July 19, 2023

Join us this Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. Randy will continue the series "Windows of Faith" this Sunday with the message "Crown" and we hope you are able to come hear it. The scripture lesson for the week comes from Psalm 47

All Sunday school classes will be at their regular time and area. If you don't attend a class drop by one and try it out.

Sunday School classes: 8:30 New Life Rm. 18, Sonshine Rm. 17 9:30 Books of the Bibles Rm 17, Disciple Rm. 18, Young Adults Rm. 17 10:45 Faithbuilders Rm 18, Good News Choir room, R.O.C.K Rm. 19 Traditional services are at 9:30 am and Modern services are at 10:55 am. If you are not able to attend Worship services there will be a live streaming of worship.

To watch the life stream, you can join us at: <u>9:30 am Sunday morning</u> or at <u>10:55 Sunday morning</u>.





St. Mark's BETHANY



Looking For A Place to Serve?



You may be new or maybe just never been asked. If you would like to have the opportunity to assist with communion by either

setting the table or serving we would love to have you. It's always a blessing to be a part of communion and a privilege to be a part of helping at the Lord's table. If interested contact Kathi Fisher or give a call to the church office.







Training for volunteers with Children/Youth and CDO

If you currently work with any of these groups or would like to work with them, you can join us for training



on either Sunday, August 13th at 12:00 pm or; Monday, August 14th at 10:00 am. Both days will involve the same information and are required to work with children and youth. On Sunday, lunch will be provided. Both sessions will provide you with vital information for caring, leading and loving children and youth and will also include information on safety issues and other pertinent information. St. Mark's takes seriously the discipleship of young people and we are

always looking for people who love Jesus and want to help young people grow. Contact Sharon Hunt, Kayla Gannon or Bequer Gomez for more information.



St. Mark's is putting a team together to be a part of Seedbed's New Room Conference. If you are interested in going please contact the church office or any staff member to get signed up. Cost for the event will be \$249 plus travel and lodging. It will be a life changing event including some of the top Christian speakers from around the world, powerful break out sessions and God filled worship services. This is the chance to go to an event that is not that far from home that will challenge and equip you in your walk with Christ. You can learn more at: <u>https://newroomconference.com/</u> Deadline for signing up is August 15th.

Overview from Seedbed:

We learned something about Koinonia through the recent days we spent at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. We have always known that Koinonia means the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, but our understanding now grows. We learned by experience that Koinonia is the community that gets generated under an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Since the very first New Room Conference back in 2014, Jesus has been building this fellowship as a community who is experiencing an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At Asbury we witnessed in a profound and concentrated way what we have caught glimpses of every year in our New Room Gatherings.







Photo: John Wesley's prayer kneeler – The birthplace of Methodism. Each morning at 4 a.m., John Wesley would kneel in prayer in his London home. It was in this place that the fires of Methodism began. As we seek to reconnect to our Wesleyan heritage, it seems the best place we can begin is in prayer. Join us in our monthly prayer series: The Way to the Kingdom.

THE WAY OF MEEKNESS AND HUMILITY By: Rev. Dr. Maxie Dunham

I put meekness and humility together as I reflect on "The Way to the Kingdom." It is difficult to talk about one without referring to the other.

The word "kingdom" easily elicits thoughts about territory. Clearly Jesus is not talking about earthly territory in his third beatitude, "Blessed are the meek, *for they will inherit the earth.*" (emphasis added) This is about a quality of life on earth, about relationship and community. As Christians, all that Christ accomplished through his life, death and resurrection is our inheritance. In Romans 8, Paul says we are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." Our inheritance is the inexhaustible power of the Holy Spirit, sufficient for every situation.

That *pride* is the root of original sin is clearly witnessed in Adam and Eve. Their sin is our sin: the need to be "in charge," to control our own destiny. God told them they could enjoy the abundance of the Garden of Eden with one exception: they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). They wanted to know everything. Wanting to be like God without surrendering their autonomy, they ate the forbidden fruit. It is only when we become humble and give up our self-centered attempt to run our lives that we become joint heirs with Christ and inherit the earth.

The supreme reality for Paul was the union of the believer with his Lord. But the fact is this union and all that union with Christ means, is not yet realized. Our position and relation to Christ is that we are loved, accepted, forgiven. We are the partakers of a new life. But all of this is not yet fully worked out in our experience. Someone expressed it in a beautiful image: "Believers were like immigrants to a new country, not yet completely habituated to its ways of life. They had accepted citizenship in a new world and must now learn to live in it."

Being humble and meek is the dynamic of learning to live as citizens of a new land. Accepting this reality, Paul concluded, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Col. 3:12 NIV). Our stereotypical thoughts of humility and meekness as cowardly weakness, being without passion, lack of spirit and purpose, are shattered when we look at Jesus. There was nothing weak and colorless about him. Obedience was the essence of his life. Not only in Gethsemane where it reached a pinnacle of commitment, but throughout Jesus' life, his constant prayer was, "Not my will but thine be done."

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A Suggested Pattern of Prayer

As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your time of prayer. Each day's prompt has a Scripture reference for you to pray through. As you pray also allow time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. When you have prayed through the Scripture and prayer point, you may be led to add your own prayers. Pray and consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month.

Sunday: With joyful prayer, claim your place in God's creation: "in the image of God" (Gen. 1:26-27).

Monday: Pray through Jesus' affirmation of our worth when he contrasted our value to that of a sparrow (Matthew 10:29-31).

Tuesday: Pray through our distorted practice of devaluing ourselves because we perceive humility as self-depreciation and self-denial (Psalm 22:6-8).

Wednesday: Pray through whether, in your relationship and actions with others, your "loving" is seeking praise (John 12:42-43).

Thursday: Pray for wisdom in balancing claiming our strength while knowing and acknowledging our weakness (Rom. 12:3-8).

Friday: Examine the way we fail to perceive the difference between loving self and self-love (Matt. 19:16-18).

Saturday: Pray into God's call to humility (2 Chron. 7:11-14).



Meekness does not mean weakness. The meek Jesus is talking about means total dedication to God's plan. They are strong and are not intimidated because they know who they are. They are dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit be and do what God wants them to be and do in the world.

The Rev. Dr. Maxie Dunham is minister at large at Christ Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and the former president of Asbury Theological Seminary.

GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

2023 Annual Budget

Facts and Figures

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2020 / Amada Budgot	00	,000
Rec'd toward Operating Year to Date 2022	7/16/2023	8,324
Rec'd toward offering (th Expenses (thru 7/18/23)		

Attendance	
Sunday, July 16 Total 266	
Traditional Worship	146
Modern Worship	61
Online Worship	

Prayer Box

Dennis Bratcher Carol Hall Annie Imel (DIL of John & Joy Imel) Beverly Clark Cheryl Andrews Hank Brueggen Marty Croy Diana & Jeff Davidson Jared Fenton (SIL of Davidson's) Mary Desmukes Buddy Kidd Sandy Rutherford Justin Fountain Coleen Ward Paula Galt Jim & Judy McMinn Tiffany Montesano Montesano family Roger Pautsch Dorothy Sipes Curtis Scott (SIL Jim Brown) Jane Foreman Cindy Wilkerson (DIL Frank & Nadine) Karen Hall (friend of Sandy Kelly) Earl & Evelyn Moore Mary King Viola Cleo Bradshaw