

The Onalaska Evangel

A monthly Newsletter of
The First United Methodist Church of Onalaska

June 2008



--- HOLY COMMUNION ...

Every Sunday

The United Methodist Church has two Sacraments; Baptism and Holy Communion. They are our Sacraments because they are activities that Christ commanded us to *do*. Therefore, we believe that Christ is present – God is present – *in* the Sacrament by the power of the Holy Spirit. We do not know how this is accomplished; it is a gift of God to us. Additionally, the word *Sacrament* means mystery. So, how this happens is beyond our human capacity to know or through just REASON alone.

Holy Communion is a MEANS OF GRACE. Participating in Holy Communion is a way to *receive* the love of God. We conduct Holy Communion because Christ's PRESENCE is more keenly experienced. Yet Christ's presence is not dependent on our RECOGNITION for He promised to meet us at the Table. Conducting Holy Communion represent the gracious acts of God in the PRESENT. Christ is here NOW.

God uses TANGIBLE things as vehicles of Grace. In Holy Communion we use the things Jesus told us to use; Bread and Wine. God has chosen to make His love visible and effective in this manner. We did have anything to do with the means of celebrating the presence of God among us. John Wesley said, "the grand channel whereby the Grace of His Spirit is conveyed to the souls of all the children of God."

We need God's Grace. We need to know God loves us. We need to know this because we are all sinners and have fallen short of what God has created us to be and what God has created us to do. We need to be continually reminded that we

children of God, not our own autonomous, self-created, individual entities who can do as we please without consequences. Our problem is we don't like to admit we need this Grace – that we need God. Somehow it makes us weak – but in whose eyes? Why would you to even be concerned what "other's say" about you, when your Father in Heaven loves you, and has given you a way in Holy Communion to be close to Him. (See Romans 8: 31 -39)

There are various faith traditions that have various views of what Holy Communion is and does. Some traditions hold that Communion is just a memorial, a way to remember what Christ did for us. Holy Communion in the United Methodist understanding is more than just REMEMBERING. When we come to the Lord's Table we also receive, because of Christ's presence: FORGIVENESS, NOURISHMENT, HEALING, TRANSFORMATION, MINISTRY AND MISSION, ETERNAL LIFE., HOPE, FELLOWSHIP, SACRIFICE, THANKSGIVING. This is a hard invitation to turn down. No wonder the word Eucharist, which means Thanksgiving, is used as a title for Holy Communion.

So, Why is The United Methodist Church advocating the weekly celebration of Holy Communion?

First, for reasons discussed above. We may need to modify the way we look at Holy Communion. Since we are all in need of Grace and Forgiveness and, most importantly the presence of Christ --- shouldn't we seek after these things?

Shouldn't we enjoy and celebrate the presence of Christ among us? Shouldn't we experience the Grace – the love of God --- as often as possible? The answer has to be yes! Holy Communion is not some special event reserved for special occasion or only quarterly or monthly. How can we say we only need Grace once a month? How can we refuse Christ's invitation to be in His presence?

Secondly, Holy Communion COMPLETES our pattern of worship which is derived from the Bible. Acts 2 speaks of the 4 Pillars of Worship/Church 1) Proclamation of the Word 2) Prayers 3) Fellowship 4) The Sacraments. Effective Congregations follow these basic tenants that have been handed down to us since the beginning of the Church. When we eliminate one of these pillars we lose the FULLNESS of what we might receive from God as individuals. When we knock out a "pillar" we can not become – as a Church— what God wants of us. We have to ask WHY ARE WE HERE? We are here to worship God and no other reason. Why do we want to diminish our worship and what the Spirit can offer us?

Third, The earliest writings of the Church and its worship, the *Didache* directs "On every Lord's Day Holy Communion is to be celebrated because the Spiritual benefits are so great." Methodist's got out of the habit because of the traveling Elders.

(Continued on page 2 col 1)

Again, our way got in the way of God's way. So, as early as 1993 the Church has been RE-EXAMINING our understanding of Holy Communion. The Hymnal and The Book of Worship have been revised to advance the weekly celebration of Holy Communion.

Fourth, We are invited to PARTICIPATE in worship. Do we come to worship to just sit and say we've been there? Do we come to worship to critique the sermon and the choir's anthem? Do we just come to see our friends, or see "what's going on?" or what people are wearing? – NO! Do we come to validate ourselves and that (by our own standard) we are "OK with God." – No!! **We come to worship God!** --- **Period!!!** Everything else is, and must be, secondary. Worship is not about you and what you like – again, it is about God. Passionate Worship invites our ACTIVE participation with God. Holy Communion invites us to PARTICIPATE and not be passive observers to the activity of God in the world. In fact, God does not like PASSIVE OBSERVERS; see the parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30). The one who did not participate, who did nothing, and was not a part of the Kingdom of God.

Our WORTHYNESS to receive or participate in Holy Communion is one of the MOST MISUNDERSTOOD aspects of our faith and our United Methodist understanding of the Sacrament. Most of this misunderstanding comes from *other faith traditions*. The misunderstanding revolves around 1 Corinthians 11: 27-34. The passage is the continuation of a discussion about the conduct of Holy Communion is a disrespectful manner . The Corinthian Church was conducting Communion as "dessert" after coming together for a meal. Some ate and drank and became drunk. Others came and had nothing to eat. Those who did eat did not share. They were not acting as the Body of Christ. So, should you come to be in the presence of Christ if you are intoxicated? – No! Should you come if you have

no respect or concern for your brothers and sisters in Christ? --- No! But, if you are not coming because you FEEL UNWORTHY TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST, you are missing the point of Grace.

The point of Grace is we ARE NOT worthy. **We come PRECISELY because we are not worthy. We CAN COME because the Grace of God in Jesus Christ makes us worthy. We come to RECEIVE forgiveness, healing, love. --- because we are not worthy.** John Wesley wrote: *God offers you one of the greatest mercies this side of heaven, and commands you to accept it. You are unworthy to receive any mercy from God. Is that a reason to refuse ALL mercy from God? Are you unworthy to obey God who commands you to accept mercy and love?*

Holy Communion is not a ritual or pious habit. It is the FOUNDATION of our faith. Christ died that we might have eternal life – we celebrate this gracious act of God in Christ. Holy Communion is a UNITING with Christ. It is REAL it is special – because God makes it so – WE DO NOT.

Christ INVITES us to COME and gather around HIS Table and PARTICIPATE with Him in the Table Fellowship.

--- We ALL stand in the need of Grace. Grace is served abundantly in this meal --- WE SHOULD ALL BE HUNGRY! We should seek to be one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes again --- AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.

I'll see YOU in Church where we PASSIONATELY Worship and seek to RECEIVE the Grace of God.

Joy!!!
Pastor Paul



Keep The Fork!!!

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly. 'What's that?' came the Pastor's reply.

'This is very important,' the young woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.'

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. That surprises you, doesn't it?' the young woman asked. 'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!'

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ..the best is yet to come.'

DALE'S DIAMOND

II Corinthians 12:2a I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago.
Psalm 127:3 Children are a heritage from the Lord:



It's June and that means Father's Day is close. Several years Readers Digest had a article entitled "THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE PERSON I EVER MET" Well I had that experience II Cor 12:2a I knew a man in Christ: He was my Dad!

Dad was the most unforgettable person I ever knew. When I was young and needed the board of education applied to the seat of knowledge, it never ended with that but with PRAYER as only Dad could pray. On the Battle Field, facing danger Dad was praying, when medical problems were present Dad was praying. Yes he was my best friend, my confidant, My Dad!

I must say that I can't think of a more rewarding job. Being a Dad means that God has entrusted me with the task of training my children in the way they should go. Now he has allowed me to share the heritage of faith. And for my efforts I get lots of hugs, really neat Father's Day cards and the chance to hear those wonderful words "HEY, DAD!"

A Godly Father Reflects The Love of The Heavenly Father!

Dale

Notes From the Choir

Dottie Dean-Lyne

The last couple of months have been buzzing along with the choir. Some Sundays the loft is full and other Sundays it is almost empty. There has been a lot of illness and a lot of traveling about. Last Sunday we were fortunate to have the Rev. John Burchell and lovely Sally join us again for the morning. It is always nice to have choir members that have moved come back for a visit.

You may have noticed two new faces in the Men's section. They are Fred Weiss and Jim Newsome. We are always open for new members and we were very lucky to have these two good voices. Georgene has come to sing with the choir now. We were so excited when she put on her choir robe. We pray that she and Bob can continue on the road back to health.

We welcome our new Pianist Josh Chisum. You read all about him in the Bulletin on his first Sunday with us.

There will be no Wednesday night choir practice for the month of June. The choir will be in the loft however to sing with the congregation and sing responses. June is a great time for vacation. There will be soloist each Sunday.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOW OFFERED

We have the following religious education courses:

Wednesday morning Promise Keepers Leader - David Johnson

Thursday morning and night - leader Billie Garrison was giving bible studies;

these might have been completed but soon others studies will follow.

Sunday morning classes-

Ladies Bible Class - Marion McWhorter

Lost and Found Class - David Johnson

The Good News Bible Class - Dean Blau

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Young - Doris Blau, Mary Ingram, Sandy Croll

Teens - Kadi Whitard, Martha Young

Thursday afternoon - Teens- Leader- Karen Simpson

We are in need of several more children teachers. You will not have to teach full time, maybe just a few weeks at a time..

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Keep your ears open for the date of the fellowship dinner in June. The date has not been set but the plans are in progress for a fun filled evening. In fact, this will be one evening you will NEVER forget! Get your jaws ready for a rib-splitting night!

Here's your part.....I need a wedding picture from EVERYONE in the Church. Now don't ask why, just bring one! I'll give 'em back to you after the dinner but you need to bring one by June 15th! You can drop it by the Church office or give it to me or Karen Sides. Even if your spouse has gone on to be with our Heavenly Father, bring the picture to share with us all. These pictures are special to you so that makes them special to us.

And fellowship committee, I'm not even going to tell YOU what we're doing because this night's for you, too. Karen and I have plans, plans and more plans.....

So get those pictures to us and listen for the date!

See you soon,
Patti and Karen

UMW NEWS

UMW News for June 3, 2008

We met at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. This meeting we put together health kits for the free children's clothing exchange. We will be taking a break for July and August. Will see you in September!

Shalom Jewel



LAY DELEGATE REPORT FROM THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mission Workshop

1) Medical missions (blood pressure checks), etc.; 2) Christmas in July splits stress from December, aids ministry assistance; 3) ESL (English as a Second Language) to help with paperwork, etc., 12-step programs and grief recovery; 4) Aid illegal people to become citizens; 5) support guardians and mentor at-risk children; 6) Shalom Zone churches – merge small churches to multiply small assets; 7) Backpack Buddies – put 6 meals in each needy child's backpack at the end of the school week to have food for weekends; 8) establish church presence at schools; 9) OGDOS – One Great Day of Service by church in the community; 10) Special Contributions for "Mission of the Month" and report to the church how the money was spent; 11) "Open Gate" inviting street youth, homeless, poor outside the church to come inside. Government grants are available for this; 12) Relationship with schools to provide school supplies and snacks to students. One church aided a homeless student to stay in school and graduate by providing an apartment, furniture, job; and 13) Care for a special needs child by assigning a "Shadow", who cares for the child so that parents can have time to care for their own needs.

Speakers

Dr. Ed Kail, Nebraska Conference, at Small Membership Church Gathering Talked about the rural communities networking, using John 15:1-8 Scripture.

The churches are the branches, not the fruit.

Baptize and confirm teens and you never see them again.

Have a reserved pew for visitors, then send them a gift of a music CD Use The Lord's Prayer in back of the hymnal

How do we view our church? Hospice, Hospital or Community of Hospitality?

Our work: What does it have to do with mission? What did you do with the money? Was it fruitful?

Dr. Peter Storey, professor emeritus of Duke Divinity School, former Methodist bishop of South Africa, who worked closely with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the anti-apartheid struggle.

The Church is here to change the world or what are we here for?

No political organization can keep up with Jesus.

The religious right has nothing to offer that resembles the Carpenter of Nazareth.

John Wesley found, like us, that when we go to the poor, we are at the address of Jesus.

If we locate ourselves like Jesus, we can have love turned into prophetic action.

We have become too rich and look like the General Motors Church of God.

We need to tell about the frightening power of Jesus.

Prophetic words: No action on issues of peace will happen until we quit playing church, assuming our churches matter to God.

Listen to God instead of programs; 2) study the Bible; 3) Read literature and listen; 4) Pray TO, WITH and FOR one another.

At the recent General Conference, you may be interested in four newsy items:

1) clergy retirement age is raised to 72; 2) a new hymnal will be available in 2012; 3) the resolution for removing the U.S. flag from churches did not pass; and 4) Bishop Huie will remain the TX Conference Bishop in Residence for the next four years.

These are the highlights of the 2008 Texas Annual Conference. I will be glad to answer any question. May God continue to bless us and the Texas Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Magid
Lay Delegate

THE BEAR MINISTRY

The Bear Ministry is such a blessing! Several churches in the Texas Conference now have a Bear Ministry because people heard about our successful ministry.

Praise God that so many of you have and are bringing Bears to Valerie Graham, our Bear Ranger, so that she can tag them and place them in the sanctuary. Isn't it amazing how many different types, colors and sizes of the 250 + Bears sat in the sanctuary? What if you brought people along with the Bears...250 people of all ages, colors and sizes?

Let's make it happen, folks! In the meantime, take a bear to someone who needs to know that God loves him/her and so do we.

Bonnie Magid and Valerie Graham

Thoughts from Net-burst.net

Faith in God is not escapism, it's the power to face problems head-on.

Life is too short to skimp on prayer.

Every problem will break under the weight of stubborn prayer

Yield to Christ like a brush to the artist and from your life will flow unearthly beauty

Remember the cripple at the temple gate: he hoped for alms and ended up with legs. God loves surprises. And he loves you.

© See [www Net-burst.net](http://www.Net-burst.net)



Youth End of School Year Picnic

The Youth held their 1st annual End of School Year Picnic at the home of Les and Karen Simpson. The kids were out of the water just long enough to eat the Hamburgers and Hot Dogs as they came off the grill. The Kayaking was a big hit. Colton flipped his kayak upside down. Todd Graham(Chelsea's dad) and Les Simpson came to the rescue. Todd towed the kayak back while Les picked up Colton in the paddle boat. Pastor Paul even got in the water and joined a friendly water fight. Chelsea and Jake had fun with the kayaks and paddleboat. The kids finished the evening fishing for catfish from the paddle boat. Everybody had such a good time, I think we'll just have to have a back to school picnic in a few months. A special thanks to Bonnie Magid for all her help in the kitchen.



United Methodist Men:

UMM is excitingly looking forward to new programs and mission interaction with the community to present a Christ-centered outreach of our First United Methodist Church of Onalaska programs. The Yes Lord! plaque was recently given to Jimmy Bingham for his service to the Lord and the UMM group as treasurer, as well as his work with the Mission Misfits. He enjoys helping and it shows.

For those of you who have never been to one of our breakfasts, we serve a GREAT breakfast of orange juice, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, thick sliced bacon and sausage patties. The cost is only \$3 and is well worth it, especially since there is usually enough to have seconds (if you aren't watching your weight or cholesterol). We always have interesting guest speakers during this period of fellowship. In May, one of our members, Lew Vail, told us all about the city of Onalaska. His speech was informative and funny, and we learned a great deal about our city's government and how difficult it can be to get something done. See you all at our next breakfast meeting on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. We always meet on the second Friday of the month, except July and August.

Don't forget that our annual Fish Fry fundraiser is fast approaching. The fish fry will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Contributions of frozen catfish filets are needed from all you fishermen out there. They are for a good cause and any help would be very much appreciated, fun guaranteed.



Mission Committee

Many of us in this church are "Blessed beyond belief" and to share some of our blessings with those less fortunate, whether at Christmas time or during the year will make your heart fly with joy. Please join us to do this all through 2008 so that we can pass God's love to us on to those less fortunate. Once you do this, you will know true joy. The Mission Misfits are always looking for a "few good men" with building and repair skills to aid our church members and the community. Most importantly, the Mission Misfits have a good time and exercise their fabulous Christian personalities.

The Mission Misfits appeared again at the Kid's Free Clothing Exchange in Onalaska and fixed a building leak in their bathroom wall from a vent pipe. In addition they fixed the leak problem at the base of the outside wall that was never properly sealed to the concrete drive. After the storage area in the back was cleared, they returned and added more display shelves and hanging rods.

Sometimes the Mission Misfits operate out of the United Methodist Men's organization and other times they operate out of the Mission Committee. I have been asked to clarify this, since sometimes I report their activities in both areas. In either case, they serve Christ's needs as they are laid on their hearts.

The Mission Committee is very active, both by the labor of the men, and by monetary assistance to those who need it. Your individual donations to the Mission Committee as well as the budgeted amount from general contributions are being well spent to take care of our local community needs. A local family was assisted with money to avoid having their electricity turned off, and also with gas money. The group has helped a family with some problems with land drainage as well as some trim printing, gutter work, and lots of laughs. The Mission Misfits helped an elderly local couple with the replacement of, and hookup of an A/C

Unit.

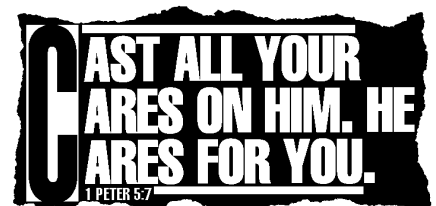
We also contributed \$100 to the Assembly of God Church food pantry to buy peanut butter and bread, a major food staple for them. PLEASE NOTE: They are in need of canned meat and your Mission Committee has a basket set up to accept your donations of canned meat and other canned staples. Please bring them to church with you on Sundays and drop them off in the Fellowship Hall.

This Committee and its pool of volunteers are here to serve at God's direction. As he lays upon your heart a need in our church or community, please bring it to our attention and we will act on it as He directs us. We are blessed to serve our community as outreach hands of Christ. We need your eyes, ears and prayers to help us know the direction God would have us serve in 2008. Anyone can help in any way!

In His Service,

David Rowe

Secretary, UMM



Scripture Readings For June

June 29th
Genesis 22: 1-14
Psalm 13 (UMH 746)
Romans 6: 12-23

Sermon: "What do they mean "Righteousness"

Matthew 10: 40-42

July 6th
Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45: 10-17 or
Psalm 72 (UMH 795)
Romans 7: 15-25a
Sermon
"The Struggle"
Matthew 11: 16-19, 25

July 13th
Genesis 25: 19-34
Psalm 119: 105-112 or
Psalm 25 (UMH 756)
Romans 8: 1-11
Sermon: "Life Through
the Holy Spirit

July 20th
Genesis 28: 10-19a
Psalms 139: 1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)
Romans 8: 12-25
Sermon "Patience"
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

July 27th
Genesis 29: 15-28
Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b (UMH 828)
Romans 8: 26-39
Sermon "Nothing Can Separate Us from God"

Rieder Brown graduated!

Kitty Young, Special Ed Teacher at Onalaska High School, brought Ryder to our (Mission Committee) attention several months ago when he was in need of a suit for graduation. Some of you may have read about him in the Polk County Enterprise. He was prom king and Kayla Chance was prom queen. Rieder will be continuing his education at a special school. It was a great privilege for Billie and me to join Dale and Joyce Snell for the graduation ceremony and to present a card of congratulations from the church with a small monetary gift.



LAY DELEGATE REPORT FROM THE 2008 TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you, First United Methodist Church of Onalaska, for electing me as 2008 Lay Delegate to the Texas Annual Conference. It is my pleasure and honor to serve you and Conference this year.

The Texas Conference is well and active. You are part of the 11.4 million members of The United Methodist Church worldwide. The Texas Conference has vision for: vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ. We strive to equip congregations to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.**

As you heard at our 100th Year Celebration, Bishop Huie talked about the Core Values of our conference: by showing Radical Hospitality, demonstrating Passionate Worship, creating Faith-forming Relationships, participating in Risk-taking Mission, providing Extravagant Generosity, realizing Connectional Ministry and actively taking part in Fervent Prayer and Diligent study of Scripture. Our church is expected to actively use these Core Values to create new places for new people, leadership development, and work with the poor in our community.

Special Agape

Bishop Benjamin Boni, Annual Conference of Cote d'Ivoire, brought about 70 men and women from Africa's Ivory Coast to the Texas Conference. These 70 people sang, played instruments and danced their hearts out. They are thrilled that United Methodist Church missionaries came to their communities and saved them from so many disasters. After singing at the Laity Luncheon, the group had lunch with us. In fractured French, we talked with Obonono, a 34 year-old single man who is gifted with an awesome base voice, speaks a little English, and is an elementary school French teacher. All of us were overjoyed to know the fruits of our missions continue to work in ways we never imag-

ined. Cote d'Ivoire has about 18 million people, 1 million Protestant, of which 700,000 are United Methodists.

Nothing But Nets

In November, 2008, The United Methodist Church, United Nations Foundation, UNICEF and World Health Organization will distribute 700,000 nets in Africa. The Global Board of General Mission of The United Methodist Church will help with expenses, so that all funds given for the nets project will go to nets only. The goal is to cover Cote d'Ivoire.

Resolutions

Approved Historic Sites (St. Paul's UMC, Houston, and Lovelady 1st UMC, Lovelady)

Approved Bill Hedges' Retirement

Approved Covenant Relationship between TX Conference and Methodist Children's Home

Approved shifting \$106,000 funds raised in 1990 and 1991 from constructing a secondary school in Burundi to construction of an educational facility in Cote D'Ivoire. The funds were never distributed because civil war in Burundi leveled the town where the school was to be located.

Approved that a Task Force has been established to assess the current apportionment formula on conference and local church funding. The Task Force will report its findings and recommendations to the 2009 Texas Annual Conference. Each church in every district will be assessed for every activity, program and ministry to see if it is effective and fruitful.

Approved that the Resolution to reimburse retired pastors and others for expenses to Annual Conference be referred to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) for further research.

It was recommended for 2009 that the churches contribution be increased from 4.8% to 7.2% for group health benefits and deductibles will be lowered.

Approved the 2009 budget.

Gatherings

Laity

End the perception of "silos" (each committee doing its own thing) and coordi-

Nate ministries and resources to tell the Story. The church's hold in the community, Jesus Christ and the Wesleyan tradition is far more important than what we do separately. Mission activity should be focused on people outside the church. Church is not a social club; it is a place where people yearn for a place to belong, to listen to one another and let God work. It's about the call of Christ.

Combine witness and mission.

UMW - Be intentional and focus on reaching out to children. .

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

There were so many Holy Moments and Prayer at the Texas Annual Conference that it is difficult to tell you about them. You have heard some of them many times:

- Look and listen – nothing is impossible with God.
- Discipling must start at home but not stay at home. Listen to Intercessory Prayers: what is prayed for

Most of our Prayer Requests are for healing diseases, broken bodies, broken families, guidance, and mercy. God answers many Prayer Requests and we praise Him for healing, guidance and mercy. But if it is not His Will to heal, guide and grant us mercy, we forget to thank Him for listening and considering requests. Some of us get angry at God and just stomp off when our requests are not answered immediately, not thinking about praying again and again. Sometimes He doesn't do what we ask right away; sometimes He answers in a way we might not understand until another time. The Bible says we should keep praying about our Prayer Requests. Read James 5:13-15. Please ask Pastor Paul and me to pray with you and to anoint you after worship any Sunday.

Let's pray together: Heavenly Father, thank you for this day and for our daily bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus. As we lift up those who need Your Grace of healing, guidance and mercy to you, Lord, we pray Your Will shall be done. We love you and thank you for listening, forgiving and considering our prayers. In the name of Jesus. AMEN.