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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 encourage you to read them aloud, and savor them. We hope 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.'

July 2018



a Holy Conversation in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 1

Having received the liveliness of Pentecost and moving wide-awake toward Advent, we now embrace Ordinary Time, longest liturgical season in the Christian year. Doesn't 'ordinary' mean nondescript or dull? You may well ask! Perhaps in popular usage, but by 'ordinary', Christians mean orderly. Hence, Ordinary Time is a keen, steady, disciplined observation of our few days on earth, mindful that they are precious, and full of possibility.

Monday, July 2

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12

Tuesday, July 3

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed,
how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver

Wednesday, July 4

Like Mary Oliver, I plan to waste little time in a trance of busy-ness, fear and denial. I plan to live the liturgical seasons, wide-awake and worshipping. Liturgical seasons—by 'liturgy' we mean the content of our worship. That is, what we do, what we say, what we sing. Literally, liturgy means 'the work of the people.' And so, when we decide to skip worship, we have 'shirked our work.' (Hey, I'm just a poet living her precious life!)

Thursday, July 5

And let us consider
how to stimulate one another
to love and good deeds,
not forsaking our own assembling together,
as is the habit of some...

Hebrews 10:24

Friday, July 6

Why do we have liturgical seasons? You may well ask! To educate the followers of Christ, and structure our worship. Year after year, the seasons of the church year tell us the story of our faith. Repetition over time helps us own and appreciate our heritage. Bible readings assigned to each Sunday help the gathered people learn and remember and celebrate who we are.

Saturday, July 7

Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home, and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house, and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Sunday, July 8

Jesus replied,
"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word.
My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

John 14:23

Monday, July 9

Behold, I stand at the door and knock;
if anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him
and will dine with him,
and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

Tuesday, July 10

To each liturgical season we assign a color. As one season follows another, you will see the liturgical paraments and vestments change from the purple of Advent to the white or gold of Christmas to the green of Season After Epiphany to the purple of Lent to the red of Pentecost... And so we teach the gospel through the eye!

Wednesday, July 11

The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 19:8

Thursday, July 12

The color for Ordinary Time is green. Green is the color of growth. During Ordinary Time, we're invited to grow in bringing God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven, gradually developing in ourselves the mindset of Christ.

Friday, July 13

They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green.

Psalm 92:14

Saturday, July 14

Prayer is a way of connecting with our source. It is about being centered, grounded, mindful of the holy, the presence of the sacred and the precious...Prayer can help us to connect with the poor with open eyes and hearts. It is prayer that can allow us to educate with patience, love, and understanding. It is prayer that can enable us to move to a simpler lifestyle. And it is prayer that will allow us to do this with conviction and joy.

Jack Jezreel, "Culturing Peach in a Culture of Violence"

Sunday, July 15

And whether or not we pray is as obvious as whether or not we have put our clothes on. For example, the compulsive, frantic, angry, cynical, unintegrated rambling from project to project—even from peace project to peace project—may speak of good intentions, but also of an uneasy and untended inner life. It is possible...to do much harm because we have not taken the time to pray.

Jack Jezreel, "Culturing Peach in a Culture of Violence"

Monday, July 16

And the angel said to him,
"Gird yourself and put on your sandals."
And he did so. And he said to him,
"Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

Acts 12:8

Tuesday, July 17

It is a joy to Jesus when a disciple takes time to walk more intimately with him ... The only impression left by such a life is that of the strong calm sanity that Our Lord gives to those who are intimate with him.

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Wednesday, July 18

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

Thursday, July 19

*What if fear is our real enemy??
Well then, remember Moses' words:*

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
He will drive out your enemy before you,
saying, 'Destroy him!'

Deuteronomy 33:27

Friday, July 20

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.

John 14:27

Saturday, July 21

I can let go of fear because this moment is enough. I can fall back into outstretched arms. The name is not as important as trusting that the arms are there. It is enough just to be Terry.

from Terry Hershey's newsletter "Sabbath Moment"

Sunday, July 22

And me? I'm just sitting here
in my backyard sanctuary, wondering
if I should get down on my knees.

"Praying", Judy Shook

Monday, July 23

A sheltered life can be a daring life as well.
For all serious daring starts from within.

Eudora Welty

Tuesday, July 24

Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone for others. Unfold your own myth.

Rumi

Wednesday, July 25

Happy are those whose hearts are set on the pilgrim way.

Psalm 84

Thursday, July 26

Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time.

Maya Angelou

Friday, July 27

Nobody is bored
when he is trying to make something that is beautiful or to discern something that is true.

William Inge

Saturday, July 28

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:17

Sunday, July 29

Whatever it is, ... do something to declare your intention for the day and for your life. Something like these sayings reinforces our commitment to become an observer to our thoughts and not be owned by them.

Bill Kerley, "Ordinary Life"

Monday, July 30

In moments of amazement, we render our internal scorekeeper mute.

from Terry Hershey's "Sabbath Moment"

Tuesday, July 31

Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.

UM Hymnal #89, "Joyful Joyful," Henry Van Dyke