

the love of God taught by Jesus, and sharing that love with others so that all people may know they are beloved children of God. When our focus is on God's love, we won't worry about things we can't control, and we will see the beauty of God's creation.

PRAYER: Loving God, may we grow in wisdom as we consistently try to seek and serve You at every moment of every day. Grant us happiness and growth through faith, so Jesus will not be a stranger in our lives. Amen.

ACTION: Share words of Love and acceptance with everyone around you today. Use phrases such as "I am glad to see you" or "Make it a blessed day" to encourage others through Love.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **August 8-13, 2022**

Monday, August 8, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Hebrews 11:1-7 <https://tinyurl.com/mu8mmvu3>

PONDER: The first verse of this passage sets a tone for the whole mystery of faith: "Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see." We have to have faith in the unseen so that we have the ability to see blessings and gifts as they are bestowed upon us. A friend shows up in an hour of need. The voice of a family member when the phone rings reminds you you're not alone. A monetary gift is the exact amount of a bill you weren't sure how you'd pay. You're nudged to take a different route, and find out later about a bad accident on your usual route. Faith has visible presence in blessings and beauty and help and our daily needs. God is, and God reaches out in visible, tangible ways. We will see more as our faith grows. Trust and see!

PRAYER: Invisible and ever-present God, may I always trust in your unseen presence in the blessings I receive and in the work that I do. I know you are with me always. Thank you. Amen.

ACTION: Look around you as you go through your day. What blessings and gifts do you see that you haven't noticed before? Thank God for God's unseen Presence made manifest in all the beauty around you.

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
Psalm 11 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xkfew>

PONDER: Have you ever had someone offer you well-intentioned, but unsolicited advice? David responds to the advice of his friends in this Psalm. They encourage him to flee from King Saul, but he felt that this advice was counter to standing firm in his faith in God. I am reminded in these verses to be mindful of my tendency to offer advice to others when they have not asked. Not only can my advice be unhelpful, but it might also cause harm when I do not fully understand the situation of the person to whom I am offering my "wisdom" and opinion.

PRAY: Wise One, guide us as we travel through this life. Remind us to be discerning in offering advice to others. May we listen more and speak less. May we always seek to be tuned in to you. Amen

ACT: Consider keeping a journal for a few weeks to help you monitor yourself if you tend to be quick to offer advice to others. Weave in prayer and ask God to guide you to being more of a listener and less of a talker. Note what you learn about yourself if you decide to take on this challenge.

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Luke 12:41-48 <https://tinyurl.com/yzzwxcrx>

PONDER: This parable from Jesus may well have been talking about how God would appropriately punish church leaders who abused their positions of power in the church. God has given us control over our own lives, but expects us to use our lives for the good of others - not for our own best interests. Perhaps we should tweak a sales slogan so it says, "We're not number one...God is!" to help remind ourselves how God wants us to live our lives.

PRAYER: Gracious Lord, we praise you for the opportunities you give us to live out your word in our daily lives. Forgive us when we stray and make choices that diminish your word and promote our own words. Guide us in our thought, words, and deeds so that we remain focused on what you would have us do with our lives. In Jesus' holy name, Amen

ACTION: *Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Thursday, August 11, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalms 80 <https://tinyurl.com/y75m69j6>

PONDER: I love this Psalm. It is considered a prayer for restoration after tragedy. I love the psalmist's requests for God to Shine on us. I do believe he hears our prayers and looks on us all the time. I do believe that sometimes God waits to give us answers, but I believe God always answers us. Most of all, I love the metaphor of the vine. I have always believed that we should grow in our faith and that we should try to continue to grow in our relationship with God. I believe he loves every minute that we spend talking, walking, listening or asking questions. If we stop, our vine withers. However,

if we work at it, it can grow and be attached to the one who helps us continue to grow. This psalm warns us of the problems that could arise, but asks God to shine us, so we can flower forever.

PRAYER: God, help me to grow a little in your light each day. Show me the things I should do. Amen.

ACT: Watch for and be open to the things God tells you today.

Friday, August 12, 2022 (by Terry Noble)

Isaiah 55:6-11 <https://tinyurl.com/24xt526y>

PONDER: In this passage from Isaiah, verses 10-11 compare God's will to the cycle of rain falling from the heavens, giving life, then returning again to the clouds. We could think of this as God's love. First we receive it and then, as though we were dry earth, we soak it in and are renewed. Restored to new life we then grow ourselves and like the fruit of the earth, we are able to give God's love to others. By pouring out God's love (allowing it to move from us as water evaporates into mist) we are ready to receive it anew. There is a beautiful cycle of giving and receiving, being 'watered' and being the 'one who waters.' May we always be thirsty for God's grace and be ready to pour it out into the world.

PRAYER: God, thank you for the renewing rain that brings growth in earth, body and spirit. Amen.

ACTION: Think about this beautiful cycle as you water houseplants or garden or your neighbor's plants. How is God helping you grow and pour out love in the world?

Saturday, August 13, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Matthew 24:15-27 <https://tinyurl.com/mpurkzm2>

PONDER: Today's scripture features the foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem, an event which the Jews and Christians of the time must have experienced as the end of the world. This passage made me think about Frodo from the Lord of the Rings. After he had destroyed the evil Ring of Power at the end of a journey that almost destroyed him, Frodo calmly reflects about being at the "end of all things" as Mount Doom collapses around him. And yet, there are many tomorrows ahead for Frodo, as there are for us when we hear grim forecasts that we are in the "end times" of this world. What is important at any time is maintaining our faith and hope in