

Something Moore

I hadn't thought much about it before today, but this is Leap Year, where February gets an extra day. As I write this, it is Leap Day, February 29. The year 2024 has 366 days instead of 365. That means that I had an extra day to get this written for our newsletter before encountering the wrath of our publisher's deadlines. Being the broken procrastinator that I am, here I am writing on the bonus day. (I am so thankful for Grace!)

This "Leap Year" stuff all has to do with the Gregorian calendar that was adopted in 1582 as an attempt to fix the Julian calendar which incorrectly calculated that each solar rotation year was 365.25 years long. Astronomers much smarter than me figured out long ago that the actual solar year God created is 365.242199 days long. Yet, while the "improved" Gregorian calendar got us closer, it still needs adjustment by adding a day each leap year generally every 4 years, but not always.



The trusty Farmer's Almanac says, "A year may be a leap year if it is evenly divisible by 4. Years divisible by 100 (Century years such as 1900 or 2000) cannot be leap years unless they are also divisible by 400. For this reason, the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years, but the years 1600 and 2000 were." I find this all very confusing but I sure know we are needing to take some leaps. That's why I posted on social media, "May today be a Leap Day in which we purposely strive to leap over the cultural, racial, political and theological boundaries that separate us!"

Being Leap Year, we have some outstanding opportunities to do that as a church body. Easter is a perfect time to leap over boundaries and invite your neighbors to come experience our church. We begin with a Sunrise service at 7 AM on the front steps of the sanctuary followed by a special community breakfast, then sanctuary worship at 10:30 AM and a public Easter Egg hunt at noon in the field behind the church.

I also hope that you are leaning into Lent this year by picking up spiritual disciplines that grow your faith. That has been the goal of our Lenten Lunches again this year. You still have several chances to join us for those Tuesdays at noon. Special speakers include Alex Balch, Frances Rose, Rev. Corey Moses of the Tarleton Wesley Foundation, and Rev. Beverly Connelly, our District Superintendent of the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Another opportunity to leap over boundaries comes April 8, when we are in the direct path of the full solar eclipse. This truly once in a lifetime experience is expected to draw between 10,000 to 60,000 visitors to Bosque County to witness it in person! The Clifton police department is doing an outstanding job of preparing for this brief population explosion.

We are jumping in by welcoming visitors to our empty lots as a "Public Eclipse Yard." We will rope off the land, set some civil ground rules, and encourage guests to bring a lawn chair. We'll also provide live music and concessions. I know many will want to be with family at this time, but we will really need some help that day. What a great opportunity to share the Good News with those who come. Please let the office know if you can possibly help with greeting or concessions.

There is yet another opportunity for us to leap over cultural, economic, and even theological boundaries as we join the Clifton Ministerial Alliance in hosting "Neighborhood Clifton" on Sunday, April 29. This all-day event brings us together with other churches in our area to work on various service projects for those in need. If you know of anyone who might be a candidate for a project, please let me know. Signup sheets for participation that day will be coming soon and, as in past years, we will have activities at the church for those unable to handle the physical demands of a service project.

May this Easter be a glorious time of resurrection and healing for you, for our church, community, nation and world. Let's leap over boundaries together!

Blessings,
Pastor Don

Alex Balch, Director of Discipleship

254-675-3984 office

254-400-6061 cell

family@fumccclifton.org



Hey Church!

For those who don't know much about my personal faith, I am someone who has always wrestled with doubt and questions concerning faith. This has been curtailed significantly over the past year or so, but I had great inner turmoil within my spiritual life for years after I began following Jesus, because I had always been taught that faith was a black and white system of belief without room for questions, uncertainties, and gray areas. I had faith-leaders that demonized expressing doubts or asking too many questions, and I mostly had to keep my questions to myself.

From the stories within John 20, Thomas the disciple is remembered infamously as "Doubting Thomas" which has become a term used to describe "a person who is skeptical and refuses to believe something without proof." Thomas witnessed Jesus perform amazing miracles; he watched Jesus heal the lame, cure leprosy, and cause the blind to see. Thomas even was there when Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. After Jesus died and had been raised from the dead, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to the other disciples. The other disciples had locked themselves in a room because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities and suddenly, Jesus appeared among them. Thomas was not with the disciples at this time, but the other disciples told Thomas that Jesus was alive again. Even though Thomas had witnessed Jesus perform these amazing miracles, he refused to believe that his friend had been raised from the dead.

We see Jesus lovingly respond to Thomas' doubts by offering Thomas to inspect the crucifixion wounds in Jesus' hands and the spear wound in his side. The story in John 20 doesn't say whether or not Thomas touched Jesus' wounds, but it likely wasn't necessary. For Thomas, seeing was believing. Those of us living in the 21st century don't have that same luxury, but Jesus acknowledges this by saying to Thomas "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

It's normal for followers of Jesus to experience doubt just as Thomas and other disciples did, and I don't think there should be any shame in that. I believe that experiencing doubt and wrestling with deep questions has the capability to actually strengthen our faith and draw us nearer to God, provided we overcome the doubt in a healthy manner. I don't think there is any single clear path to doing this that I can offer as a prescription besides in my own journey of faith. I am still learning to be content amongst the doubts, unanswered questions, and uncertainties and to "Be still and know I am God" as the psalmist said (Psalm 46:10a). Faith isn't about having all of the right answers, but rather, faith is far more concerned with trusting in God in spite of not having the perfect answers.

Thank y'all,
Alex Balch

**Friday, March 8****6 PM to 8:30 PM****Bring a friend & your favorite snack!**

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACK!





Holy Week

Special Services



Happy Easter

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

10:30 AM Worship In-Person and Online
Special Chancel Choir Performance of
"My King is Known by Love"

**Sunday, March 24 is the Last Day
to Order Easter Lilies (see form below)**

Lenten Lunch & Lesson, Tuesday, March 26

Last of the Lenten Lunch Sessions. Begins at Noon.
No cost to attend. No RSVP necessary.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 PM Worship In-Person and Online
Service of Remembrance with Communion

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 PM Worship In-Person and Online

Easter Sunday, March 31

**Sunrise Service in front of the church
at 7:00 AM, 303 S. Avenue E**

Attend in person, dress for the weather,
bring a lawn chair, and invite your neighbor!

**8:15 AM Breakfast at the Church
Everyone is Welcome!**

9:15 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 AM

Easter Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed from the Sanctuary
www.fumccclifton.com

Noon

**Easter Egg Hunt for the children
In the Church's backyard**



Order Your Easter Lilies!

As part of our Easter celebration, the sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful white lilies. Everyone is encouraged to take this opportunity to purchase a lily in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of a loved one. Each plant costs \$12.

The blooms will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31, and may be taken home after the service.

Last day to order is Sunday, March 24!

All orders must be pre-paid.

Turn in payment with order form.

of lilies @ \$12.00 each = \$Total
_____ X _____ = _____

These plants will be given: **(please circle one)**

in memory of:

in honor of:

in celebration of:

Given By:

Church Council Meeting

Monday, March 11

at 6:00 PM

in the Loyalty
Classroom



Lenten Lunch & a Lesson



Food, Fellowship, & Worship
Noon every Tuesday in Fellowship Hall
March 12-27

Everyone is welcome to attend. No cost to eat or participate. Love offerings accepted. No need to RSVP. Invite a friend to join you for an hour of good food, great fellowship, and an inspirational Lenten message.

Guest Speakers in March include:

March 5—Alex Balch

March 12—Corey Moses from Tarleton Wesleyan

March 19—Rev. Dr. Beverly Connelly, Dist Supt

March 26—Frances Rose

United Methodist Women in Faith

Join us Monday, March 11

at 1:30 PM in the Conference Room

Being mission-minded women, we are hands-on in our service to God and others. Everyone is welcome to participate! You don't have to be a member of the church to be part of the United Methodist Women in Faith! **Join us Monday, February 12 for a Bible study, missions development, and hands-on service planning!** There is always room for you!



The United Methodist Women in Faith voted at the January meeting to host the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance on Saturday, April 27 from 6 to 7:30 PM. We are searching for a venue which will safely accommodate our customers as the number of dance participants increases each year. Keep an eye out for further details and mark your calendars! The cost is still just \$15/couple or \$20 for a dad with two or more daughters.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mondays at 10 AM in the Parlor



Women and men alike are all welcome to join this group. You only need a crochet or knitting needles and some yarn. There are plenty of well-experienced women to help you, if you wish to learn or have difficulty. Join us!

Our Goals as a Church and as a Conference





Get Connected

find **fit in**
where you



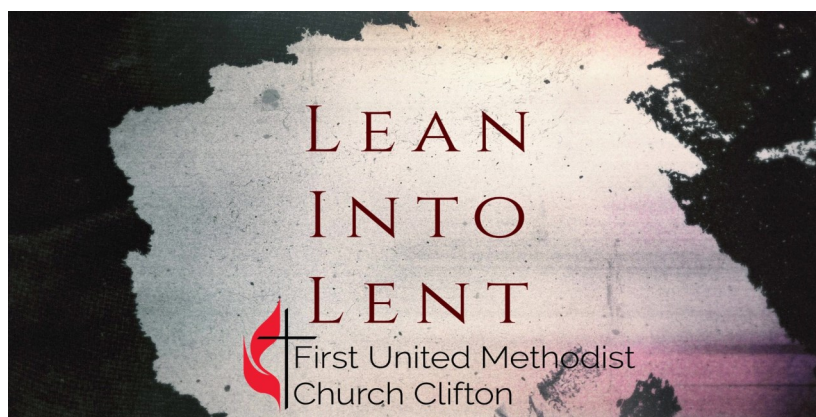
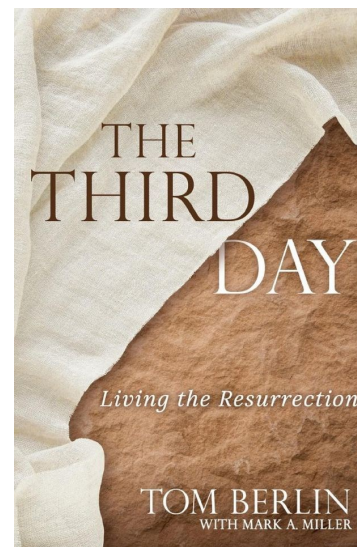
- ♦ **WORSHIP SERVICES**, both current and past, are available for viewing online by going to the church's YouTube channel, youtube.com/@fumccclifton and Facebook page, facebook.com/FUMCCliftonTexas
- ♦ **NEWSLETTER.** The Clifton Connection is mailed and emailed to members and is available on our website, www.fumccclifton.org.
- ♦ **EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN.** Do you know someone in need of special prayers? Contact Pastor Don at 214-499-3031 or email pastor@fumccclifton.org. To have names added to the prayer list, contact Frances at 254-675-3984 or email office-@fumccclifton.org.
- ♦ **PHONE PASTOR DON** directly by calling 214-499-3031 or call him at the church office, 254-675-3984.
- ♦ **EMAIL PASTOR DON** directly at pastor@fumccclifton.org.
- ♦ **EMAIL ALEX BALCH**, Director of Discipleship, directly at family@fumccclifton.org.
- ♦ **EMAIL DON PARRISH**, Music Director, at music@fumccclifton.org.
- ♦ **FACEBOOK Page.** We have a Facebook page, which provides information and inspiration from FUMC. It may be accessed through your own Facebook account. Using the search feature for Facebook, look for First United Methodist Church of Clifton, Texas.

The Third Day *Living the Resurrection*

A new Lenten Bible study
written by Tom Berlin and
facilitated by Pastor Don Moore

Meets every
Wednesday Night
Mar 6—Mar 27
at 7 PM in the
Fellowship Hall

For Disciples & Seekers
of all ages
No cost to attend



Preschool News

Important Dates to Note:

- ♦ **Monday, March 8 Preschool will provide full time care in spite of Clifton ISD being closed this day.**
- ♦ **Monday, March 11—Friday, March 15 Preschool will be closed for Spring Break in conjunction with Clifton ISD.**
- ♦ **Friday, March 29, Preschool will be closed in observance of Good Friday.**

Little Hands to Heaven

Throughout the month of March our Preschoolers will continue to study Jesus' ministry up through his death and resurrection.

Memory Verse: "We love him, because he first love us." 1 John 4:19

Parents are always welcome to join us at 10:30 AM on Wednesdays for Chapel with Pastor Don in the sanctuary. We have a great time worshiping the Lord and singing at Chapel.

FrogStreet Studies

The Toddler class and 2-year-old children will be learning nursery rhymes. The Pre-K 3-year-old students will learn about Things that Go, and the Pre-K 4-year-old classes will explore Things that Move. Everyone has the opportunity to learn exciting and wonderful things!

The After-School students are digging deeper into God's Word through stories about the lame man who Jesus healed, Jesus' companions known as the Disciples, and how Saul became Paul, a man of faith and follower of Jesus.

New Teachers: We have a new teacher, Alexis Barner, who will be working as a floater between the two-year-old students and the toddler classroom! Also, Ms. Rebecca Daniels is back and working with the After-School program students. Welcome, Alexis and Ms. Rebecca!

Thank You to our Preschool parents and church members who've stepped up and given extra financial gifts in support of our Preschool program, in particular the Scholarship Fund which gives local children the opportunity to attend our fabulous Preschool. You continue to bless the children in the Clifton community. Thank you so much for your gifts and your prayers!

In His Service,
Trina Beale, Preschool Director

MY KING IS KNOWN BY **LOVE**

Performed by the
FUMC Chancel Choir

Palm Sunday, March 24
at 10:30 AM

This was God's plan from the beginning...break the chains of sin and set us free, so we could be restored to him alive in Christ forevermore!



PUBLIC ECLIPSE YARD

Free Open Viewing Area and Live Music
April 8 from 10 AM until 5 PM

Bring your own
seating



Concessions
available for
purchase



First United Methodist
Church Clifton

At the corner of
S. Avenue F & 11th Street

Food Bank Needs

The Food Bank is open on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8 PM, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM to Noon. You may take your donations there during these times or bring them to the church and place them in the food donation box located in the church's fellowship hall. If you'd like to help, but are unable to shop, kindly write your check to FUMC and note "Food Bank" on the memo line of your check or envelope.



The Food Bank is **LOW** on

15 oz. box instant mashed potatoes
unsweetened applesauce
canned sliced peaches in fruit juice
cans of refried beans
canned Vienna sausage
5 oz. cans of tuna
12 oz. pkg spaghetti (uncooked)
15 oz. cans of diced tomatoes
24 oz. cans of pasta sauce
1 lb. bags of rice

The Food Bank is **LOW** on

2 lb. bags of rice
Pancake mix (use w/water)
24 oz. bottles of vegetable oil
18 oz. creamy peanut butter
sugar free jello (small boxes)
powdered milk
crackers (saltines, ritz, etc)

The Food Bank is **CRITICALLY LOW** on

Canned black-eyed peas
15 oz. canned carrots
Canned beef stew w/potatoes & carrots
2 lb. bags of flour
18 oz. jars of grape jelly
18 oz. jars of strawberry jelly

You can make all
the difference!



Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words. Say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Support Church & Local Ministries

Listed below are local ministries with long term needs. If you'd like to support one of them financially, please write your check to FUMC and note the name of the ministry you wish to support on the memo line of your check or envelope.

- **FUMC Preschool Scholarship Fund** (Tuition Assistance for low-income families. These funds are very low.)
- **FUMC Preschool Contribution Fund** (General Operations)
- **Memorial Fund** in honor or memory of a loved one (funds used by the Trustees for building and equipment repairs)
- **Scout Scholarship Fund** (to help Scouts who need assistance with cost of uniforms, camps, and other activities)
- **Clifton Food Bank**
- **Clifton Ministerial Alliance for Benevolence** (medicine, doctor visits, utilities, rent)
- **Kid's Ministry** (to help with curriculum and other needs)
- **The Porch Student Ministry**

Prayer Requests

The Family of Charles Golightly	Christie Davis
Melissa Moody	Jo Bowman
Phill & Lynn Bowers	Max Coursey
Roy Brand	Opal Hargraves
Mary Lou Willburn	Cleo Jones
Brinley Warnock	Ronald Hanlon
Norida Culp	PD Wallace
Ursula Ramirez	Jo Cash
Lea Ann Parrish	Betty Burden
David Harris	
School Teachers and Staff	
The Victims of the Panhandle Fires	
The Victims of International Conflict and War	
Leaders of our Country	
Nursing Home Residents and Staff	
Medical Personnel and First Responders	

Do you know someone in need of special prayer? Contact Pastor Don at 214-499-3031 or email pastor@fumclifton.org.

To have names added to this prayer list, contact Frances at 254-675-3984 or email office@fumclifton.org. Please ensure that you have the person's (or family's) permission before submitting their name and/or circumstance for the prayer request list.

Christian love and sympathy

are extended to...

- ◆ Betty Burden and her family on the passing of her brother, Charles Golightly.
- ◆ Robert Hanlon and family on the passing of his brother

May God shower you all with his provision, comfort, and peace during this time of loss.

The Clifton Connection

is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church located at 303 S. Avenue E, Clifton, Texas

Send correspondence to
PO Box 529, Clifton, Texas, 76634

Email: office@fumclifton.org
Website: fumclifton.org
(254) 675-3984



Bus Ministry

Want to go to Sunday School and/or worship? Call Don Benda at 254-716-4341 to make arrangements to attend church and be taken home on the church bus. The bus is Handicap Accessible, and Don is a great guy. His wife, Nancy is his trusty assistant. They'll take great care of you!



Why do we celebrate UMCOR Sunday?

United Methodists celebrate UMCOR Sunday this year on **March 10**—an effort that unites the church in community, invites the participation of each and every person, and underscores our shared commitment as people of God to keep walking together in mission for the benefit of those in need. When you give to UMCOR anytime this month, you will be participating in UMCOR Sunday.

You impact lives! UMCOR provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms, and other crises. Funded by gifts from people like you, last year your generosity (through November 2023) delivered \$1.5 million for direct ministry to persons in need.

To give to UMCOR Sunday, please write your check to First United Methodist Church and note "UMCOR Sunday" in the memo section.

10 resolutions that will strengthen your faith

By Laura Buchanan

Whether beginning a new calendar year, a new year after a birthday or starting fresh after a challenging season, setting a goal can be a helpful tool for self-accountability as you move forward. Many of us resolve to find a stronger connection with God in these moments.

Here are ten resolutions that will help you grow your faith:



Deepen Discipleship

- **Commit to reading your Bible.** The reassurance found in Scripture can only be discovered by setting aside time to study and better understand God's word. As you read, pay close attention to what God is teaching you, and consider what calling God has for your life.
- **Pray more often.** If you pray rarely, start by praying at least once each day. If your prayer life needs enlivened, explore new prayer practices, such as breath prayers. Finding ways to incorporate prayer into your daily routines will help it become a central point of your faith.
- **Attend church services regularly.** If you need a church home, search for nearby United Methodist congregations on [Find-A-Church](#). If you are a member at a church but haven't been attending consistently, go! Connecting with others and participating in worship are vital parts of a growing faith, whether in-person or online.
- **Join a small group.** This might be a **Sunday School class, a community group organized by your church or a Bible study fellowship.** Investing in others and building friendships can strengthen your mental and spiritual health. Additionally, you'll be able to share thoughts, beliefs and questions with other Christians who are also on a journey of faith.

Get Creative

- **Write in a journal.** Capture thoughts about life and God. Putting pen to paper helps us unload whatever mental weight we are carrying and often brings a new perspective. This can be diary-style writing, but you can also write down prayers, poems or a fictional short story that helps you express your emotions and spiritual outlook.
- **Create something beautiful.** This could be anything from a pencil sketch in the margin of a piece of paper, to a scrapbook page, to a knitted scarf. Using your creativity unlocks your right-brain thinking and helps us tap into new ideas, find calm and let go of anxiety.
- **Make a joyful noise.** Listen to uplifting, **worshipful music that stirs your soul and sing along. It doesn't matter if you are the best or the worst singer – lifting your voice in praise to God is an important part of soul-care.** Join in congregational singing with a bit more gusto, or simply sing to the heavens while you are stuck in traffic.

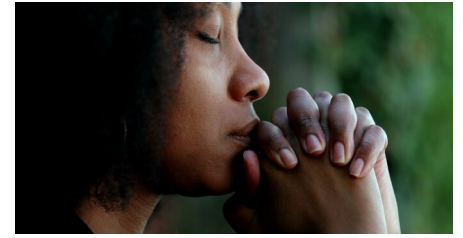
Be Present

- **Volunteer in the community.** No matter where you live, churches and nonprofit organizations are always in need of helping hands. Find a cause that excites you and consider how you can get involved. This could be a food bank, an animal shelter or an afterschool program, or you can simply ask a neighbor in need how you can help them.
- **Reach out to those you love.** Life can be short and is full of the unexpected. Make a promise to yourself and those you hold dear that you will be present, engaged and devoted to your relationships. Attend activities that are meaningful to your friends and family members. Mend past brokenness. Make an effort to call, text and email people you haven't heard from in a while.
- **Invite someone to church.** There are many people who are seeking deeper meaning in life but are unsure about visiting a church. Think of coworkers, neighbors, friends and family members that are yearning for a loving community in which to grow and find support. Invite them to join you for a worship service or a church event where they can meet members of the congregation.

The author of this article, Laura Buchanan, works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This article was reprinted from the online website <https://www.umc.org/en/content/10-resolutions-that-will-strengthen-your-faith>.

The mysterious, connectional act of prayer

By Crystal Caviness



When Linda Douty's friend died from a brain tumor, the event sent the lifelong United Methodist on a spiritual spiral as she sought to understand why the prayers of many failed to result in her friend's healing. "She was fit, successful, all of the plusses in life you can imagine," Douty shares about her 50-something-year-old friend. "Every prayer group I knew was praying for her. And she died."

"Wait a minute," she remembers thinking, "This doesn't add up to what I've been taught." When she shared her confused anguish with her pastor, he counseled, "When I feel like you feel right now, I pray, because Jesus prayed." At the time, Douty thought the answer was "glib," she recalls. Thirty years later, Douty, who is a spiritual director in Memphis, Tennessee, doesn't have a better response.

"It was an unsatisfactory answer at the time," she shared. "But I call myself a Christian, a follower of Jesus. And what did Jesus do? He prayed in every circumstance. He prayed when he was happy, when he was sad, when he was bewildered, in the Garden of Gethsemane, even on the cross. So whatever this mystery is, Jesus thought it was important."

The acts of asking for prayer, praying for others, reciting prayers together are built into our faith tradition. Jesus modeled it, we repeat it. But do we understand it? United Methodist spiritual leaders offer help unraveling the complexity of prayer, and, perhaps in doing so, leading us to accept the mystery and seek a deeper connection with God.

Unanswered prayers

Like Douty, many people struggle with prayers that aren't answered in the ways we want. When people say, 'God didn't answer my prayer,' I always say, 'You're in good company and I point to the lament in the Psalms,' shares the Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes, a United Methodist pastor in the Mountain Sky Conference.

I do pray for miracles and I believe in miracles. And I've seen miracles. But I also know the human body is an insidious thing. I don't know why a child gets cancer. It seems unfair. I don't know why car accidents happen to some people but not to me," McNulty-Drewes shares. "The lament psalms remind me I'm not the only one who may be questioning if there really is a God."

To make a specific request when praying to God is common. Our church services are filled with prayer times where we share "joys and concerns" – and mainly, concerns – with one another, asking God for healings, jobs, safety, positive outcomes. "Viewing prayers as merely requests is transactional," explains Sally Sharpe, a United Methodist and spiritual director in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. "I'm coming to you because I want something. If my prayer is successful, I'll get what I want. And I think a prevalent understanding of prayer is transactional. But I believe it's experiential, it's relationship."

"I've learned not to tie my prayer to the result of getting what I want," says Douty. "I long ago threw away my prayer notebook where I would write, 'Here's the day I prayed for XYZ and here's the day God answered it.' That makes it about my agenda and this has no room for mystery."

Of course, there are situations, usually times of crisis, when we plead and beg with God for a certain answer to our desperate prayers. It is in these times, says McNulty-Drewes, when reframing our understanding of prayer may help, regardless of how the situation unfolds. Instead of being about changing God's mind or getting what we want from God, it's about changing our mind," she says, referencing a book she read titled "The Meaning of Prayer," published more than 100 years ago by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

"I'm less inclined these days to give God direction," Douty admits. "If I have a friend with a tumor, rather than pray to make that tumor go away, I'm more apt to envision that person completely enclosed in the love and mercy of God."

Prayer is more about relationship than results, Sharpe offers. When we are being transparent, authentic and real with God, that's where we are experiencing God's love and God's presence," she points out. "So in our prayers, if we don't get the answer we are asking for, but we feel safe, seen and known by God, that enables us to trust God even when things aren't going as we would like."

Continued on page 11—See PRAYER

Continued from page 10—PRAYER

Sharpe likens her prayer life to a cell phone conversation on which she never presses “end.” “We may not have words for a couple of hours, but we’re still together,” Sharpe says, expounding on the analogy. “The connection is there even if the conversation pauses. I’m always in the background waiting and listening for God to break in again and speak to me, and vice versa. God is attentive and right there. And it goes both ways.”

Failsafe praying

If you’ve ever thought, “I don’t know how to pray,” there’s good news. There is no way to get prayer wrong,” Sharpe offers. “If you are seeking God and calling out to God, you’re seeking connection and that’s a win.

Prayer is turning to God. You can’t mess it up. Just be you. God is always open to that, delighted with that. “Everybody is different. So why would we think there is one method to connect to God?,” she asks, then recommends, “Find the language that suits your soul.”

Prayer becomes an opportunity to reframe my day to day posture,” McNulty-Drewes explains, “to ground me in that which is holy, rather than grounding me in that which is earthly.

The author of this article, Crystal Caviness, works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This article is reprinted from the online website <https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-mysterious-connectional-act-of-prayer>.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 1	Lori Culp
Mar 1	Randal Burden
Mar 1	Jessica Bryant
Mar 4	Crew Keylor
Mar 7	Jeff Hargraves
Mar 14	Ethan Banuelos
Mar 16	Jerry Hill
Mar 16	Randy Barnett
Mar 16	PD Wallace
Mar 17	Christian Hinman
Mar 17	Nelan McMichael
Mar 18	Brian Bentley
Mar 19	Preston Sisemore
Mar 19	Parker Sisemore
Mar 21	Patricia Boswell
Mar 21	Deloris Hooten
Mar 21	LaVern Wilcox
Mar 26	Kim Prescher
Mar 29	Jerry Ludtke
Mar 30	Douglas Culp
Mar 30	Terri Ward

LORD JESUS,

Give me to love thee, embrace thee, though I once took lust and sin in my arms.

Thou didst love me before I loved thee, an enemy, a sinner, a loathsome worm.

Thou didst own me when I disclaimed myself; thou dost love me as a son and weep over me as over Jerusalem.

Love brought thee from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave.

Love caused thee to be weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, and pierced.

Love led thee to bow thy head in death.

My salvation is the point where perfect created love and the most perfect uncreated love meet together; for thou dost welcome me, not like Joseph and his brothers, loving and sorrowing, but loving and rejoicing.

This love is not intermittent, cold, changeable; it does not cease or abate for all my enmity.

Holiness is a spark from thy love kindled to a flame in my heart by thy Spirit, and so it ever turns to the place from which it comes.

Let me see thy love everywhere, not only in the cross, but in the fellowship of believers and in the world around me.

When I feel the warmth of the sun may I praise thee who art the Sun of righteousness with healing power.

When I feel the tender rain may I think of the gospel showers that water my soul.

When I walk by the river side may I praise thee for that stream that makes the eternal city glad, and washes white my robes that I may have the right to the tree of life.

Thy infinite love is a mystery of mysteries, and my eternal rest lies in the eternal enjoyment of it.

Reprinted from The Valley of Vision: Puritan Prayers and Devotions, page 290-291.



March 2024



Friday, March 1 World Day of Prayer

Sunday, March 3 3rd Sunday of Lent, Communion Sunday

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Worship and Communion
6-8 PM The Porch Student Gathering, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 4

10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets in the Parlor
6:30 PM Scouts BSA Troop for Girls meets in the Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 5

9:30 AM Pastor Don does Chapel at Sunset Home
Noon Lenten Lunch & a Lesson in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker, Alex Balch
6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Scout Hut
7:30 PM Boy Scouts meet in the Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 6

10:30 AM Preschool Chapel in the sanctuary
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" study is held in the Fellowship Hall and led by Pastor Don

Friday, March 8

6 to 8:30 PM Youth Movie Night at Alex & Emily's House. No Cost to attend. Bring your favorite snack.

Sunday, March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent & a Baptism!

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Worship and a Baptism in the Sanctuary
Noon Covered Dish Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
6-8 PM The Porch Student Gathering, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 11 Spring Break for Clifton ISD & Preschool

10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets in the Parlor
1:30 PM United Methodist Women in Faith, Conf. Room
6:00 PM Church Council meets in the Loyalty Class
6:30 PM Scouts BSA Troop for Girls meets in the Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 12 Spring Break for Clifton ISD & Preschool

Noon Lent Lunch & a Lesson in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker Corey Moses from Tarleton Wesleyan
6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Scout Hut
7:30 PM Boy Scouts meet in the Scout Hut

Wed. March 13 Spring Break for Clifton ISD & Preschool

6:00 PM Choir Practice in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" study is held in the Fellowship Hall and led by Pastor Don

Thurs. March 14 Spring Break for Clifton ISD & Preschool

2:00 PM Pastor Don leads music at Sunset Home

Friday, March 15 Spring Break for Clifton ISD & Preschool

Sunday, March 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
6-8 PM The Porch Student Ministry, Fellowship Hall/Youth Rm

Monday, March 18

10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets in the Parlor
6:30 PM Scouts BSA Troop for Girls meets in the Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 19

Noon Lenten Lunch and a Lesson in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker Central District Superintendent Beverly Connolly
6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Scout Hut
7:30 PM Boy Scouts meet in the Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 20

10:30 AM Preschool Chapel in the sanctuary
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM "The Third Day" Bible study led by Pastor Don

Sunday, March 24 Palm / Passion Sunday

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Worship Service and the Easter Cantata Performance
6-8 PM The Porch Student Ministry, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 25

10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets in the Parlor
6:30 PM Scouts BSA Troop for Girls meets in the Scout Hut

Tuesday, March 26

Noon Lenten Lunch and a Lesson in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker Frances Rose
6:30 PM Cub Scouts meet in the Scout Hut
7:30 PM Boy Scouts meet in the Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 27

10:30 AM Preschool Chapel in the sanctuary
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM "The Third Day" Bible study led by Pastor Don

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service in Sanctuary

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

Preschool and Church Office closed in observance of Good Friday.
7:00 PM Good Friday Worship Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday

7:00 AM Sunrise Service outside in front of the Sanctuary
8:15 AM Breakfast for everyone in the Fellowship Hall
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Noon Easter Egg Hunt in the backyard of the church