



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

THE BELL RINGER

May 2023



COMING IN MAY

Tuesdays 2 & 16 – Grief Support Group at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 4 – National Day of Prayer – Courthouse Square 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter/ Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Sunday, May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day/ Festival of the Christian Home

Sunday, May 21 – Ascension Sunday /Heritage Sunday/Shared Ministries Sunday

Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day Office will be closed

May Birthdays – Annelise Blessen – May 2, Frannie Guthrie – May 3, Garrett Payne – May 7,
Melissa Giussani Dickson – May 15, Shyrle Hill – May 17

Blessing Box

Please bring canned goods or non-perishables each Sunday.

You Did It!

Congratulations to all graduates.

National Day of Prayer

Courthouse Square

May 4th

12-1 p.m.

Shared Ministries Sunday

May 21st

Lunch at noon

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Wesley Saints

For those of us who are United Methodists, as well as all Methodists, the month of May is very important. Specifically, May 21st and May 24th are key dates in the history of Methodism. It was on these dates in 1738 that Charles and John Wesley each had an experience that changed their lives and marked the beginning of a worldwide methodist revival.

Charles Wesley, after dealing with pleurisy, had been struggling with his faith. He believed that he was faithful, especially related to keeping the ordinances of the church and good works, but something was missing. It was on May 21st while being cared for during a bout of pleurisy that he had an awakening. Suddenly, he felt that he believed, really believed. He told his brother John about his experience which led to much discussion between them.

While attending a worship service at Aldersgate Street Church on May 24th, John also had an experience. He said that his "heart was strangely warmed." Following this experience, he and Charles began serving

the Lord in a new more heart-felt way. Indeed, their souls were on fire for God and the Great Commission.

John and Charles Wesley thought that they had it together as good Anglican churchmen. It was not, however, until the moving of the Holy Spirit deep within their souls that something happened, and they were able to say without reservation, I believe. In Romans 5:5 we read the following: "...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." The Holy Spirit is present and at work within each of us, although each person experiences that work in different ways and at different paces.

As we continue through this season of Easter, I pray that everyone will pause and take a deep breath and listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Many throughout the world do not feel fully justified in their faith. They are looking for something more. They are waiting for a revelation that will change their direction. We should all review the lives of John and Charles Wesley as we wait for something to happen. Both men were well into their service to the Lord and not fervently seeking a change in their faith orientation. But, when it happened, they were ready, and the results led to one of the greatest Christian revivals the world has known.

My word to you is to not try so hard to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. John Wesley referred to things such as Holy Communion and prayer as means of grace, that is, when we participate in them, opportunities for the igniting of the holy fire of God and the experiencing of Gods' free gift of salvation may happen. Hopefully, we will be open to accepting the offer of life eternal that is revealed to us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis

*with
God*
all things are possible

Matthew 9:26