

SUMC Weekly Prayer Page

JOYS/BLESSINGS/PRAISES/HOPE



- * Jesus is my Rock
- * Our Redeemer Lives – Sing of His Mercies.
- * New Beginnings and Adventures
- * Being Together this Sunday morning.
- * Remember: Your Purpose for being here in Earth is to Please and Worship GOD.
- * "Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love." Ephesians 4:2 NCV
- * Taking Care of One Another.
- * God keeps His Contracts and Covenants.

CONCERNS

- * Pray for All God's Children, especially those having medical conditions. Be with my grandson, Alistair, Sandy's granddaughter Charlotte and Ed and Monica's granddaughter, Gracyn. And many others throughout the world.
- * Prayers for Reed A., in York hospital with COVID19 and pneumonia
- * Please keep the family of Gary Tarbert, who passed away February 21, in your prayers. Gary was a brother to Mary Boyer. Please also remember Mary and Ron in your prayers in their loss.
- * Please also lift Kevin and Heather Walker's family in prayer at the passing of their dear friend.
- * Prayers for all those families who recently had a loved one pass away.
- * Continued prayers for the complete healing of Dennis McCleary. Be with Jean as his caregiver.
- * Continued prayers for Cathy Herbert, Bruce Marsteller, Rick Marsteller, Larry Myers (Holly Herbert's Dad), Mark and Betty Starck, John Malachowski, Dan Leckrone, Steve Freeman and Pauline Biggley.
- * Prayers for Esther's friend, Dan who has a blood disease.
- * Prayers for all COVID and Cancer Patients and others with medical problems.
- * Pray for all those receiving their 1st or 2nd shorts and those still attempting to get theirs.
- * Prayers for the Medical Staff - Doctors, Nurses, Technicians, etc. in Hospitals and Nursing Homes, etc.
- * Prayer for all those hurting - bodily, medically or mentally.
- * Prayer for all the many other Religious activities (Baptisms, Birthdays, Burials, Communion, etc.) that cannot be fully celebrated and attended due to conditions and results from the virus.
- * Prayers for all upcoming weddings - Allison and Tyler and Chris and Emily and many others.
- * Prayer for the family having a house fire, thankfully not much damage.
- * Prayers for all the essential and healthcare workers.
- * Pray for all the little ones and the elderly around the world.
- * Pray for small businesses.
- * Prayers for the Kids Connection.
- * Pray for the Food Ministry now serving about 55 households in Stewartstown.



Any new prayer requests or updates, please call or text Ev Barrows at 717-818-2874, or Email: ebarrows@zoominternet.net Please inform the church office of those hospitalized or at home recuperating so that we are able to *connect* and *care* for them during their time of healing.



A Work of Love

Spring Work Week
Mon. March 29 - Sat. April 3

Serving local neighbors
for youth ages 12 through adults



No experience needed!
Contact musicministry@stewartstownumc.org for application

Covid guidelines will be observed. You can work one, two or however many days you wish to serve. No experience necessary but we are looking for those with carpentry skills.



We have received the license to stage Jesus Christ Superstar during Holy Week of 2022 culminating in a community Easter worship. The events will be held at Allegro Winery.

We are asking the entire church to be involved in this outreach ministry that we believe will impact our church for years to come. If you wish to help in any way, from prayer to food prep to setting up chairs, contact the music ministry office 717-993-2507 x11 or musicministry@stewartstownumc.org



ANOTHER WAY TO HEAR
GOD'S WORD EACH WEEK

Call 717-200-1380

To hear our latest services

Financial Giving Update \$ 69,061 YTD (81.1 % of Budget) as of March 7, 2021

Making a financial donation can be done in several ways:

Mailing a check to SUMC, 26 S Main Street, Stewartstown, PA 17363

Set up online giving through our website link sumc.churchcenter.com/giving

Text the amount that you wish to give in a message to 84321

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting Stewartstown United Methodist Church.

Drive up Food pantry distributions are available for those in need every

Saturday morning
from 10 am – 12 pm

Thank you to all the volunteers who have kept the food ministry running smoothly, and for the generous donations of food as well. We are

currently in need of plastic bags.

At this time, we are asking for limited food donations, but asking for people to

volunteer to assist with the distribution of the food. [Sign up for food donations.](#)

Please [sign up to assist](#) with the food distribution

<https://www.signupgeenius.com/go/8050e44aba623abf85-sumc1>



Hi Kids!
GOOD NEWS!
9:30 – 10:45 am
Kids Connection
is back in session
and IN PERSON

Library Home Delivery

Need a book to read, but you don't want to venture out? Problem solved! The Stewartstown U.M. Church library will deliver books to your home & pick them up when you are finished. All you have to do is ask! Books will be selected by someone wearing a mask & gloves and put into a sealed bag to keep them safe. Deliveries and pickups will be made on Thursdays. You can select a specific book by looking on our church's library website, or just give us the name of a favorite author or subject you are interested in and we will select a book or two for you. Please call Jo Ann Cooper at 717-927-9225 or the church office at 717-993-2507. Just give us your name, address & phone # and we will take it from there.

Book Review

A Deepening Love Affair; the Gift of God in Later Life by Jane Marie Thibault

This book was written for mature adults who are spiritually discontented and yearn for something more in life, in their relationship with God. Throughout the book, the author introduces the reader to fascinating older persons who have accepted the gift that God offers in later life and the empowerment they have experienced in this new relationship.

Easter Choir is forming to record music for Easter morning worship. Recording of 3 pieces for Easter morning will be done masked and in smaller voice sections. The choir will record Thursday, March 25. Rehearsal trax available to learn the music beforehand. If you wish to participate, contact the music ministry office musicministry@stewartstownumc.org or 717-993-2507 x11

Birthdays

- Mar 11**
Nancy Boellner
- Mar 13**
Blanche Seitz
Bryon Matthews
- Mar 14**
Jennifer Boellner
- Mar 15**
Andrea Hebel
Jared Armes
Shannon Toomey
Susan Schwartz
- Mar 17**
Patty Manifold
- Mar 18**
Heather Jenkins
- Mar 19**
Denise Rosado
Ricardo Pearce
- Mar 20**
Jennifer deFontes
- Mar 21**
Ginger Babcock
- Mar 22**
Owen Stiffler



*Welcome to Stewartstown
 United Methodist Church
 Sunday, March 14, 2021
 Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
 for the transformation of the World*

The Well Worship 9:00 am

Praise Songs	Everything Glorious You Alone
Time of Sharing	
Scriptures	Ephesians 2:1-10
Message	Covenant: Unbreakable Pastor Keith
Closing Song	Unchanging

Kids Connection 9:30-10:45 Adult Sunday School Class 9:45 – 10:45

Traditional Worship 11:00 am

Prelude	O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing	arr. Martin
Welcome to Worship		
Hymn #128		He Leadeth Me
Apostles Creed		
Prayer Hymn #407		Close to Thee
Prayer		
Offering Moment		UMCOR Sunday video
Scriptures		Ephesians 2:1-10
Message	Covenant: Unbreakable	Pastor Keith
Hymn #374		Standing on the Promises
Blessing and Dismissal		

Worship will be held in the sanctuary following all CDC guidelines. Important reminders:
 Masks are required at all times. Face shields may be worn, in addition, to a mask as an additional precaution.
 Social distancing of at least 6 feet using the marked seating areas. Please be sure to sign the COVID screening log as you enter the building. No congregational singing when inside.

Stewartstown United Methodist Church 26 South Main Street, Stewartstown, PA 17363
 (717) 993-2507 info@stewartstownumc.org www.stewartstownumc.org

Please call and leave a message to schedule an appointment with staff members or to gain access to the facility.

Friday, March 19, 2021

Exodus 30:1-10, The Altar of Incense

30 You shall make an altar on which to offer incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. 2 It shall be one cubit long, and one cubit wide; it shall be square, and shall be two cubits high; its horns shall be of one piece with it. 3 You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top, and its sides all around and its horns; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. 4 And you shall make two golden rings for it; under its molding on two opposite sides of it you shall make them, and they shall hold the poles with which to carry it. 5 You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 6 You shall place it in front of the curtain that is above the ark of the covenant, in front of the mercy seat that is over the covenant, where I will meet with you. 7 Aaron shall offer fragrant incense on it; every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall offer it, 8 and when Aaron sets up the lamps in the evening, he shall offer it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations. 9 You shall not offer unholy incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; and you shall not pour a drink offering on it. 10 Once a year Aaron shall perform the rite of atonement on its horns. Throughout your generations he shall perform the atonement for it once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. It is most holy to the Lord.

Notes Incense is a reminder of God's holiness. Later in this chapter the formula is given for the incense with the requirement that the particular smell not be copied or used in any other way but reserved for the Lord. Once a year the sins of the people were ritually or metaphorically placed on a sacrificial animal whose blood was placed on the Altar of Incense. While we no longer practice the rituals, consider the implications. What if you considered your life and the space around you as holy? Filled with God's presence? Dedicated solely for God's use? Space in your life that extends as far as the odor of incense?

As to animal sacrifice I heard a description one time that helped make sense of it for me. Imagine hand raising an animal. Say a lamb. Named and treated like a member of your family. And then having to kill that animal. Not because it has become dangerous or deserves death but because of you and your sin. I think it might sink in that sin has real life and death consequences not only for us but also for the innocents around us.

