

Church Families to pray for this week:

Doris Jackson

Mada Jones

Kevin & Kim Kaufeld & Family

Lynn Kluegel

Dylan Johnston & Taylor Dehner

Alicia Justus & Family

Mary Keller

Linda Leschnitzer & Family

Things I'd like to remember from today's service:

[illegible]

Weekly Scripture Readings

August 30, 2026

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Matthew 5:1-12, 17-20, 38-42, 7:24-29 (NRSVue)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you....

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven....

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you....

"Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And

everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NRSVue)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Psalms 15 (NRSVue)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right

and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue

and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Micah 6:1-8 (NRSVue)

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,

and you enduring foundations of the earth,

for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt

and redeemed you from the house of slavery,

and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, August 31

Psalm 37:1-17

Ruth 1:1-18

Philemon 1-25

Wednesday, September 2

Psalm 37:1-17

Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22

Luke 6:17-26

Friday, September 4

Psalm 146

Leviticus 19:32-37

Romans 3:21-31

Tuesday, September 1

Psalm 37:1-17

Ruth 2:1-16

James 5:1-6

Thursday, September 3

Psalm 146

Exodus 22:1-15

Hebrews 9:1-12

Saturday, September 5

Psalm 146

Numbers 9:9-14

Luke 10:25-37

Prayer for the week: God of delight, your Wisdom sings your word at the crossroads where humanity and divinity meet. Invite us into your joyful being where you know and are known in each beginning, in all sustenance, in every redemption, that we may manifest your unity in the diverse ministries you entrust to us, truly reflecting your triune majesty. in the faith that acts, in the hope that does not disappoint, and in the love that endures. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, September 6, are Deuteronomy 6:1-13; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 3:1-11 and Matthew 28:16-20. Next week is our 75th anniversary service and the message, "What Must Our Foundation Be to Support the Future?" will be on the passages, excluding the Psalm. Next week we will receive communion, served by our retired clergy, and we will have both traditional and contemporary songs. Next week's service will be around an hour and a half.

Questions to help you prepare: Deuteronomy tells us that we are harvesting plants we didn't plant and living in houses we didn't build. What are the things we are using in the church that we had nothing to do with? What do we need to plant and build now for the future? What is the ultimate foundation of the church? How do we live that out? How do we spread the good news?

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