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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.

July 2017

Freedom

Saturday, July 1

"The wind blows wherever it pleases.
You hear its sound, but you cannot tell
where it comes from or where it is going.
So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."
"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

John 3:8-9

Sunday, July 2

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit
of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Monday, July 3

Our Lord Jesus Christ, through his
transcendent love, became what we are,
that he might bring us to be what he is himself.
St. Irenaeus of Lyons, 2nd century theologian

Tuesday, July 4

The glory of God is the human person
fully alive.

St. Irenaeus

Wednesday, July 5

Immediately his mouth was opened
and his tongue set free,
and he began to speak, praising God.

Luke 1:64

Thursday, July 6

When Jesus saw her, he called her forward
and said to her,
"Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

Luke 13:12

Friday, July 7

As a prisoner for the Lord, then,
I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling
you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Saturday, July 8

When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

UM Hymnal # 448, African-American spiritual

Sunday, July 9

They promise them freedom, while they
themselves are slaves of depravity—for people
are slaves to whatever has mastered them.

2 Peter 2:19

Monday, July 10

You of this generation, consider the word of the
Lord: "Have I been a desert to Israel or a land
of great darkness? Why do my people say,
'We are free to roam; we will come to You no
more?'"

Jeremiah 2:31

Tuesday, July 11

"I have the right to do anything," you say—
but not everything is beneficial.
"I have the right to do anything"—
but not everything is constructive.

1 Corinthians 10:23

Wednesday, July 12

Live as free people,
but do not use your freedom
as a cover-up for evil;
live as God's slaves.

1 Peter 2:16

Thursday, July 13

But afterward they changed their minds
and took back the slaves they had freed
and enslaved them again.

Jeremiah 34:11

Friday, July 14

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be
burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

Saturday, July 15

[T]here is a more classical understanding
of liberty, which might be characterized
as freedom for excellence.
On this reading,
freedom is the disciplining of desire
so as to make the achievement of the good,
first possible, then effortless.
Thus, I become increasingly free in my use of
the English language
the more my mind and will are trained
in the rules and tradition of English ...
Human beings are not hungry to choose;
they are hungry to choose the good.
They don't want the freedom of the libertine;
they want the freedom of the saint.

Bishop Robert Barron

Sunday, July 16

[Transformation is] the full emergence
of the glory of the mind of Christ.
The alternative orthodoxy begins
in a view that God is not opposed to us;
God is for us.
How is God served
by people who fail to germinate?
God is rapturously delighted in every human
being whose heart breaks open and blooms.
Then, as human beings come to their glory,
the world comes to its glory.
It's a view which is inclusive,
recognizing that human beings on all paths
are called to glorification,
to the full emergence of the human being.
It's evolutionary in that we are works in
progress, both individually and collectively.
Creation itself is not static but dynamic.

Cynthia Bourgeault

Monday, July 17

Faith of consciousness is freedom.

G.I. Gurdjieff

Tuesday, July 18

Free yourself,
like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

Proverbs 6:5

Wednesday, July 19

Keep your mouth free of perversity;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

Proverbs 4:24

Thursday, July 20

I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts ...
I lift up my hands to your commands,
which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.

Psalm 119: 45, 48

Friday, July 21

But whoever looks intently
into the perfect law that gives freedom,
and continues in it—
not forgetting what they have heard,
but doing it—
they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:25

Saturday, July 22

Whatever your lips utter
you must be sure to do,
because you made your vow freely
to the Lord your God
with your own mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:23

Sunday, July 23

Speak and act as those who are going to be
judged by the law that gives freedom.

James 2:12

Monday, July 24

Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

Psalm 142:7

Tuesday, July 25

Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

Isaiah 58:6

Wednesday, July 26

Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead.
Touch the untouchables.
Kick out the demons.
You have been treated generously,
so live generously.

Matthew 10:8

Thursday, July 27

Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

Friday, July 28

Hard-won freedom is the capacity
to see the log in one's eye.

Anonymous

Saturday, July 29

Let God have perfect liberty when you speak.
Before God's message
can liberate other souls,
the liberation must be real
in you.
Gather your material,
and set it alight when you speak.

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest***Sunday, July 30**

Make me a captive, Lord,
and then I shall be free.
Force me to render up my sword,
and I shall conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms
when by myself I stand;
imprison me within thine arms,
and strong shall be my hand.

UM Hymnal #421, George Matheson

Monday, July 31

Holy Spirit,
right divine;
king within my conscience reign;
be my Lord and I shall be
firmly bound,
forever free.

UM Hymnal #465, Samuel Longfellow