



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

# THE BELL RINGER

## September 2019



### COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays, September 10 & 17 – Study Group at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, September 3 & 17 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays, September 5, 12 & 19 - Pastor's Devotional at 11:30 a.m.

Sundays, September 1, 15, 22, 29 – Women's Study Group 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 1 – Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost / Imagine No Malaria

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day – Office Closed

Sunday, September 8 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost / Donation Luncheon

Wednesday, September 11 – Leadership Committee (Nominations) at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 12 – S/PPR Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 15 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Finance Committee Meeting at 9:30 a.m.  
Blessing of the Animals in church's front yard 2:30p.m.

Sunday, September 22 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 29 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Laity Sunday



**September Birthdays** –Sept. 13 Alberto Giussani, Sept. 15 Allison Giussani  
**September Anniversaries** – September 13 Lee Weldon & Sandra Stephenson

## **September Donation Lunch**

Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

## **S/PPR Committee Meeting**

Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.

## **Leadership (Nominations) Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

This is an important meeting to recommend nominations for Church Leadership for 2020.

## **Finance Committee Meeting**

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
Budget Recommendations for 2020.

## **New Study**

“**Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes**” begins Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> and ends October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a 6 session video based study in which we learn how God can use broken people and restore broken relationships.

## **Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday September 15 - 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Front yard of Christ UMC

Bring your pets & service animals.

A Blessing of Animals, in many congregations, witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. It is also a service with special appeal to children.

## *A Word from the Pastor*

Dear Called Upon Saints,

September 30<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the death of actor James Dean. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1955 at the age of 24 when another vehicle made a left turn in front of him on a stretch of back country road. You may wonder why my newsletter message would focus on such an event. After all, James Dean only made three movies, all of which were released after his death. The fact is, many in the acting profession consider James Dean's acting to be ground-breaking, revolutionary, trend setting for decades to come. Some swear by his techniques and ideas to this day.

Dean, along with Montgomery Clift and Marlon Brando, were known as Method actors. In a nutshell, they did not follow the classical method of acting, but rather allowed their own emotions and persona to come through in their acting. This was unheard of in the acting profession until they began using this methodology in the early 1950's. James Dean was nominated posthumously for an academy award following the release of *East of Eden* and *Giant*. His contribution to the field of acting during his short life was monumental according to fellow actors, directors, producers, and film critics. How is it that such a short life and brief contribution could be so impactful?

The following is a quote from James Dean about the profession of acting: “An actor must interpret life, and in order to do so must be willing to accept all the experiences life has to offer. In fact, he must seek out more of life than life puts at his feet. In the short span of his lifetime, an actor must learn all there is to know, experience all there is to experience, or approach that state as closely as possible. He must be superhuman in his efforts to store away in the core of his subconscious everything that he might be called upon to use in the expression of his art.”

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus says to the disciples, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Jesus does not just call us, he calls upon us to reach deep within ourselves to be able to maintain our course, the course set by our Lord. Jesus lets the disciples know that much will be required for the journey through life. It will not be easy.

In much the same manner as James Dean describes the path to good acting, we too are “called upon to be superhuman in our efforts to store away in the core of our subconscious everything that we might be called upon to use” in our journey of faith and service to our Lord. James Dean could have followed the example of previous classical actors and probably been successful in his short career. But he chose a more difficult path which resulted in greater edification of his profession. In a very short time, he did much with what he had.

So too, can we do much in the short time we have. We can take the easy well-trodden path, or we can venture forth through the narrow gate and rough road which leads to life. The Peace of Christ is not an easy fluffy peace. It is a peace which can be upsetting for those who won't relinquish what power they have. It can be a peace which is rejected by those called upon to accept it. May we be open to the peace of Christ and to accepting the responsibility of walking the difficult pathway to a more perfect relationship with God.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dennis