

**PRAYER:** Dear God, You know me better than I know myself, and yet you still love me. Rain your hope upon me so that I drown in your goodness, and help me share your life-preserving love with everyone I encounter. Amen.

**ACTION:** On these hot days of summer, keep a cooler of refreshing water handy and offer it and kind words to others who are struggling in the heat.



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

**DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**  
**August 9-14, 2021**

**Monday, August 9, 2021** (by Marilyn Culler)

Ephesians 5:1-14

<https://tinyurl.com/yzf4v97z>

**PONDER:** We are children of the light. Light produces fruit. God's light will shine in and through us. As a photographer, light is everything. "It's all about the light" is one of the rules I live by in my work. As imitators of God, Light-bearers in this earthly kingdom, we cannot afford to be distracted by anything that doesn't bear fruit. We are a beacon of hope in a hurting world. We are sunshine to a wounded heart. We are starlight, guiding the weary traveler home. As we shine God's light, Christ shines on us.

**PRAYER:** Shine on in me Lord, shine on. Amen

**ACTION:** Watch how light changes throughout the day. Shine as a child of the light!

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021** (by Marilyn Culler)

2 Peter 3:14-18

<https://tinyurl.com/4yt7x7c9>

**PONDER:** Be found in peace. Be patient. Don't be led off-course. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. How easy it is in today's world to be led off-course. God's will for our lives, the lives of everyone on the planet, is a desire for peace. When we hear the phrase "saving the planet," that means more than saving trees or rocks. It means saving lives, taking care of children and one another. It means making sure everyone has clean drinking water and access to education and food to eat. It means living in peace. It means growing deeper into the mystery and majesty of God's heart and mind. If we truly grow in the knowledge of Jesus, nothing is impossible. We know deep down how to work as one body, get along, be at peace and help others find the peace that passes all understanding.

**PRAYER:** Holy and loving God, help me be the peace your world needs. Amen.

**ACTION:** Define "save the planet" for your own life and take one step toward that goal.

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021** (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 81 <https://tinyurl.com/rn686y4s>

**PONDER:** Parenting, be it human or Divine, must surely have one question in common, “Don’t you ever listen to me?” In Psalm 81 the psalmist writes of the historical journey of the Israelites; a history of a people who love the lord, but in human fashion, seem to be unable to stay on the path God has for them. Their behaviors result in punishment from God, followed, eventually, by forgiveness. Repeat. Many times over. God knows we’re human, but listening and following His word is something we all can do. Let’s give it a try!

**PRAYER:** God of Promises, open our ears to your Word that we may hear what you would have us do. Help us to choose listening and following and keep us upright within your plans for us. Amen

**ACTION:** Open your ears and your heart when you are not sure which way to turn. God will speak through the still, small voice within you if you are only willing to listen to God’s ways. Wait upon the Lord, we are advised. He is faithful. Something our writer is trying to remind Israel. He is their real protection. Does this apply to us today? I think so. God’s forgiveness for us and himself. But we need to return to God’s ways. Wait upon the Lord, we are advised. He is faithful. Something our writer is trying to remind Israel. He is their real protection. Does this apply to us today? I think so.

**Thursday, August 12, 2021** (by Teddy Shuck)

Acts 6:8-15 <https://tinyurl.com/53ejmwey>

**PONDER:** Stephen is blessed by God. It is very evident that the Spirit is active in his life. A group of people known as the “Synagogue of Former Slaves,” question him. They could not withstand the wisdom of the Spirit with which he spoke. So they started some false rumors to stir up the people. Stephen was arrested and false witnesses were brought in to testify before the Sanhedrin. Everyone was looking at Stephen. His face was radiant like the face of an angel. This was a sign of divine spotlighting and approval like that experienced by Moses. It would seem that Stephen was easily recognizable as a Man of God. With his testimony and history of his relationship with the people, Stephen should have been trusted by the council. Perhaps we can take a lesson from this section of Acts. We need to be watchful and listen for those who speak with the authority of the Spirit.

**PRAYER:** Lord, help us to learn from the lessons of the past. Help us to have our eyes open to who could help us now. Amen.

**ACTION:** Be watchful for those who are giving us words we need to hear.

**Friday, August 13, 2021** (by Terry Noble)

Romans 16:17-20 <https://tinyurl.com/45p5zr5u>

**PONDER:** Paul’s final instructions in his letter to the Romans asks them to keep a wary eye for those who “cause dissensions.” We all know the type, and maybe we have also been guilty ourselves of saying and acting in ways that cause trouble and unrest for others. Sometimes this is unintentional, however, here I think Paul is talking about those who thrive on controversy, gossip, and planting seeds of discontent. These actions are self-serving and not living as Jesus modeled. We scheme and manipulate, drop a carefully planned word here or there, light the spark, then sit back and watch the fire burn. Paul tells the Romans to avoid such people. In last Friday’s reading (Galatians 6:1-10) he tells the Galatians to restore and deal with wrong doers in a spirit of gentleness. Taken together, we have a way to stop this kind of evil by stepping away from it and then working to restore the person who has been unloving into the full life as our sibling in Christ.

**PRAYER:** Lord, keep my heart and mind focused on you. Amen.

**ACTION:** Pay attention to your thoughts and words today. Did you cause any dissension? Did you model Jesus?

**Saturday, August 14, 2021** (by Lisa Trigg)

John 4:7-26 <https://tinyurl.com/2x76eerb>

**PONDER:** Think about Jesus sitting alone by the well, and consider it an invitation to be with him. As he is looking at the Samaritan woman, understand that he is looking at each of us. He offers us life. He invites us to see the deeper meaning in the things we do. He respects the dignity of each person, and he asks us to do the same. When Jesus says, “If you knew...”, he reveals his desire to draw us into knowing God as he does. His open and generous heart is the heart of God, inviting us all to a place where we are known and loved, to find enduring life and lasting refreshment.