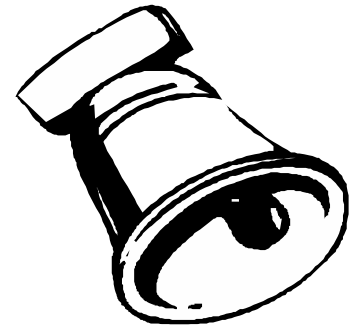




Christ United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 710  
Levelland, TX 79336

# THE BELL RINGER

## August 2023



### COMING IN AUGUST

Tuesdays August 8 & 22 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 6 – Tenth Sunday After Pentecost/ Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Sunday, August 13 – Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost/Shared Ministries Sunday

Sunday, August 20 – Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, August 27 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**August Birthdays -- August 7-Sue Cates, August 17-Rhonda Giussani, August 24-Joyce Peters,**

**Anniversaries -- August 9-Dennis & Sue Cates,**

*Welcome Back  
SPC Students!*

## ***Shared Ministries Sunday***

Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>

Please support this ongoing Ministry.  
Shared Ministries Lunch at noon.

## **Air Conditioning**

When using the church facilities during times other than Sunday please reset the thermostats as follows before leaving:

Sanctuary – 85 degrees  
Fellowship Hall – off

Please make sure the sanctuary doors are closed.

*Thank you!*

## ***A Word from the Pastor***

**Dear Prospective Apostle Saints,**

According to Wikipedia, “the Jesuits established their first missions in Canada in the early decades of the 1600s and were assisted in the Huron nation by a number of new believers, among whom were Joseph Chiwatenhwa and his wife Marie Aonnetta, in addition to his brother Joseph and other members of the family, all of whom lived and witnessed to their faith in a heroic

manner.” Chiwatenhwa began following the teachings of the Jesuits in 1636 and became committed to Christian teachings even though his fellow tribal members were suspicious of the Europeans because of outbreaks of various diseases. Chiwatenhwa became ill and after recovering was baptized on August 16, 1637 by Father Jean de Brebeuf. The Christian name he received was Joseph. Joseph’s wife Aonette was also baptized and they were married in what became the first Catholic wedding in the Huron nation. As the first lay administrator of the Catholic Church in Canada, Joseph provided services such as translating hymns and prayers from French into Huron. A portion of a prayer he composed reads as follows: “You love us so deeply that all I can do in return is to offer myself to you. I chose you as my elder and chief. There is no one else.” Joseph became a prolific evangelist among his people, so much so, that the Hurons referred to him as “the Christian.”

He was martyred on August 2, 1640, after being butchered by his people for propagating the Gospel. Some historians have referred to him as the Apostle with the Apostles because of his religious fervor.

It is amazing how the Word of God is spread around the world by people who are the unlikeliest of disciples. Why Joseph and not his fellow tribesmen? Why, in spite of being a seeming victim of the European scourge of disease did he say yes to Jesus? The answer lies in the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Each person on this globe has the presence of the Holy Spirit. Despite this, not everyone listens to the leadings of the Holy Spirit and therefore chooses to go their own way rather than the more perfect way set forth by God. What are Christians to do? How should we go about the business of making disciples for Jesus Christ?

Many people believe that success lies in big things. Among Christians, people are enthralled with the fact that hundreds of people come forward and are baptized at a revival. Little is said, however, when a friend responds to a personal invitation by joining you for a bible study you are a member of. We give up too soon. We feel we do not have what it takes to bring people to Jesus. Fear might be a factor, but so too is complacency. We leave evangelism to others.

The story of Joseph Chiwatenhwa is inspirational because it sets an example for all of us. Imagine, a Huron native American who has never been exposed to Christianity, becomes a fervent follower of our Lord even unto death. I would say, never say never, never give up on the possibility of sharing the Gospel with someone else and having it lead to a new convert to the faith. Joseph’s heart was on fire for the Lord. So too should ours be.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dennis