



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

drills and practice, when it became time to play another school in a game, did you expect to lose the game? Of course not. In basketball, your goal is to win. In the same way, we have a goal or calling in life. God has called us to do things for Him while we're on earth. The specific things He wants us to do are different for each person, but each of us has a divine call or destiny for our life. You might be called to be an encouragement to someone, to a certain career or called into ministry. Regardless of what your calling is, it should be something that you are actively pursuing. It's easy to get busy in life and forget the things God has called you to do. So challenge yourself today to not let go of the dreams and callings that God means for you. They might not always come to pass right away, but if you keep making steps toward them they will come to pass in your life.

PRAYER

Dear God, I know you have set goals for me that I can reach. Help me be intentional in pursuing those goals. Help me to be well-prepared. Maybe part of my calling is to lose some basketball games but still feel good about my effort, my teammates and the other team. I will rely on you to lead me and guide me. Amen.

PURPOSE

Be a cheerleader for a young athlete. Send that person a note or a card to let them know you are cheering for them, and include an uplifting Bible verse.

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Matthew 21:28-32

PONDER

The gospel reminds us of something we often forget: words can be meaningless. Promises are empty when not followed by action. In today's parable, the first son is arrogant but his action shows his goodness. The second son sounds co-operative but fails to keep his promise. Ask yourself if you make promises to others that quickly go out the window? Are your good intentions no good to the person you intended to help, but didn't. Could you say: "I'm sorry, I won't be able to do that for you," instead of promising what you already know is not going to happen? Take a few moments of silence to read over the gospel text again and see if anything comes to your attention.

PRAYER

Dear God, Am I like the Jewish leaders who sound good but perform poorly? Or am I like the tax collectors and prostitutes who know their need of God? Help me to say and do helpful things. Help me to love everyone, and not judge them based on what I think is happening. Amen.

ACTION

Send notes or letters of encouragement to people who are doing a tough but necessary job. Think of teachers, correctional officers, medical professionals, custodians, public works employees and other. Let them know their efforts are important.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

Monday, December 7, 2020

Psalm 27

PONDER

Has a storm in life ever taken you completely by surprise? A storm such as a betrayal by a friend, a crisis at work, the illness of a loved one, a worldwide pandemic? The quick transition to an unexpected reality can rack our bodies with waves of fear and anxiety, making it hard to concentrate, to pray, to think clearly, and to stay firm in faith in the time of crisis. Lifting our gaze from fear to focus our intention on God is important. Focusing on the character and love of God can help us receive peace and guidance. Psalm 27 can help us anchor ourselves in peace and hope. Sharing our troubles with our brothers and sisters and allowing them to meet our needs is also part of God's provision in a time of crisis. We don't live in a vacuum. God has provided us with a family to get support and encouragement. And likewise, we should offer support to those going through a crisis. David calms his own fears and anxiety by proclaiming that God is his light, salvation, and stronghold. Think about a time of crisis when you might have taken this approach?

PRAYER

Dear God, This time of unprecedented crisis and pandemic brings uncertainty and chaos, and tends to breed fear and anxiety. We need your guidance, love, wisdom and understanding as we navigate new and old paths. Help us produce all kinds of good deeds and grow in the knowledge of You. Amen.

ACTION

Reflect on what God has done for you in the past. Make a list of your blessings and thank God for each of them. Reflect on, and add to, this list all week.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Psalm 126

PONDER

Sometimes we think that as Christians we need to go out and drag people in

to hear the Good News. We fail to understand that our very life is a living Gospel of Christ to everyone around us. When God has filled us with joy and we are bubbling over with happiness, everyone around us notices. Just a simple word of explanation to those around us of the greatness and glory of God in the way He is working in our life is a powerful presentation of the Gospel to those around us. Two wonderful verses are found in Psalm 126, verses 5 and 6. “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” This is a revelation of the great joy we experience when we sow seeds of the Gospel all around us and those seeds grow and mature into thriving plants. Think and pray about where you can sow seeds this week.

PRAYER

Dear God, Help me go about this day sowing precious seeds of the Gospel for those around me. Allow me to give shouts of joy for you as you reveal thriving plants to harvest. Amen

ACTION

Plant some flower bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Maybe surprise someone with your planting at their home, and send a note inviting them to look forward to new blooms in a new place in the near future.

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Habakkuk 2:1-5

PONDER

For many years I have enjoyed looking at the strong, stable walls of buildings around town, particularly churches built of stone with ornate carvings and decoration. Sometimes a building can be so big, it’s hard to see the intention of the whole structure, or where it fits into a landscape that has changed through the years as surrounding land is repurposed and reshaped. The drone videos included in the weekly worship broadcasts for Gobin Memorial UMC give a different, lofty perspective to things commonly seen from ground level. It’s easier to see order and design. What a difference a change in perspective makes! Habakkuk learned a similar lesson. When he looked at life from his earthly vantage point, it seemed that God was indifferent to the evil permeating society. But God gave him a divine perspective and showed him that life is more than what it seems. The deeds of people cannot thwart the purposes of God. Those who don’t show any regard for God may seem to prosper at the moment, but God will ultimately right all wrong. God’s plan will take place and be on schedule. We can’t sort out the whole picture from where we are in life. Only God can. We can, however, continue to live by faith and not by sight. From His perspective, all things are working together for the believer’s good and for His honor.

PRAYER

Dear God, Sovereign Ruler of the skies, thank you for the planning, timing and vision that goes into our daily lives. Our time is in Your hands. You bless us wisely. Amen.

ACTION

Take a different perspective on a familiar thing. Maybe it’s just walking or driving a different route. Talk about that different perspective with someone, and ask them to share their perspective with you.

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Habakkuk 3:13-19

PONDER

There is a story about a woman who was very discouraged because of the many problems in her life. As she was walking down the street, she met a fellow believer who asked, “How are you doing today?” With a sour look and a bitter shrug she replied, “Oh, not too bad — under the circumstances.” The other person quickly said, “Well, get above the circumstances! That’s where Jesus is.” Habakkuk felt the same way about rising above circumstances. He refused to let circumstances dampen his faith or crush his hope. He looked to the future not with pessimistic fears of what else could go wrong, but with faith in God no matter what would happen. Even if he lost all his possessions, Habakkuk proclaimed that he would continue to trust the Lord to meet his needs. Do we keep our eyes focused on the Lord, not on our circumstances? We are to live above the shadows of fear and bask in the sunlight of faith. Even though we may have a long list of troubles, faith’s answer to disappointment should always be rejoicing in the Lord. That type of attitude will enable us to live above the circumstances instead of under them.

PRAYER

Dear God, Some days I let my heavy load get the best of me. Help me keep my eyes focused on you and your ever-present blessings. Amen.

ACTION

Share something sweet or tasty with someone today. Maybe cookies or healthy veggie snacks. Talk about how God has given us many blessings, and is cheering for us as we face life’s challenges.

Friday, December 11, 2020

Phil 3:7-11

PONDER

Did you ever played sports in school? Maybe you made the basketball team. You worked hard to get in shape and went to all the practices. After weeks of