



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

THE BELL RINGER

October 2019



COMING IN OCTOBER

Tuesdays, October 1, 15, 29 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17, 31 -- Pastor's Devotional at 11:30 a.m.

Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 30 – Study Group at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays, October 6, 20, 27 – Women's Bible Study at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor

Sunday, October 6 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost/ World Communion Sunday / Imagine No Malaria/ Gideon Sunday

Sunday, October 13 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
12:00 p.m. -- Donation Luncheon – Ham, Beans & Cornbread

Monday, October 14 – Columbus Day – Office Closed

Sunday, October 20 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 27 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

October Birthdays – Oct. 2 Mary Stephen & Frances Niblett, **Oct. 15** Lee Weldon Stephenson,
Oct. 18 Deborah Payne, **Oct. 27** Steve Olis

October Donation Lunch

Sunday October 13th.

Ham, Beans & Cornbread

Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

October 17

at 5:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your materials or your completed kits.



A Word from the Pastor

Dear Hysterical Saints,

When I was teaching high school in the late 1970's, we administered a group achievement test to our students. I don't recall many of the results, however, one did stick in my memory. We found that students who were juniors and seniors in 1979 were not very good at distinguishing fact from fiction. Those individuals would now be 56 to 58 years of age. It does give one pause. My reason for bringing this up at the beginning of this writing is because my focus is on mass hysteria of the kind generated on October 30, 1938 when Orson Welles broadcast his famous radio version of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. The broadcast utilized excerpts from real

news casts to make the program seem like a breaking news program. Supposedly the Martians had landed in New Jersey and were wreaking havoc. Millions of people across America panicked and did all sorts of crazy things in anticipation of the end of the world. We like to think that we are beyond that sort of reaction today, yet we see millions of people taken in by scams, fake Facebook postings, and lies in general. What does that say about the human race? How will we respond when reality sets in? Our Lord provides us with answers to our inability to distinguish fact from fiction.

In Matthew 24:3-8, 30-31 we read the following:

3When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4Jesus answered them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 5For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. 6And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: 8all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

30Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. 31And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Many people have tried to predict the end of the world. Many have provided scenarios which involve, volcanoes, asteroids, Nuclear War, and even an invasions of space aliens. Some have lived their lives in fear waiting for the worst. Others jump from one bizarre notion to the next. Jesus reminded us in this scripture passage of the nature of his second coming and the resulting end times. We tend to avoid God's Truth in favor of our own ideas and land in a confusion of baseless ideas. Jesus told his disciples to go into all the earth and spread the Gospel. They did that. He also told them that the Kingdom is here now and we are to live into that Kingdom whenever we see poor people, hungry people, widows, orphans, those who are sick and those in prison. Feed my sheep was the simple message he gave to Peter.

I hope that each of you will be able to distinguish fact from fiction in your everyday lives. I also pray that you will go to scripture as a foundation for discerning the truth that God blessed us with through Christ Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis