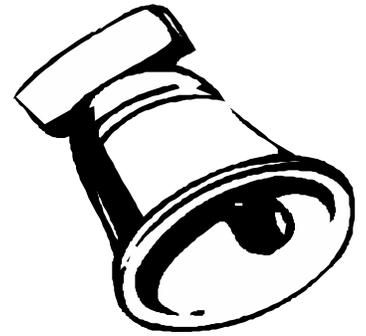




Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

July 2019



COMING IN JULY

Sundays, July 7, 14, & 28 – Women’s Study Group at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, July 9 & 23 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays, July 8, 25 -- Pastor’s Devotional at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 4 – Office Closed in observance of Independence Day

Sunday, July 7 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 14 – Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 21 – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Donation Luncheon – Potluck

Sunday, July 28 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



Happy 4th of July!

July Birthdays – Judy Stracener - July 2, George Payne – July 9, Buddy Faulks – July 10, Bruce Keeling – July 14,
Parker Payne – July 16, Jon Johnson – July 28, Cory Foley – July 28, T’ara Taylor – July 28

July Anniversaries – Ross & Nancy Joplin – July 28

Donation Lunch for July

On Sunday July 21st we will enjoy a summer potluck. Come join us for fun, good food and festivities, as well as a good way to support shared ministries. The sign-up sheet is on the podium in the Narthex.

Reappointed

Sue and I are pleased to announce that we were reappointed at Annual Conference to return as your pastoral couple. We are indeed blessed to be serving such a loving congregation.

Women's Study Group

The Women's study group will be meeting this month. July 7, 14 & 28.



New Arrival!

Rhonda and Alberto Giussani
welcomed a granddaughter
May 17.
Claire Marie
8 lb 9 oz 20 ½ long

A Word from the Pastor

Dear I'm Late, I'm Late Saints,

When I reflect on who I am and where I am going, I find that my days are not about time

management, but are rather, about "me management". I find myself looking at "tasks" rather than God's opportunities for ministry. Part of this chasing after straws in the wind feeling is due to a lack of prayer in all that I do. Rather than pausing to pray before I begin to do something, I have a tendency to jump right in. I often only reserve prayer for the "important" tasks. We are told this about Jesus in Mark 1:35: "in the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." This preceded his announcement to the disciples that he was to go to the neighboring towns to proclaim his message. I recognize that I must rely more on prayer for setting the tone for my work day. In order to work in such a way that I am showing God's love to others requires total devotion. But, does total devotion mean removal of any kind of breaks or relaxation from our lives? The difficulty in dealing with this question, I think, rests with our refusal to discipline ourselves as to when we play and when we work. Distraction may, in fact, be another word for "I'm tired", "I'm bored", or "I've forgotten my goal". Taking a tip from 1 Corinthians 10:31, we can remind ourselves that no matter what we are doing, we are "to do everything for the glory of God." Even when we sit on the bank of a river listening to the water flow.

This is all well and good, but what about my schedule, everything that I have to do? We would do well to remember, that Jesus did not work alone. He had a ministry team made up of 12 disciples. He was not shy about delegating responsibility, even in the face of knowing that they had slept on the job. Jesus recognized that we are in relationship with one another and therefore need to trust each other in our partnerships. For pastors with limited volunteers and small numbers to draw from, there is a temptation to do everything oneself. This is a recipe for either burning out or at least flickering a great deal. This is also true of every job in every walk of life.

There is a tendency, I think, to regard Jesus and his disciples as tireless workers always on the ready to jump into action when needed. The truth is, however, Jesus took time to attend feasts, and join friends for an evening together. In Mark 6:30-31, Jesus says to the disciples, "come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." The scripture goes on to tell us "for many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." Jesus and his disciples took time to rest; so should we. It should be noted, however, that this rest came after a hard days work.

To ensure that we do not trifle away time and measure our time well, we must begin each day by focusing on our reason for being: to love the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Shared responsibility and focus on goals will enable us to prayerfully approach each task in our day with the assurance that we have the strength to give ourselves completely to God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis