

Church Families to pray for this week:

Betty Apgar

Leonard & Jackie Beebe

Joy Beery

Lloyd & Denise Brown

James & Emma Barefield

Jason & Christine Benkoski & Family

Baird & Bodil Brandow

Pat Buck

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

[illegible]

Weekly Scripture Readings

August 2, 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.

2 Corinthians 5:12-17 (NRSVue)

We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Mark 4:26-34 (NRSVue)

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Again, he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a

parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Psalms 96 (NRSVue)

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (NRSVue)

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the

shade of its branches. All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, August 3

Psalm 53

1 Samuel 13:23—14:23

Galatians 6:11-18

Wednesday, August 5

Psalm 53

1 Samuel 15:24-31

Luke 6:43-45

Friday, August 7

Psalm 138

Genesis 49:29—50:14

2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Tuesday, August 4

Psalm 53

1 Samuel 15:10-23

Revelation 21:22—22:5

Thursday, August 6

Psalm 138

Genesis 49:1-33

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Saturday, August 8

Psalm 138

Genesis 50:15-26

Matthew 16:5-12

Prayer for the week: Mighty God,
to you belong the mysteries of the universe.
You transform shepherds into kings,
the smallest seeds into magnificent trees,
and hardened hearts into loving ones.
Bless us with your life-giving Spirit,
re-create us in your image,
and shape us to your purposes,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, August 2, are Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 96; 2 Corinthians 5:12-17 and Mark 4:26-34. Next week's message, "Are You Really an A & R Man? You Look More Like a Homeless Man", will be on the passage from 2 Corinthians and the movie Begin Again. We will show the movie at 6 pm on Wednesday, and it is also available on our website. Next week is a traditional service and we will also receive communion.

Questions to help you prepare: What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? Is that a one-time event, or does it occur over and over again? Why did you answer that way? How is that newness found in your life? How do you see it in others? How does it impact how we see others?

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