

All Church Worship Brainstorming

Mon., May 16, 2022 in Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Potluck

7:00-9:30 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship

June 5 - July 31 (9 weeks)

The worship brainstorming for this series (Pentecost and after) will be held in Fellowship Hall. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

We will have a potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 p.m. **Safety protocols will be the same as at church.**

More information is available at church and on our website. Please pick up the brainstorming packet at church or find it online, read the Scripture reading and Pastor Mary's message synopses, and preview videos when they become available. Please RSVP to Karen Booth at kwbooth@comcast.net, 231-798-8431, or 231-557-1069 or by signing up at church.

Social Justice Issue for June 2022: Cycle of Poverty

Social Justice Issue for July 2022: Respect and dignity of workers (living wage)

Theme: The Spiritual Journey Continues...Picking up the pieces

- Connecting the pieces
- Transformation
- Serving others (passionately)

Metaphors:

- Puzzle/puzzle pieces – making a new picture. Related hands-on item: puzzle piece with scripture reference.
- Mosaic – creating something beautiful from broken pieces

Major spoken/unspoken needs:

- Dealing with fear, which often presents itself as anger and rage. One antidote to fear is serving.
- Peace, sense of belonging, safe communities, coming together, compassion
- Finding a new normal – less busy, better sense of priorities, greater gratitude, increased resilience

“Living the Spirit Life”

June 5-26, 2022 (4 weeks)

Synopsis: Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus promised to send a Helper for us. This Helper is the Holy Spirit. But many of us struggle to grasp who the Holy Spirit really is and what the Holy Spirit does. We understand that the Holy Spirit is part of the Holy Trinity, but what does that mean? Where did the Holy Spirit come from? Is the Holy Spirit always with us? How does the Holy Spirit help us?

2021 theme connection: This is a good follow-up to last year’s in-depth study of Mark. The Holy Spirit offers guidance and love. The Holy Spirit is Christ within us and speaks for us when we can’t find words, especially when we speak about faith. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is a Convicter or Discomforter, correcting us and leading us to deeper faith and greater obedience. How might our expectations change if we become more vulnerable to the Holy Spirit’s direction?

Resources:

- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/living-the-spirit-life>
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-christian-roots-the-holy-spirit>
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-holy-spirit-at-work-in-your-life>
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/come-holy-ghost-a-wesleyan-perspective-on-the-spirit>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1750/sermon-series-power-for-the-church>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4687/6-things-we-wrongly-attribute-to-the-holy-spirit>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4414/the-fellowship-of-the-holy-spirit>
- The Kiss of God - 27 Lessons on the Holy Spirit by Rev. James C. Howell

Related resources:

- Invite congregation to complete a **spiritual gifts** inventory
- Offer a weekly reflection on **spiritual disciplines** - both in worship and online: prayer, fasting, journaling, meditation, Lectio Divina, Sabbath, service

Music: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit (UMH 334); Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove; Pass It On (UMH 572); Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (TFWS 2120); Gather Us In (TFWS 2236); Let It Rise* by William Murphy; *Holy Spirit, Come to Us (TFWS 2118)*

Visuals:

June 5, 2022: “Overcoming Babel”

Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 (The Message shown here – we could use The Voice”)

2¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

5-11 There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn’t for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren’t these all Galileans? How come we’re hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites;

Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;
Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes;
Even Cretans and Arabs!

“They’re speaking our languages, describing God’s mighty works!”

¹² Their heads were spinning; they couldn’t make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: “What’s going on here?”

¹³ Others joked, “They’re drunk on cheap wine.”

Peter Speaks Up

¹⁴⁻²¹ That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren’t drunk as some of you suspect. They haven’t had time to get drunk—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

“In the Last Days,” God says,

“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;

Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes, I’ll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both, and they’ll prophesy.

I’ll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved.”

Scripture: Romans 8: 14-17 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁴ Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children. ¹⁵ God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father. ¹⁶ God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children. ¹⁷ His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ we will be given what God has promised. We will also share in the glory of Christ, because we have suffered with him.

Scripture: ref. to Genesis 11: 1-9 (The Tower of Babel)

Synopsis: Pentecost is about the building of community, overcoming differences, and making connections through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is about the church being the church - a reminder that wherever we go, we’re likely to find members of the family of God gathered around the living Word, Jesus, and the winds of the Holy Spirit.

Felt need: To be inspired to live the good news of Jesus Christ outwardly and invitationally.

Visuals: fire, dove; red balloons, banners, streamers; variety of lights/lamps if we use “Power”

Hands-on item:

Activity: Holy Communion

Media possibilities:

- “Power.” Length: 3:40. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Why does it seem that everyone else understands the Holy Spirit when I still have questions about what his role is in my life? This short film opens the discussion on the Holy Spirit by asking some of the questions many Christians are afraid to ask.
<https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/14841/power>
- “The Day of Pentecost.” Length: 1:38. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Could be used as an intro to the Acts reading. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/45869/the-day-of-pentecost>

Music: *Spirit Breakout* sung by Kim Walker-Smith; *Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here* by Jesus Culture; *Spirit Song (UMH 347)*; <https://www.worshiptogether.com/lists/holy-spirit-songs-for-pentecost/>

Children’s Time:

Social media:

June 12, 2022: “Wisdom Calls”

Trinity Sunday

Scripture: John 16: 12-15 (The Message)

¹²⁻¹⁵ “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won’t draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I’ve said, ‘He takes from me and delivers to you.’”

Scripture: Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 (New Living Translation)

- 8 Listen as Wisdom calls out!
Hear as understanding raises her voice!
- ² On the hilltop along the road,
she takes her stand at the crossroads.
- ³ By the gates at the entrance to the town,
on the road leading in, she cries aloud,
- ⁴ “I call to you, to all of you!
I raise my voice to all people.
- ²² “The LORD formed me from the beginning,
before he created anything else.
- ²³ I was appointed in ages past,
at the very first, before the earth began.
- ²⁴ I was born before the oceans were created,
before the springs bubbled forth their waters.
- ²⁵ Before the mountains were formed,
before the hills, I was born—
- ²⁶ before he had made the earth and fields
and the first handfuls of soil.

²⁷ I was there when he established the heavens,
when he drew the horizon on the oceans.
²⁸ I was there when he set the clouds above,
when he established springs deep in the earth.
²⁹ I was there when he set the limits of the seas,
so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.
And when he marked off the earth's foundations,
³⁰ I was the architect at his side.
I was his constant delight,
rejoicing always in his presence.
³¹ And how happy I was with the world he created;
how I rejoiced with the human family!

Synopsis: We want to make sense of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but the Trinity is more of an understanding of how we experience God. In our worship and fellowship together, we feel the power of God's presence. In our personal relationship with God, as we seek God's will and way, we know God is close to us.

Felt need: To experience God who seeks us, connects with us, guides and calls and shapes us

Visuals: representation of Trinity

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- "Holy Spirit Promise." Length: 1:44. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. In John 14, Jesus promised that God would send a helper to the disciples, the Holy Spirit, who would be with them forever. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/84283/holy-spirit-promise>
- "The Promised Holy Spirit." Length: 0:57. Cost: \$15.00. Web license: Yes. He came down, gave His life for ours, paid our penalty, rose three days later, defeated death, and proved He is Lord. But that is not the end. God gave us his promised Holy Spirit. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/104729/the-promised-holy-spirit>
- "Holy Spirit Prayer." Length: 1:38. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Based on a "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" by Christina Rosseti. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/75861/holy-spirit-prayer>

Music: *Voice of Truth* sung by Casting Crowns; *This Is My Father's World* (UMH 144); *Spirit of the Living God* (UMH 393)

Children's Time:

Social media:

NOTE: Peace with Justice Sunday - special offering

June 19, 2022: "The Sound of Silence"

2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Father's Day

Scripture: I Kings 19: 1-15a

(The Voice – read in parts by a Narrator, Jezebel, Elijah, heavenly messenger, Eternal One)

Narrator: ¹⁹ When Ahab arrived in Jezreel, he told Jezebel about everything that had taken place. He told her how Elijah had executed all the prophets of Baal with a sword, and she became furious. ² Jezebel sent an urgent message to Elijah.

Jezebel's Message: May the gods kill me and worse, if I haven't killed you the way you killed their priests by this time tomorrow. *Your end is near, Elijah.*

Narrator: ³ Terrified, Elijah quickly ran for his life. He traveled the length of Israel in one day and finally arrived at Beersheba, the southern point of God's territory, which is in Judah. When he arrived, he instructed his servant to remain there while he sought solitude. ⁴ He journeyed into the desert for one day and then decided to rest beneath the limbs of a broom tree. There he prayed that his life would be over quickly and that he would die there beneath the tree.

Elijah: I'm finished, Eternal One. Please end my life here and now, even though I have failed, and I am no better than my ancestors.

Narrator: ⁵ Elijah then laid himself down under the broom tree and entered into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, a heavenly messenger came and touched him and gave him instructions.

Messenger: Get up, and eat.

Narrator: ⁶ Elijah looked and found a breadcake sitting over charcoal near his head. There was also a jar of water. He ate the food and drank the water, and then he lay back down.

Often the only thing growing in the desert, the small broom tree has enough substance to save Elijah. This bush, whose limbs grow straight up like a broom standing on its end, offers meager shade; but its oil-rich branches and roots make excellent fuel and charcoal; the thick roots travel deep into the ground and offer both water and fire. God provides for Elijah's needs—nothing more, and nothing less.

⁷ The Eternal's messenger visited him again, touched him, and gave him more instructions.

Heavenly Messenger: Get up, and eat. Your journey ahead is great, and you need plenty of nourishment.

Narrator: ⁸ Elijah got up and ate the food and drank the water. His body felt strong again, and he journeyed for 40 more days and 40 more nights to Horeb, God's mountain where Moses received the Ten Directives. ⁹ When he arrived at Horeb, he walked into a cave and rested for the night.

Eternal One: (to Elijah): Why are you here, Elijah? What is it that you desire?

Elijah:¹⁰ As you know, all my passion has been devoted to the Eternal One, the God of heavenly armies. The Israelites have abandoned Your covenant with them, they have torn down every single one of Your altars, and they have executed by the sword all those who prophesy in Your name. I am the last remaining prophet, and they now seek to execute me as well.

Eternal One: ¹¹ Leave this cave, and go stand on the mountainside in My presence.

Narrator: The Eternal passed by him. The mighty wind separated the mountains and crumbled every stone before the Eternal. *This was not a divine wind, for the Eternal was not within this wind. After the wind passed through, an earthquake shook the earth. This was not a divine quake, for the Eternal was not within this earthquake.* ¹²⁻¹³ After the earthquake was over, there was a fire. *This was not a divine fire, for the Eternal was not within this fire.*

After the fire *died out*, there was *nothing but* the sound of a calm breeze. *And through this breeze a gentle, quiet voice entered into Elijah's ears. He covered his face with his cloak and went to the mouth of the cave. Suddenly, Elijah was surprised.*

Eternal One: Why are you here, Elijah? *What is it that you desire?*

Elijah: ¹⁴ *As you know, all my passion has been devoted to the Eternal God of heavenly armies. The Israelites have abandoned Your covenant with them, they have torn down every one of Your altars, and they have executed all who prophesy in Your name by the sword. I am the last remaining prophet, and they now seek to execute me as well. They won't stop.*

Eternal One: ¹⁵ Travel back the same way you traveled here, but continue *north* to the desert of Damascus.

Scripture: Psalm 42 (Contemporary English Version)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ¹ As a deer gets thirsty
for streams of water,
I truly am thirsty
for you, my God. | here where the Jordan begins
at Mount Hermon
and at Mount Mizar. |
| ² In my heart, I am thirsty
for you, the living God.
When will I see your face? | ⁷ Your vicious waves
have swept over me
like an angry ocean
or a roaring waterfall. |
| ³ Day and night my tears
are my only food,
as everyone keeps asking,
"Where is your God?" | ⁸ Every day, you are kind,
and at night
you give me a song
as my prayer to you,
the God of my life. |
| ⁴ Sorrow floods my heart,
when I remember
leading the worshipers
to your house.
I can still hear them shout
their joyful praises. | ⁹ You are my mighty rock.
Why have you forgotten me?
Why must enemies mistreat me
and make me sad? |
| ⁵ Why am I discouraged?
Why am I restless?
I should trust you, LORD.
I will praise you again
because you help me,
and you are my God. | ¹⁰ Even my bones are in pain,
while all day long
my enemies sneer and ask,
"Where is your God?" |
| ⁶ I am deeply discouraged,
and so I think about you | ¹¹ Why am I discouraged?
Why am I restless?
I trust you, LORD!
And I will praise you again |

because you help me,

and you are my God.

Synopsis: Life with God often involves redirection, reorientation, and refocus - sometimes in very unexpected ways. We have to sort through the inward and outward noise and seek the voice of God, who is still speaking - even in the silence.

Felt need: To make room to hear God's voice in our lives, even to embrace silence as a gift

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Special prayers for all experiences of fathering/being fathered

Media possibilities:

Music: *Word of God Speak (W&S 3184)*; *Spirit of God (TFWS 2117)*; *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (UMH 127)*; #2025 "As a Deer"

Children's Time:

Social media:

June 26, 2022: "Finding Home"

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: II Kings 2: 1-14

(The Voice – read in parts by a Narrator, Elijah, Elisha, and Prophets' Disciples)

Narrator: 2 Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal when the Eternal One planned to snatch Elijah up into the heavens by *the power of* a fierce dancing wind.

Elijah (to Elisha): ² I ask you to remain here. The Eternal has commanded me to go all the way to Bethel.

Elisha: As certain as your own life and the life of the Eternal, I refuse to abandon you.

Narrator: So the two men traveled down to Bethel together, ³ where Elisha was approached by the prophets' disciples who lived there.

Prophets' Disciples: Are you aware that the Eternal One is going to snatch *Elijah*, your mentor, away from you today?

Elisha: Yes, I am aware of *this*. I want you to keep quiet about it.

Elijah (to Elisha): ⁴ I beg you to remain here. The Eternal has commanded me to travel to Jericho.

Elijah: As certain as your own life and the life of the Eternal, I refuse to abandon you.

Narrator: The two men then traveled to Jericho together, ⁵ where the prophets' disciples living in Jericho approached Elisha.

Prophets' Disciples: Are you aware that the Eternal One is going to snatch your mentor away from you today?

Elisha: Yes, I am aware of *this*. I want you to keep quiet about it.

Elijah (to Elisha): ⁶ I beg you to remain here. The Eternal One has commanded me to travel to the Jordan River.

Elisha: As certain as your own life and the life of the Eternal, I refuse to abandon you.

Narrator: So the two men then traveled *to the Jordan River* together.

⁷ While Elijah and Elisha were standing near the *Jordan River*, 50 of the prophets' disciples *from that area* stood at a distance from them on the other side. ⁸ Elijah removed his cloak and rolled it up; then he struck the water with it, and the water divided. Elijah and Elisha then walked across on dry land. ⁹ After the two had made it to the other side *of the Jordan*, Elijah spoke to Elisha.

Elijah: Tell me what it is you would like me to do for you before I am taken away from you.

Elisha: Please, I wish to receive a double portion of your spirit. *As your successor, I want to have twice the portion of your power.*

Elijah: ¹⁰ What you have requested of me is challenging, but it will be done if you witness my departure. But if you do not watch, then you will not have your double portion.

Narrator: ¹¹ Now as the two continued walking along and talking *as they normally did*, something incredible happened. A blazing chariot pulled by blazing horses *stormed down from the heavens* and came between Elijah and Elisha. Then Elijah was swept up into heaven by the *fiery* storm. ¹² Elisha witnessed this *amazing spectacle*.

Elisha: My father, O my father! The chariots and riders of Israel!

Elijah and Enoch ([Genesis 5:24](#)) are the only two men in the Bible to leave earth while they are still alive. Although they are separated by centuries of time, both men are inseparable from God, and both leave quite a legacy: Elijah's successor, Elisha, continues his mentor's work, even calling out Elijah's name for help. Enoch's son, Methuselah, lives longer than anyone else ever has, which is proof that he, too, lives properly.

Narrator: Elisha never saw Elijah again. Elisha grabbed the clothes he was wearing, and he ripped them in half. ¹³⁻¹⁴ He picked up Elijah's cloak, which had dropped *to the ground when he was taken up into heaven*, and then he went back to the Jordan riverbank and stood. He struck the water with the cloak.

Elisha: Where is the Eternal One? Where is Elijah's True God?

Narrator: After Elisha struck the water, the *Jordan River* divided, *just as when Elijah had struck the waters*. Elisha then walked across *on dry land*.

Synopsis: We have a deep desire for "home" - *where the heart is* and *no place like it*. For many of us, home isn't just a physical place or space, but sense of place and comfort. Finding our true home includes wandering and seeking, usually in community with others, as we build a relationship with God.

Felt need: To recognize the Holy Spirit's work to call us, send us, and offer comfort wherever we are

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (UMH 500); Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (UMH 703); God of Wonders (W&S 3034); Home* by Phillip Phillips

Children's Time: VBS kick-off

Social media:

“The Prayer Jesus Teaches”

July 3-31, 2022 (5 weeks)

Synopsis: The Lord's Prayer is probably the most well-known prayer in Christian tradition. We memorize it, and we share when we worship together. Even more, this prayer shows up in films, TV, shows, books, and song. The fact that the Lord's Prayer is so well-known and widely quoted that it can become rote rather than real for us. However, it's the prayer that Jesus offers when his disciples ask him to teach them how to pray, so it's important that we not only pray it authentically, but understand what we're praying and why.

2021 theme connection: The Lord's Prayer is one foundation of our faith that reminds us to honor God's name, live in the Kingdom of God, pray for daily needs, ask for and extend forgiveness, and be faithful. Our spiritual journey should be built on a firm foundation.

Resources:

- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4108/sermon-series-missions-with-the-lords-prayer-in-mind>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1983/the-lords-prayer-a-prayer-for-life>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/689/refreshing-the-lords-prayer>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1147/the-model-prayer-matthew-69-15>
- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/chuck-knows-church-episode-18-the-lords-prayer>
- [A Place to Pray: Reflections on the Lord's Prayer](#) by Roberta Bondi

Related resources:

- Each week will **focus on a specific phrase** from Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer (Luke's version is Luke 11: 1-13)
- Invite congregation to use **prayer beads** during the series, praying the Lord's Prayer daily
- Use **different translations/paraphrases of the Lord's Prayer** - see litany from 5/2/2021 (will be available as a separate document)
- Highlight **prayer ministry:** Prayer Chain, monthly Prayer Service, Women's Prayer Group, Prayer Vigil

Music: various versions of the Lord's Prayer put to music; *Manifesto; Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (TFWS 2193); Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (UMH 492); Sweet Hour of Prayer (UMH 496); Nearer My God to Thee (UMH 528); I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (TFWS 2129)*

Visuals: praying hands

Media:

- “The Lord’s Prayer (Centerline Media).” Length: 1:27. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/46795/the-lords-prayer->
- “The Lord’s Prayer (Centerline Media).” Length: 1:24. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/24186/the-lords-prayer>
- “Our Prayer.” Length: 1:18. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/85302/our-prayer>
- “The Lord’s Prayer (Rype.tv).” Length: 1:00. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/96654/the-lords-prayer>
- “The Lord’s Prayer (AM KM Studios).” Length: 1:59. Cost: \$15.00. Web license: Yes. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/94191/the-lords-prayer>

July 3, 2022: “God’s Holy Name”

4th Sunday after Pentecost

One service at 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15 (New International Version)

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Scripture: Psalm 103 (New Living Translation)

¹ Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

² Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.

³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

- ⁴ He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.
- ⁵ He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- ⁶ The LORD gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.
- ⁷ He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.
- ¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
- ¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.
- ¹⁵ Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
- ¹⁶ The wind blows, and we are gone—as though we had never been here.
- ¹⁷ But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him.
His salvation extends to the children's children ¹⁸ of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!
- ¹⁹ The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything.
- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands.
- ²¹ Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!
- ²² Praise the LORD, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom.
- Let all that I am praise the LORD.

Synopsis: *Hallowed* means *holy*, which means “set apart” or “sacred.” Jesus teaches us to pray to God who is both close like a loving parent and holy and deserving of our reverence both personally and communally.

Felt need: To understand God's desire for relationship with us and our response of reverence

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Holy Communion

Media possibilities:

- “Kingdom Opener.” Length: 1:47. Cost: \$10.00. Web license: Yes. A service starter based on Psalm 103. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/94865/kingdom-opener>
- “Worship through the Psalm (Psalm 103).” Length: 1:05. Cost: \$19.98. Web license: Yes. Based on Psalm 103. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/84051/worship-through-psalms-psalm-103>
- “Psalm 103.” Length: 1:19. Cost: \$12.00. Web license: Yes. This is a great video for encouraging your church in a powerful Scripture on who God says we are from Psalm 103. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/89444/psalm-103>

Music: *Holy Is the Lord (W&S 3028)*; “Ten Thousand Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)” by Matt Redman

Children’s Time: VBS wrap-up

Social media:

July 10, 2022: “On Earth as In Heaven”

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁰ “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

⁵ When you pray, don't be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward.

⁶ When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private and will reward you.

⁷ When you pray, don't talk on and on as people do who don't know God. They think God likes to hear long prayers. ⁸ Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask.

⁹ You should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
help us to honor
your name.

¹⁰ Come and set up
your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth
will obey you,
as you are obeyed
in heaven.