Prayer Lord, I thank you that you are willing to forgive me of my sin and not sacrifice me as I deserve. Instead, in your mercy you have taken my sin and my death so that I may live. May I always live in humility and gratitude.

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Habakkuk 3:2-13, The Prophet's Prayer

2 O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy. 3 God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. 4 The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where his power lay hidden. 5 Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind. 6 He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low. 7 I saw the tents of Cushan under affliction; the tent-curtains of the land of Midian trembled. 8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Or your anger against the rivers, or your rage against the sea, when you drove your horses, your chariots to victory? 9 You brandished your naked bow, sated were the arrows at your command. Selah You split the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw you, and writhed; a torrent of water swept by; the deep gave forth its voice. The sun raised high its hands; 11 the moon stood still in its exalted place, at the light of your arrows speeding by, at the gleam of your flashing spear. 12 In fury you trod the earth, in anger you trampled nations. 13 You came forth to save your people, to save your anointed. You crushed the head of the wicked house, laying it bare from foundation to roof. Selah

Notes I was taught the standard bedtime prayer of my childhood. "Now, I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I die before I wake. I pray the Lord my soul to take. (or - Angels guard me through the night and bring me safe to morning light.) It was a sweet prayer with a dark feel. You definitely want the protection of God.

Habakkuk's prayer is not sweet. It is filled with the earth shaking power of God's presence and vengeance. It is clear, if you want protection from God you better have a God that is bigger, stronger, more powerful and willing to use it than anything that could ever threaten you. A God who walks the earth in fury against anyone who would harm God's people. You do not want to make God angry.

Prayer Lord, I confess that in my self-centeredness, my focus on what I want from you, I forget who you are. You are my Lord, my Savior, my God, eternal and gentle in your love and the mightiest warrior on my block or any block in the universe.



Daily Devotional Readings for the week of March 15 – March 20, 2021

Monday, March 15, 2021

Exodus 15:22-27, Bitter Water Made Sweet

22 Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. That is why it was called Marah. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 25 He cried out to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the Lord made for them a statute and an ordinance and there he put them to the test. 26 He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in his sight, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you."

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; and they camped there by the water.

Notes

God sent 10 plagues against the Egyptians and the first plague the water of the Nile was turned into blood and made undrinkable. Here God reverses the order and makes the undrinkable water sweet. God's salvation is the restoration of nature to its original function of providing and sustaining life. How are we all guilty of destroying and polluting? God shows us ways to restore nature as God showed Moses - what are the ways God has shown you? And finally, this is a test. Not only does God show us the way to do what is right but points out the consequences of disobedience. God does not have to send a plague - we poison it, we have to live with the consequences.

Prayer

I stop to listen carefully to your voice my Lord and God. Direct my path today so that I may walk in your way and do what is right in your sight. To live a life so that others experience you in me taking what is bitter and making it sweet.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Numbers 20:1-13, The Waters of Meribah

20 The Israelites, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. Miriam died there, and was buried there.

2 Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had died when our kindred died before the Lord! 4 Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? 5 Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; and there is no water to drink." 6 Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. 7 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 8 Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them; thus you shall provide drink for the congregation and their livestock.

9 So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he had commanded him. 10 Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." 13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and by which he showed his holiness.

Notes

God brought the people out of Egypt to the promised land. But the current generation showed a lack of faith. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years as the unfaithful generation passed and a new generation entered the land. Now because of their disobedience, Moses and Aaron would share their fate. Every generation must meet its challenges. When we successfully meet the challenge we experience the blessing, if it is, in our lifetime. Or the challenges are met and benefit future generations. The sooner the better. Think about a family with generations of alcoholics or family abuse. The sooner a generation breaks the cycle the better the benefit to future generations. What is the challenge you/we face? Breaking the cycle of addiction? The economics of human trafficking? Shifting to renewable energy? The list is long - what is your role?

Prayer

Lord you are faithful from generation to generation even when we are unfaithful. We are inheritors of those who have gone before us, for better or for worse. We are grateful for those who met their test of faith and stand as our witnesses. Grant us the courage we need to meet our tests that we, like them, may give you glory.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

John 8:12-20 , Jesus the Light of the World

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." 13 Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." 14 Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. 18 I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." 19 Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Notes

A quote from C.S. Lewis. "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. (Lewis, C. S., Mere Christianity, London: Collins, 1952, pp. 54–56.)

Prayer

Light, I claim you as my Lord and my light. Although your light reveals my darkness and shows me the truth of things I would rather not see nor know about myself. Yet I claim you and hope and pray to live forever in your light and in your light alone.

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Psalms 51, Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Notes and Prayer

King David was beloved by God. Yet he arranged a man to be killed in battle. The husband of a Bathsheba, a woman he lusted after and wanted for himself. This is the prayer he wrote after he became convicted of his sin. Until we have faith in the truth that we are forgiven we will never be free. Now is the time. Pray the Psalm.