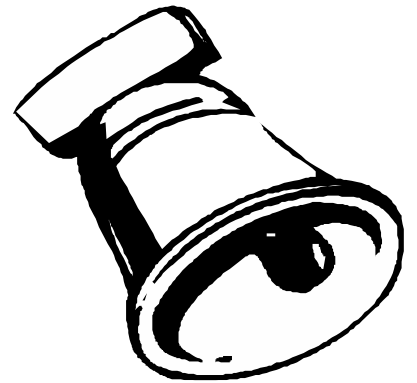




Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

October 2022



COMING IN OCTOBER

Tuesdays, October 4 & 18 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 2 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost/ World Communion Sunday / Imagine No Malaria

Sunday, October 9 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost/Shared Ministries Sunday Lunch

Monday, October 10 – Columbus Day – Office Closed

Sunday, October 16 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 23 -- Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost/ Laity Sunday

Thursday, October 27 – Church Conference – 6:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 30 – Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

October Birthdays – Oct. 2 Mary Stephen, Frances Niblett & Lou Ann Crawley
Oct. 18 Deborah Payne, Oct. 27 Steve Olis

Shared Ministries Sunday
October 9th.
Lunch following Worship

Church Conference

Thursday, October 27th 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
All should attend.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Bring materials by Thursday, October 27th.

Laity Sunday

October 23rd

Come celebrate the Laity of the church.

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Smiley Face Saints,

In Micah 6:8 we read the following: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Powerful words, indeed. All Christians know them, but many Christians find it difficult to follow through fully with the call from God. The question may arise in the minds of many: what does it mean to do justice or to love kindness. Christians may wonder, what do I have to do to exhibit kindness or to stand up in the face of injustice. I will leave it to the readers of this newsletter message to ponder the possibilities and arrive at an answer.

One thing that might help is an awareness of World Smile Day which occurs on the first Friday of October each year. The purpose of World Smile Day is

to encourage people all around the world to do an act of kindness on that day and help one person smile. Indeed, if our Christian hearts are in full bloom, it won't matter who the person is, where they are, or what language they speak. Our task is to do good, regardless of who, what, or why.

World Smile Day was the creation of Harvey Ball who created the Smiley Face in 1963. In the 1990's, Ball had become discouraged by the over commercialization of his creation: the smiley face. He had intended for it to be a means of brightening one's day and providing good-will throughout the world. Instead, it had become a commonplace icon which had lost much of its meaning among most of the world. Because of these thoughts, he decided to use his creation as part of a world campaign to restore the original purpose of the smiley face. In 1999 he called for the first Friday in October each year to be designated as World Smile Day. His original purpose for the day was simply to try to do acts of kindness on that day. Harvey Ball died in 2001, and those close to him formed the Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation.

One of the projects of the Foundation is to encourage people each year on World Smile Day to become involved in an activity designed to bring about more kindness in the world. Participants in this activity are asked to take the #WORLDSMILEDAYCHALLENGE!!! This challenge calls on participants to do an act of kindness and help one person smile.

Reflecting on Micah 6:8 and our own long involvement with our Christian faith, we hopefully will say Amen! to the notion of a concept like World Smile Day. Like Harvey Ball we too are aware of the over-commercialization of the images related to our faith. Crosses are worn as decorative jewelry rather than a true statement of faith. People twist the basic tenets of Christianity to fit their own purposes regardless of conflict with the teachings of Christ. Even our most sacred holy days have become mere opportunities of sell more merchandise. Indeed, the Cross of Christ, like the Smiley Face has faded into the noise of modern day visuals so much so that many people in the world barely recognize its existence, let alone what it represents.

On Friday October 7th, I pray that you will remember World Smile Day, but, that you will also remember the words of Micah 6:8. And, in the words of John Wesley, do all the good you can.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis

