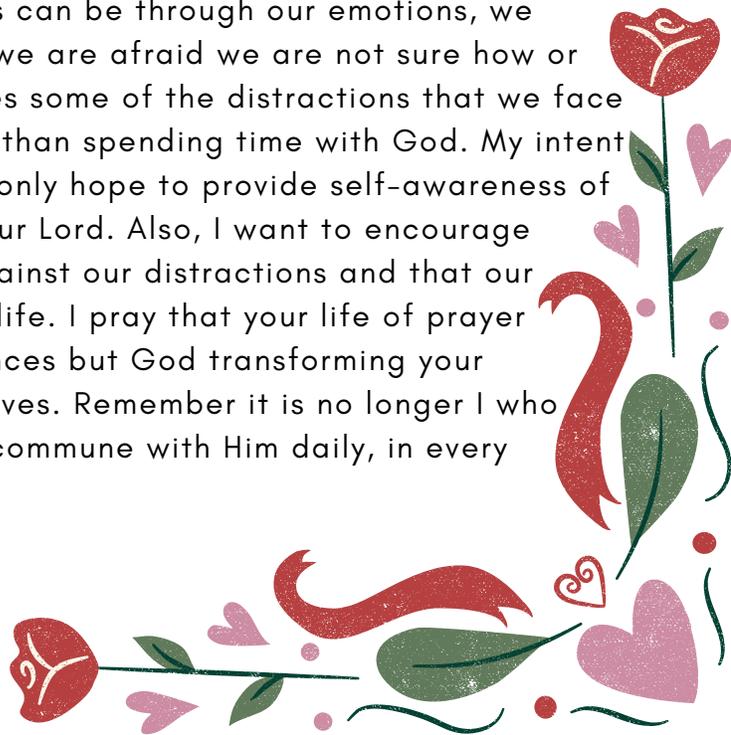


THE METHODIST MESSENGER

The Newsletter of Hamlin Memorial Methodist Church

DISTRACTIONS *Written by Lupe Acevedo*

As we move into the month of February soon we will enter the season of Lent. As the church we seek to focus on prayer and fasting as we move toward the celebration of Easter! Last month in January I completed my final class and I look forward to receiving my Master of Divinity degree this coming May. I share that not only to celebrate but to talk about my last class which was called "Life of Prayer." The best way I can describe this phrase is by saying that prayer is not something we do as Christians but is a part of who we are as Christians. In Galatians 2:20, Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." How could Paul make such a claim? It was through a life of prayer, or in other words a conversational relationship with God. So much pressure has been placed on Christians about the need to pray and many have done so out of obligation. Jesus tells us in John 15 that we are to remain in him as he remains in us. He then proceeds to give an illustration of a branch on a vine. Without the vine, the branch can do nothing and so it is with us and Jesus. Part of remaining in Jesus and Him remaining in us is by maintaining a conversational relationship with Him through prayer. Of course, that is a lot easier said than done because the world we live in is filled with distractions. Distractions that are both internal and external cause us to lose focus on the presence of God which we know to be everywhere at all times. Our circumstances cause us to react in fear and anxiety that we tend to quickly seek a resolution rather than seeking His presence which is where we experience peace that surpasses all understanding. Sometimes distractions can be through our emotions, we simply do not want to pray for whatever reason, or we are afraid we are not sure how or for what to pray. And if we are honest with ourselves some of the distractions that we face are things that we have deemed as more important than spending time with God. My intent is not to shame you or guilt you into praying more I only hope to provide self-awareness of all the things that seek to stand between you and our Lord. Also, I want to encourage you to pray for a desire to want to pray. To pray against our distractions and that our love for God would outweigh all the noisy things in life. I pray that your life of prayer would be centered not on changing your circumstances but God transforming your perspective to see, hear, speak, and live as Christ lives. Remember it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me, he lives in us as we commune with Him daily, in every hour we walk with Him and talk with Him.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Birthdays

- 2nd - Ander Pomper
- 4th - Troy Christian
- 9th - Steve Jones
- 15th - Rebecca Pomper
- 15th - Boyd White
- 15th - Lupe Acevedo
- 16th - Zeb Holt
- 19th - Melody Hettinga
- 20th - Caleb Christian
- 25th - Josh Hettinga

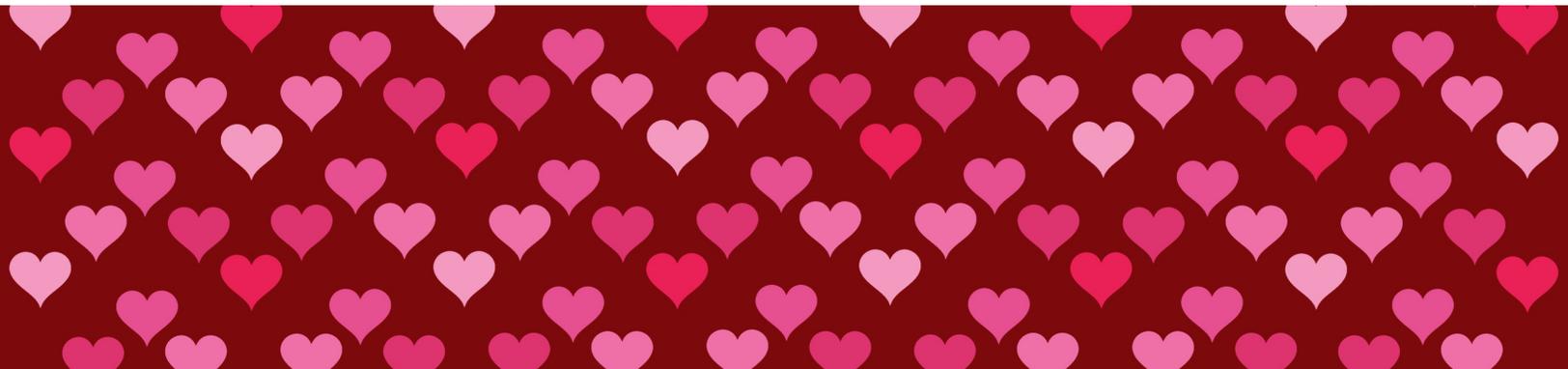


Upcoming February Events

- 13th - Golden Glories 10 am
- 14th - Valentine's Day
- 14th - Ash Wednesday
- 14th - Ash Wednesday Service 6 pm
- 15th - Lighthouse Mission 12 pm (NM)
- 16th - Early Release from School
- 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent
- 19th - President's Day
- 19th - No School
- 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent
- 25th - Charge Conference at FMC Clovis 4 pm

Anniversaries

- 15th - Rodney & Brenda Wren



Love One Another

14 Day Challenge

Day 1 - Show patience with someone.

Day 2 - Overlook someone's shortcomings.

Day 3 - Look beyond looks.

Day 4 - Resist the impulse to categorize others.

Day 5 - See a situation through the other person's eyes.

Day 6 - Forgive someone who has wronged you.

Day 7 - Don't criticize actions or circumstances..

Day 8 - Show mercy to someone.

Day 9 - Give 10 minutes to really listen to someone

Day 10 - Speak kindly.

Day 11 - Say thank you to someone.

Day 12 - Focus on what you have in common with everyone you meet.

Day 13 - Offer up a genuine compliment.

Day 14 - See everyone you talk to through God's eyes.

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Electronic Giving

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- Submit & Complete