

## Saturday Cont.

### *Prayer*

Dear God, Jesus was a known rule-breaker, but he didn't break Your rules. He loved us all, even to his own death on the cross. He broke rules that broke your rules to love everyone. He encouraged us to live with compassion toward others. He didn't listen to the selfish messages of the powerful when it meant harm to others. We want to follow his example. Give us strength and courage, we pray. Amen.

### *Action*

Contact legislators – local, state and federal – and let them know you are opposed to laws that profile and work against justice for everyone. Join a peaceful demonstration that brings attention to social justice issues.



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

## **Monday, June 8, 2020**

### ***Psalm 29***

Today's scripture sets the scene of a storm rolling in from the sea. The voice of the Lord is the thunder that drowns out other sounds. The strong winds come in to change landscape. The animals react to the approaching storm. The trees will be ripped from the earth. Creeks and rivers will overflow and wash away fertile earth to leave a mess across the land. Storms are unavoidable. We may have warning they are coming. We make preparations to keep ourselves and our property safe. But the storm still comes. And there is usually cleanup afterward. In turbulent social times, it might be tempting to compare protests and riots to just such storms brewed from injustices that have occurred over time. Where is the voice of God in such stormy times? Can we hear the words of Jesus speaking to us through our present storm?

### ***Prayer***

Dear God, Jesus calmed the waters of stormy seas. He reaches out his hand to us today and offers a way forward that is calmer than the churning drama around us. We pray we hold tight to his hand and reflect his calmness, his steady strength and his wisdom of peace and justice during these days. Amen.

### ***Action***

Offer the Peace of Christ in words to someone today, whether in person or on the phone or in an email. Encourage someone to stay calm if they are upset, or to have faith if they are discouraged. Model the Peace of Christ in your actions.

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

***1 Corinthians 12:4-13***

Sidewalk chalk art receives a lot of smiles. Whether it is a child's doodles on rough concrete, or a mirage of stair steps created by an illusion of intersecting lines and perspective. Drawing is a gift nurtured and honed over time with practice. The great master artists learned from others and were aimed at perfecting their craft. Spirit works through our many gifts and talents. A dear friend of mine can draw detailed designs on eggs to make pysanka, a traditional Ukrainian-style Easter Egg. As much as I like doodling geometric shapes, having a steady hand to color a convex surface with tiny details seems completely beyond my capabilities. And that's okay. We all have different talents. Today's scripture lists a variety of gifts such as healing, miracles and prophecy. It's not an all-inclusive list, is it. What are your gifts and talents, and how can you use them to let others know they are loved by God?

***Prayer***

Dear God, You produce different spiritual gifts for all of us. We are your canvas, and diversity is expressed in your creation. We thank you for the many colors of our lives, and the many perspectives we can experience. May we enjoy the variety you have created. Amen

***Action***

Be creative with pen and paper, paint and canvas or chalk and sidewalk. Share your artwork with someone, or everyone who passes by.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

***John 14:25-26***

Feeling in over one's head is probably not a new feeling to anyone trying something new. Whether it's knitting, or a car repair, or writing a book report, even an experienced pro can sometimes hit a wall of confusion or draw a blank on what to do next. Perhaps you feel that way when talking to someone about your faith. You know you believe in God, and the redemptive power of Jesus, and trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in your life, but how do you convey that faith in words that make sense?

Don't pastors make it seem easy when they talk to others? When a rush of emotions and words about the goodness of God flood to the lips and the brain wants to say everything all at once, pause. It's a good time to breathe in, so the Holy Spirit can breathe out the things Jesus has taught us about our faith.

***Prayer***

Dear God, You send the Holy Spirit to work through us in this world. Still our minds and open our ears so we can listen and focus on the message of Jesus. We want to share his love, Your love, with our world. We know that when we take time to center, we will be able to share the message with clarity. Amen.

***Action***

Sit quietly either by yourself or with a friend or two. Think about how you can share Love in your community as individuals and together, on this day. Give voice to the Spirit working in you. "Be Blessed."

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**

***Hebrews 3:1-6***

Nine covered bridges dot the landscape of Putnam County. Heavy wooden beams, red paint and a shadowy tunnel gracefully carry traffic above the water. These structures have stood the test of time, weather and travel. I've heard a few reasons for why those early bridges were covered. If the bridges looked like a barn, a horse was more likely to enter it, rather than be afraid of crossing the rushing water of a creek on a narrow bridge. The covering kept the weather off the bridge decking so the wooden structure lasted longer. A bridge could be a protected stopping point during a journey. Whatever the reason, the makers did excellent work that still attract attention. Several years ago we set out to travel all nine bridges in a single day. Finding a couple of them was tricky. Perhaps their remoteness and lower use is what helped them last so long. Sometimes a historical marker shares information about the construction type and age of the bridge. The builders' names are often stenciled above the entry.

Today's Scripture reminds us that every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. We often hear that the church is not the building, but the people. God has built us to be temples of joy and love and peace in this world. We can be the bridges that carry folks on dangerous crossings. Being bridges means we must keep our timbers of hope strong so we can be used by God.

### ***Prayer***

Dear God, Sometimes the roads are long and the bridges are narrow or rickety. We know you are with us on our journeys and we are thankful. You have built us to be your houses where faith can be found. Continue to guide us on this journey, and may we build bridges in your name. Amen.

### ***Action***

Take a drive to a covered bridge. If it's safe, pull over and look over the structure. Feel the timbers and ponder the work that went into creating it. Look below it to the water and vegetation, the life in the stream. Give thanks to God at that moment as the builder of everything.

## **Friday, June 12**

### **Psalm 100**

Shouting. Serving, Knowing. Entering, Reasoning. Action words that describe today's Scripture. It's not only a song of praise, it's an invitation to being celebratory. It's also humbling. It is God who made us. We didn't make ourselves. All of our hard work and study. The careful planning and saving. The benefits of those things come to us through God. But what about when our plans are dashed? When things we have little or no control over – weather, economy, civil unrest – cause us trouble or loss. Too often we stop celebrating God. Maybe we cast blame. That's when the focus of our celebration is turned away from God. Knowing that God made us is important. Awareness of not being self-made and of belonging to God is the foundation for genuine thankfulness. God's goodness, enduring love and truth are qualities deserving of praise. Look for those qualities in others, and see what God has made.

### ***Prayer***

Dear God, Thank you for the many blessings you send our way. Thank you for the many blessings you send to our friends and loved ones. Thank you for opening the gates and letting us be in your courtyards, surrounded by your love. Amen.

### ***Action***

Celebrate God today through an expression of thanks. Tell others you are thankful for God's work in your life and invite them to be thankful too. Shout your thanks as a group.

## **Saturday, June 13, 2020**

### **Mark 7:1-13**

Thorough hand washing! Really!? My hands are chapped already with so much hand washing! Seriously though, it was hard for me to get beyond the first few verses of today's Scripture without thinking about our current pandemic and the ongoing urgency to continue washing our hands to lessen the spread of illness. It's wise to continue limiting our exposure to illness. Jesus is talking today about what contaminates life. Of course, he was talking about rules that keep people from acting with love toward one another. Folks were saying they loved God, but they were looking for passes on loving people. Is that kind of like the three strikes rules for being tough on crime? If someone continues to struggle – poverty, crime, addiction, mental illness, germy hands – do we get to give up on that person? Three strikes and it's off to prison! Perhaps Jesus would tell us to invest more of our time and energy into correcting the injustices that led to the problem. We want to be helpful, but we can struggle with how to be helpful. Sometimes we hear how to be helpful, even get clear instructions – Wash Your Hands/Wear A Mask – and yet we struggle with compliance. Rules can be tricky when they seem to be set for the common good, yet result in bias against some people. So what do we do beyond throwing up our hands in frustration. We can treat everyone with love, and speak out against systems of injustice. And if we ourselves are not up to the task of speaking out, we can support the safety of those who do speak out.