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Prayer Ministries of TUMC  
offers this monthly brochure  
to provide members of TUMC  
and a circle of interested others  
a compact source of meditations  
as an aid to their ongoing spiritual development,  
in a way that provides the reader with  
grace-full, image-evoking language that fosters  
appreciation for our faith tradition,  
so that we may be strengthened  
to carry out our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

# August 2017

## Starry Night



### Tuesday, August 1

God made two great lights—  
the greater light to govern the day  
and the lesser light to govern the night.  
He also made the stars.  
God set them in the vault of the sky  
to give light on the earth...

Genesis 1:16-17

### Wednesday, August 2

Creating God, Your fingers trace  
the bold designs of farthest space;  
let sun and moon and stars and light  
and what lies hidden praise Your might.

UM Hymnal #109, Jeffery Rowthorn

### Thursday, August 3

Lift up your eyes  
and look to the heavens:  
Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host  
one by one,  
and calls them each by name.

Isaiah 40:26

### Friday, August 4

He who made the Pleiades  
and Orion  
and changes deep darkness  
into morning,  
who also darkens day into night...  
the Lord is His name.

Amos 5:8

### Saturday, August 5

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalms 19:1

### Sunday, August 6

To You the stars of morning sing,  
from You their bright radiance must spring.  
And steadfast in their vigils,  
day and night,  
the sons of God, flooded with fervor,  
ring Your praise;  
they teach the holy ones  
to bring into Your house  
the breath of early light.

Gates of Prayer

### Monday, August 7

Oh thou true Sun,  
on us Thy glance let fall  
in royal radiance;  
the Spirit's sanctifying beam  
upon our earthly senses stream.

UM Hymnal #679, "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright,"  
Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> Century

### Tuesday, August 8

He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.  
He counts the number of the stars;  
He gives names to all of them.  
Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength;  
His understanding is infinite.  
The Lord supports the afflicted;  
He brings down the wicked to the ground.

Psalms 147:3-6

### Wednesday, August 9

Praise Him, sun and moon.  
Praise Him, all bright stars.

Psalms 148:3

### Thursday, August 10

God, who stretched the spangled heavens,  
infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance  
through the silent fields of space,  
we Your children in Your likeness,  
share inventive powers with You.  
Great Creator, still creating,  
show us what we yet may do.

UM Hymnal #150, Catherine Cameron

### Friday, August 11

Christ, mighty Savior,  
Light of all creation,  
You make the daytime radiant  
with the sunlight  
and to the night give glittering adornment,  
stars in the heavens.

UM Hymnal #684, Mozarabic hymn, 10<sup>th</sup> century

### Saturday, August 12

Sweet the coming on  
of grateful ev'ning mild,  
then silent night with this her solemn bird,  
and this fair moon,  
and these the gems of heaven,  
her starry train.

John Milton

**Sunday, August 13**

As the darkness deepens o'er us,  
 lo! eternal stars arise;  
 hope and faith and love rise glorious,  
 shining in the Spirit's skies.  
 Jubilate! Jubilate! Jubilate!  
 Amen!

UM Hymnal #685,  
 "Now, on Land and Sea Descending," Samuel Longfellow

**Monday, August 14**

While the deepening shadows fall,  
 Heart of Love enfolding all,  
 through the glory and the grace  
 of the stars that veil Thy face,  
 our hearts ascend.  
 Holy, holy, holy,  
 Lord God of Hosts!

UM Hymnal #687, "Day is Dying in the West," Mary A. Lathbury

**Tuesday, August 15**

And He took Abram outside and said,  
 "Now look toward the heavens,  
 and count the stars,  
 if you are able to count them."

Genesis 15:5

**Wednesday, August 16**

Can you count the stars  
 that brightly twinkle in the midnight sky?  
 Can you count the clouds,  
 so lightly o'er the meadows floating by?  
 God, the Lord,  
 doth mark their number,  
 with His eyes that never slumber;  
 He hath made them every one.

J. Wilhem Hey, 1837

**Thursday, August 17**

Ice is the silent language of the peak;  
 and fire the silent language  
 of the star.

Conrad Aiken

**Friday, August 18**

And I will multiply your descendants  
 as the stars of heaven, and will  
 give your descendants all these lands;  
 and by your descendants  
 all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 26:4

**Saturday, August 19**

Creator of the stars of night,  
 Thy people's everlasting light,  
 Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,  
 and hear Thy servants when they call.

Unknown, 7<sup>th</sup> century

**Sunday, August 20**

Moon and stars with silvery light  
 praise Him through the silent night.

Joachim Neander, 1680

**Monday, August 21**

The night in her silence,  
 the stars in their calm...

Matthew Arnold

**Tuesday, August 22**

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
 the sun to rule the day;  
 the moon shines full  
 at God's command,  
 and all the stars obey.

Isaac Watts, 1715

**Wednesday, August 23**

To listen to stars and birds,  
 to babes and sages...

William Henry Channing

**Thursday, August 24**

This is my Father's world;  
 dreaming, I see His face.  
 I open my eyes, and in glad surprise  
 cry, "The Lord is in this place!"

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

**Friday, August 25**

There's not a tint that paints the rose, or decks  
 the lily fair, or streaks the humblest flower that  
 blows, but God has placed it there...

**Saturday, August 26**

There's not of grass a single blade, or leaf of  
 loveliest green, where heav'nly skill is not  
 displayed, and heav'nly wisdom seen...

**Sunday, August 27**

There's not a star whose twinkling light shines  
 on the distant earth and cheers the silent gloom  
 of night, but God has given it birth...

**Monday, August 28**

There's not a place on earth's vast round  
 in ocean deep, or air, where skill and wisdom  
 are not found, for God is everywhere...

**Tuesday, August 29**

Around, beneath, below, above, as far as space  
 extends, there He displays His boundless love,  
 and power with mercy blends.

James C. Wallace, 1825

**Wednesday, August 30**

Soon as the evening shades prevail  
 the moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
 and nightly to the listening earth repeats  
 the story of her birth;  
 while all the stars that round her burn  
 and all the planets in their turn,  
 confirm the tidings as they roll,  
 and spread the truth from pole to pole.

Joseph Addison, 1712

**Thursday, August 31**

We feel Thy calm at evening's hour,  
 Thy grandeur in the march of night;  
 and when Thy morning breaks in power,  
 we hear Thy word,  
 "Let there be light."

Samuel Longfellow, 1864