¹¹ Give us our food for today.

¹² Forgive us for doing wrong,
as we forgive others.

¹³ Keep us from being tempted
and protect us from evil.

¹⁴ If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Scripture: Luke 22: 24-27, 39-46 (The Message)

GET READY FOR TROUBLE

²⁴⁻²⁶ Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: “Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It’s not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant.”

²⁷⁻³⁰ “Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You’d rather eat and be served, right? But I’ve taken my place among you as the one who serves. And you’ve stuck with me through thick and thin. Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God’s people.

A DARK NIGHT

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Leaving there, he went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives. The disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said, “Pray that you don’t give in to temptation.”

⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ He pulled away from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want. What do *you* want?” At once an angel from heaven was at his side, strengthening him. He prayed on all the harder. Sweat, wrung from him like drops of blood, poured off his face.

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ He got up from prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep, drugged by grief. He said, “What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray so you won’t give in to temptation.”

Synopsis: We want to be more like Jesus, especially as we see his humility, his steadfastness, his justice, his mercy, his discipline, and his love, but we also fight against our desire to have our own way. Praying with Jesus means that we put aside our will and seek God’s will so that the Kingdom of God is more visible.

Felt need: To become less self-centered and more God-centered

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: *Seek Ye First (UMH 405)*

Children’s Time:

Social media:

July 17, 2022: “For Daily Bread”

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15 (Common English Bible)

¹¹ “Give us today our daily bread.”

⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. ⁶ But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

⁷ “When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. ⁸ Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,

- uphold the holiness of your name.
- ¹⁰ Bring in your kingdom
so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us the bread we need for today.
- ¹² Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.
- ¹³ And don't lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ "If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

Scripture: John 6: 25-40 (New Living Translation)

²⁵ They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

²⁸ They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

²⁹ Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹ After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. ³⁷ However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

Scripture: ref. Exodus 16 – MANNA AND QUAIL FROM HEAVEN

Synopsis: We often begin our prayers with a list of our perceived needs, but Jesus invites us to pray with a Kingdom perspective - seeing God's abundance and asking with confidence for what sustains us each day. In that light, we discover that we have enough and have much to share so that others have enough, too.

Felt need: To pray for our needs (not our wants) and for the needs of others to be met

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness (UMH 140); God Will Take Care of You (UMH 130)*

Children’s Time:

Social media:

July 24, 2022: “As We Forgive”

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15 (New Living Translation)

¹² “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷ “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸ Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,

¹² and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

¹³ And don’t let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-22 (The Message)

A STORY ABOUT FORGIVENESS

²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

²² Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

Scripture: Luke 23: 32-34 (New Living Translation)

³² Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³ When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

Synopsis: We come to God in need of grace and forgiveness because sin is like a debt that we cannot repay. We seek forgiveness from sin that offers new life - and a new relationship that both demands and makes possible forgiving others, which isn’t simple, easy, or quick. However, it is the call of Christ.

Felt need: To truly be forgiven by God and extend forgiveness to others

Visuals: weight that we carry

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- “Forgive Us.” Length: 1:12. Cost: \$12.00. Web license: Yes. We all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. We all need to be forgiven.

<https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/110034/forgive-us>

Music: *Freely, Freely (UMH 389)*

Children’s Time:

Social media:

July 31, 2022: “Deliver Us”

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15 (The Message)

¹³ “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

⁵ “And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

⁶ “Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

⁷⁻¹³ “The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what’s best—
 as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You’re in charge!
You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

Scripture: Luke 4: 1-13 (Contemporary English Version)

JESUS AND THE DEVIL

¹ When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, and the Spirit led him into the desert. ² For 40 days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry.

³ The devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.'"

⁵ Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. ⁶ The devil said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ Just worship me, and you can have it all."

⁸ Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say:

'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

⁹ Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ The Scriptures say:

'God will tell his angels to take care of you.

They will catch you in their arms,

and you will not even hurt your feet on the stones.'"

¹² Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'"

¹³ After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.

Synopsis: Though we may not be honest about it, we face temptation every day. Anything that leads us away from life-giving connection to God and others threatens our spiritual lives - and has potential to cause harm. Jesus knew temptation, is clear about its power, and calls us to pay attention to it in our prayers.

Felt need: To recognize the reality of temptation and its lure in our lives

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: *His Eye Is on the Sparrow (TFWS 2146); Take Time to be Holy (UMH 395)*

Children's Time:

Social media: