

PRAYER: Holy God, my time with you is holy. Help those who are required to work on the Sabbath find other times of worship and rest with you throughout their week. Amen

ACTION: Be mindful of those who help you when you shop and dine out on the Sabbath.

Saturday, July 16, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Amos 6:1-16 <https://tinyurl.com/423vb4s5>

PONDER: Amos saw that too much concern with security and pleasure made people complacent and careless about the needs of the poor. Think about those people whose work provides the comforts you enjoy. Pray in gratitude for them and in appreciation of the good things you enjoy. In recent months, have you heard people complain about a lack of service people at restaurants or offices? The pandemic has caused a lot of people to rethink their careers and job options, and that is okay! God wants everyone to be happy and enjoy their occupations. Be thankful people made personal changes to better their situations, and pray for their continued success.

PRAYER: Dear God, today I am thankful for the many things I enjoy that are provided by the work of others. May I remain kind and caring and undemanding. Amen.

ACTION: Give an extra large tip and a note of thanks to a server.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **July 11-16, 2022**

Monday, July 11, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
1 John 3:11-17 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8paz86>

PONDER: “Love each other.” Before I opened my eyes this morning, I saw the words “UNBOUNDING LOVE” filling the frame of my vision and being whispered to me. As I read this passage an hour later, I wondered what “love each other” means as we walk the path of this earth today. Hatred, judgment, lies, killings, war, oppression ... some days I’m overwhelmed by how little love I see among people. “How can the love of God dwell in a person like that?” (v. 17) God’s love does dwell in me. Every day, every act of love honors the gift of life we have through Christ Jesus. “Love each other.”

PRAYER: God of Love, dwell in me and use me to grow love in the world today. Amen

ACTION: Reach out to someone who needs God’s extravagant love today.

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
1 John 3:11-17 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8paz86>

PONDER: The new – and most important – commandment from Jesus is to love God and love one another. On the surface, this sounds reasonable and relatively easy. These verses set a high bar, painting a picture of all or nothing. The options are binary – light or dark; love or hate; life or death. Most importantly, there is no way to extend light, love, and life without a relationship with God through Jesus. Verse 16 declares, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

PRAY: Lord of Love, Light, and Life, may we invite you in and be fully transformed through your Holy Spirit. Lead us and let guide us as we pass from death to life. Amen

ACT: Open your eyes through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and be open to the opportunities to love and share your abundance with any sister or brother in need this week.

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18 <https://tinyurl.com/28b839ra>

PONDER: A wise man is attributed with ‘Wisdom’, is he not? Then why do we find it so difficult to accept words of wisdom when we, ourselves, may be sorely lacking? I guess if I knew the answer to this question I might be considered wise...or perhaps a wise-guy might be more appropriate. In verse 18 King Solomon writes, “The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools!” I think with this being an election year, we should all ponder a little more on the wise words of Solomon. Hmmm...

PRAYER: Omnipotent God, bless each of us with wisdom; wisdom to know right from wrong and the wisdom to know to follow the right. Help me to speak wisely when asked and the wisdom to know when not to speak at all. Father, I thank you for opportunities to learn from the wisdom of others and the wisdom to know I always have more to learn. Amen

ACTION: Take time to listen and process what you hear before taking any action. Many times the squeaky wheel is not the best or wisest one to listen to, but rather the easiest one to hear. Listen for wisdom. It may be the whisper in your ear!

Thursday, July 14, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Amos 5:10-17 <https://tinyurl.com/29mw39ra>

PONDER: Amos was from a small, rural town in the Wilderness of Judah, and was burdened by what he was happening in cities. His words are relevant to society today: we still crush and tax and minimize the weak. We hear messages of warning and urgency today regarding everything from climate to human rights to voting rights and more. The Lord God of heavenly forces knows our hearts. God is in the midst of all that is happening in the world. How does God judge what we do to one another (especially the evil deeds)? God may seem silent, and yet God calls us to “love each other.”

PRAYER: God of the ages, help me love and do good all my days. Amen

ACTION: Do you know someone who is struggling in any way? Offer help with a meal or a ride, a prayer or financial support. Pray for them. Love them as God loves you.

Friday, July 15, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Matthew 12:1-8 <https://tinyurl.com/yv7dukt9>

PONDER: We hear about the Pharisees often in the Christian scriptures. As far as the Pharisees were concerned the best way to serve God was to keep the Law in the most excruciating detail - like some today who become more focused on the minutiae of a particular translation of the Bible than on the spirit of the living God speaking to us. The Pharisees do love God but Jesus presents them with a dilemma. Jesus and his disciples are picking grain on the Sabbath. This was considered work and therefore was prohibited by the Law. However, Jesus points out that King David did this when he and his companions were hungry. Oops! Now how could they argue with the actions of a figure such as David?! While Jesus does not say they should ignore the Sabbath, he does say that God desires “mercy not sacrifice.” If Jesus had come upon workers harvesting grain to sell on the Sabbath he would have probably told them to stop and to keep the Sabbath holy. Here, when someone is hungry, mercy not judgment is the loving response. I wonder what the Pharisees’ conversation was as they walked home that day?