

Trinity United Methodist Church

3430 Harrison Avenue / Beaumont, Texas 77706
409.892.8121

Prayer Ministries of TUMC offers this monthly brochure to our congregation and a circle of interested others as a compact source of daily meditations. We hope the language and the images—the articulations both ancient and modern—will bless you, awaken you, stir your imagination, open you to Sacred Mystery, help you commit to the kind of wholeness that Jesus taught and modeled, and equip you for the daily living of our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

December 2017

Your Blessing Matters More Than You Know

Friday, December 1

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. I am the Lord, that is My name.
Isaiah 42:6-8

Saturday, December 2

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Luke 1:78-79

December 3, first Sunday of Advent

The quiet eternal that dwells in our souls is silent and subtle; in the activity of blessing it emerges to embrace and nurture us. Let us begin to learn how to bless one another. Whenever you give a blessing, a blessing returns to enfold you.

John O'Donohue *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Monday, December 4

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Traditional folk

Tuesday, December 5

Authentic leadership lives in every one of us, and is born in the willingness to create a space where another person can shine.
Terry Hershey

Wednesday, December 6

I believe each of us can bless. When a blessing is invoked, it changes the atmosphere. Some of the plenitude flows into our hearts from the invisible neighborhood of loving kindness. In the light and reverence of blessing, a person or situation becomes illuminated in a completely new way.
John O'Donohue *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Thursday, December 7

So, what if we begin our day with this question: "In what ways today can I nurture and inspire the human spirit, raise the flag of compassion and make a fellow human glad to be alive?" (FYI: if you are looking for the ROI on kindness, you're asking the wrong questions.)
Terry Hershey

Friday, December 8

At the gates of time, blessing waits to usher us toward the grace we need.
John O'Donohue *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Saturday, December 9

People, look east. The time is near for the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. Love, the Guest, is on the way.
UMW Hymnal #202, Eleanor Farjeon

Sunday, December 10

Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.
Sam Walter Foss

Monday, December 11

Spend your emotions on beauty and in creating all sorts of loveliness around you.
Margery Wilson

Tuesday, December 12

It's the little things that charm the heart of God.
St. Therese of Liseaux

Wednesday, December 13

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
UMW Hymnal #211
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", 9th century Latin

Thursday, December 14

In what ways does your schedule demand anxious efficiency rather than humble availability to God in every moment? How are you treating others you meet in your busy day?
Spiritual Formation Bible

Friday, December 15

The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind.
David Orr

Saturday, December 16

Our new question is focused outward.
 Today...give, try, fall down and get back up,
 hug, speak from your whole heart,
 and whenever you can, lavish excessive
 compassion and mercy on anyone who crosses
 your path. Who knows, you may even love
 someone "into existence." And after, if asked,
 "Was it successful?" we can answer truthfully,
 "I don't know. But I do know that it mattered."

Terry Hershey

Sunday, December 17

We want life to have meaning,
 and want to be fulfilled, and it is hard to accept
 that we find these things by starting where we
 are, not where we would like to be.

Kathleen Norris

Monday, December 18

Few of us can do great things,
 but all of us can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Tuesday, December 19

The place God calls you to is the place
 where your deep gladness and the world's
 deep hunger meet.

Frederick Buechner

Wednesday, December 20

I will not wish you riches or glow of greatness.
 But that wherever you go,
 some weary heart shall gladden at your smile,
 or shadowed life know sunshine for awhile.
 And so your path shall be a track of light,
 like angels' footsteps passing through the night.

Inscription on church in England

Thursday, December 21

See the stars, the moon, and the sun,
 see how they move in silence.
 We need silence to be able to touch souls.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Friday, December 22

How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous Gift was given;
 so God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of His heaven.

UM Hymnal #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Phillips Brooks

Saturday, December 23

I have always been interested in hymnology,
 and am a strong believer in the
 power of hymns to affect the lives of people.
 I began a collection of hymnals
 when a high-school boy.

William M. Vories—educator, architect, entrepreneur,
 Christian lay missionary

Sunday, December 24

All those loved by God are also our beloved.
 We reach out to as many as we have the
 capacity to love. As we learn more
 the language of love, we grow in love
 and we find ways to express our love
 in all our relationships.

John M. Drescher

Monday, December 25

Love came down at Christmas,
 Love all lovely, Love divine;
 Love was born at Christmas;
 star and angels gave the sign.

UM Hymnal #242, Christina G. Rossetti

Tuesday, December 26

I will hold the Christ Light for you
 in the nighttime of your fear,
 I will hold my hand out to you,
 speak the peace you long to hear.

Servant Song, Richard Gillard

Wednesday, December 27

By chivalries—
 as tiny, a blossom, or a book,
 the seeds of smiles are planted—
 which blossom in the dark.

Emily Dickinson

Thursday, December 28

Your approval and support, your disapproval or
 silence are noted and followed. Your leadership
 can galvanize the fainthearted, encourage the
 meek, bless the strong. Your opinions can bind
 or unbind, both on earth and in heaven.
 Your blessing matters more than you know.

Martha Grace Reese, *Unbinding the Gospel*

Friday, December 29

The small man shackles everyone he can.
 While the sage, who has to duck his head when
 the moon is low, keeps dropping keys and
 jeweled hacksaws all night long—
 for us beautiful rowdy prisoners.

Hafiz

Saturday, December 30

Blessed be the name of the Lord
 from this time forth and forever.
 From the rising of the sun to its setting
 the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalms 113:2-3

Sunday, December 31

And all the windows of my heart
 I open to the day.

John Greenleaf Whittier