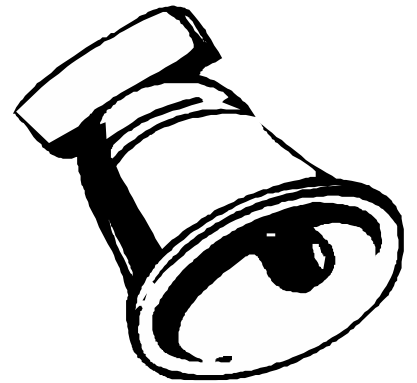




Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

October 2023



COMING IN OCTOBER

Tuesdays, October 3, 17 & 31 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 1 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost/ World Communion Sunday / Imagine No Malaria

Sunday, October 8 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost/Shared Ministries Sunday Lunch

Monday, October 9 – Columbus Day – Office Closed

Sunday, October 15 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 22 -- Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Monday, October 23 – Called Annual Conference – Zoom Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26 – UMCOR Kits Due

Sunday, October 29 – Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday

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

Children's Bible School
Sundays 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Grades K – 3rd

Shared Ministries Sunday
October 8th.
Lunch following Worship

Called Annual Conference

Monday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Bring materials by Thursday, October 26th.

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Reflective Methodists

As we finish out the long ordeal of church disaffiliations in our denomination, it may be good to pause and reflect on our beginnings in this country. Of course, disaffiliations are occurring all over the world, not just in the United States. I am sure that many of you have learned the history of Methodism and its beginnings in England. The official beginning of the church can be traced to Baltimore and Francis Asbury who established the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. This, however, was not the first congregation to meet as a church. Groups of people calling themselves Methodists were meeting prior to this.

The first congregation to be formed was in New

York City in 1766. Philip Embury, a local pastor, who had immigrated from Ireland, began preaching in his own home and then in a rigging loft. Two years later along with Thomas Webb, he led this congregation in building a church on the site of the current John Street United Methodist Church on October 30, 1768. After a year, more pastors came from England to New York and Philip Embury moved north of New York City and continued to preach. Philip Embury worked at his trade of linen producer in the Albany area. He died as the result of an accident while mowing a large property in 1775. Like many local pastors to this day Philip preached on Sunday, visited the sick and homebound and worked at his trade during the week.

As we prepare to say goodbye to the last of the congregations leaving the United Methodist Church, I hope we try to focus on the work of people like Philip Embury who came to the colonies with little more than a trade and a recent conversion to Christianity and an appointment as a local pastor, a willingness to spread the Word of God in a new land. Throughout our history as a church, we have celebrated those who have given their lives to ensure that the Gospel continues to be spread throughout the world.

In Revelation 3:12 we read the following: “If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.” These are inspirational words for anyone who has taken a vow to support our church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. All of us as United Methodists have taken this vow. Perhaps the part of the vow which is hardest to follow is our witness. Some have chosen to boost their witness into professional ministry. Some have traded a life of comfort to serve the Lord as missionaries in foreign lands. Philip Embury felt moved to preach after having a conversion experience. Not everyone will be moved to do this. Not everyone will be moved to leave one’s homeland and immigrate to a new world and then almost immediately help to organize a church. But, some will feel moved to share the kernel of truth that lies deep within their hearts.

I pray that as you join with other United Methodists saying woe is me as we watch dissention split our church apart, you will remember Philip Embury and the scripture I printed above. We will remember that the name of God is written on us and our home is the City of God that we, as United Methodists, have always proclaimed.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis