MAY DAY MEAL

**May 7th.**

Is fast approaching!

So start getting ready...



***Bucket Sunday*** — every 5th Sunday of the month for 2023

**Apr 30th, July 30th, Oct 29th, Dec 31st**

Empty your piggybanks so the kids can collect the coins!

***Bucket Mission is Ukraine Refugees in Bulgaria!***

*\*Jan 29th Bucket: \$ 110.58*

*\*Apr 30th Bucket:*

*\*July 30th Bucket:*

*\*Oct 29th Bucket:*

*\*Dec 31st Bucket:*