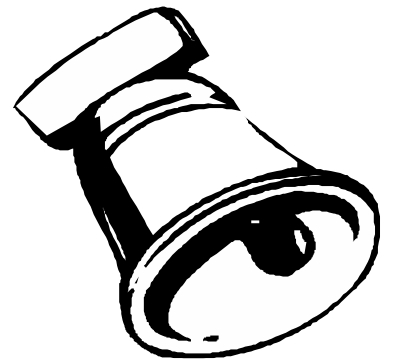




Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

September 2022



COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays, September 6 & 20 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 4 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost / Imagine No Malaria

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6 – S/PPR Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 8 – Leadership Committee (Nominations) at 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, September 11 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Blessing of the Animals – 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 12 – Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 18 - Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost/ Shared Ministries Sunday
Shared Ministries Lunch at noon/Church Council Meeting 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*Welcome Back
SPC Students!*

September Birthdays –Sept. 13 Alberto Giussani, Sept. 15 Allison Giussani, Sept. 25 Lisa Presley Bell

September Anniversaries – Jeff & Deb McVay September 25

Shared Ministries Monthly Lunch

Sunday, September 18th.

Come join in fellowship and good food.

Extending the Table

Please consider participating in this ministry.

Please contact Sue Cates if interested.

S/PPR Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 6th at 5:30 p.m.

Leadership (Nominations) Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 8th at 5:45 p.m.

This is an important meeting to recommend nominations for Church Leadership for 2023.

Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Budget Recommendations for 2023.

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, September 18 at 12:00

Following Shared Ministries Lunch

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday September 11th - 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 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 Prayerful Saints,

During the Civil War on September 26, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln ordered the observance

of a fast day in the northern United States. According to Wikipedia:

In a note not written for public consumption, Lincoln concluded that "the will of God prevails. . . Both [sides] may be wrong. . . in the present civil war it is quite possible God's purpose is something quite different from the purpose of either party."

There was as much sin to evoke God's wrath upon the Union as on the slave-owning Confederacy. On August 12, 1861, he issued a proclamation in the Northern States for a day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting "to be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnities. . . It is peculiarly fit for us to recognize the hand of God in this terrible visitation, and in sorrowful remembrance of our own faults and crimes as a nation and as individuals to humble ourselves before Him, and to pray for His mercy... "

Indeed, this was extraordinary for a man not known for religious zeal.

All of us, including those throughout history, have probably maintained that our thoughts, our causes were just causes and, therefore, strengthened because we were on God's side. Even the Nazi's thought God was on their side. Lincoln, however, expressed a thought that those of us in the Christian world have long understood, all of us are God's children, and God grieves at our inhumanity toward one another.

Lincoln struggled with the fact that the war ground on and had no seeming end, even though the cause of abolishing slavery was a just cause. His realization, though, that all are with sin, was something all of us struggle with. We think we are doing the right thing. We think we are righteous. We may also think that our perceived righteousness gives us the right to smite others. We forget the admonition to judge not lest you be judged.

In Colossians 3:14-15 we read: "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." As I have said often, love is an action word. When we say we love, we are offering our whole being to that or to whom we love. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly needed, but how much more important is it to personally give of ourselves.

Perhaps on September 26th, we will stop what we are doing for a while, refrain from eating, and prayerfully reflect on the reality that is the family of God. May we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit that abides within us all and call upon the Lord to fill our hearts with so much love that hate has no room.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis