

**And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."**

**~ Matthew 18:3**



**OCT 2024**

**Lexington United  
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve  
and Share Christ*

[www.lexmoumc.org](http://www.lexmoumc.org)

**Office: 660-259-2483**

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor

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417-770-6731 (cell)

Liz Johnson,  
Administrative Assistant  
[secretary@lexmoumc.org](mailto:secretary@lexmoumc.org)

Janet Thompson,  
Music Director

Glenda Brooks,  
Custodian

Sunday worship: 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal:  
Sundays 9:30 a.m.

## **God is in our midst ... at all times, all circumstances, all places**

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* ~ Matthew 18:1-5 (NIV)

**W**hat a beautiful scripture to tell of the love, care and devotion Christ gives to all of God's children. In all times, all places and in any circumstance, God is in our midst!! There is much to be said of the work that God is doing through our church. The Spirit is alive at LUMC. If its been a minute since you have been to Sunday morning worship, I invite you to join us where you will see many young faces. The Lord is moving LUMC in mighty ways.

Your leadership has been talking for a few months now of how we let our kids know that they are vitally important in the kingdom of God. Jesus, loving the

children, called them unto himself. To be disciples we strive to care for our kids in the way that Christ cares for all of God's children.



Rev. Andrew Sanders

In support of our kids, we have had Jess Eaton and Bria Dobson step up to re-start Sunday school for our kids. The Sunday school class has been popular with the young disciples.

Remember if you are interested in becoming a Sunday school teacher we have a rotating schedule. Every three months teachers will rotate out. If you are being led in helping with Sunday school, please reach out to the church

*Continued on Page 2*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m**

**Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.**

**BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays, 10 to Noon. Now in its new location next to the Nursery room.**

**HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Second Monday of the month 8 to 11 a.m.**

**WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, Oct. 11, Noon for carry-in lunch.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m., Choir Room.**

**COMMODITIES: Thursday, Oct. 24, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**TRUNK OR TREAT: Sunday, October 27, 5:30 p.m., in the Family Life Center. Lots of ghoulish treats and fun for everyone! Volunteers needed—set up a table, dress in costume, give out candy and have fun with the kids! Teri James is spearheading this event. Candy donations are needed—a basket is set up in the lobby for candy donations. Volunteers needed to help set up and break down this event.**

**Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1**

office.

We have had multiple people step up and get Safe Gathering certified this last year! By becoming Safe Gathering certified we are telling our kids that their safety and education are of utmost importance to us. Safe Gathering is a certification process that allows us to build safe learning spaces for our kids.

I've been telling you about what has been done the last year and a half because this is the groundwork to start the next thing. Starting November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m., we will launch a new evening youth group. Our curriculum will be the United Methodist Curriculum "Orange." The Orange curriculum for middle school and high school students combines

child development and theology to create a comprehensive youth ministry curriculum and strategy. As our kids develop their faith to become disciples that lead our church tomorrow, it is imperative that we continue to foster healthy relationships with each other and God.

I (Pastor Andrew) will be the main teacher for the Youth. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to the church office or to me.

Thank you for letting the Spirit of God move you to be active in your church's ministries.

Today we continue to lay the groundwork of where our future generations of disciples will stand. Come be a part of the Spirit of Christ at work in our church.



**Liz Johnson | Secretary**

**A**d Council met September 16, beginning the meeting with a presentation from our insurance agent Derek Savage after Pastor Andrew offered prayer.

Savage reviewed the 2024-25 insurance coverage thoroughly with those present, explaining why insurance rates are rising – due to the bad economy and inflation. Our policy premiums have increased by 9 percent beginning October 1, at \$456.78 per month for a monthly premium payment of \$2,466.20 due the first of the month.

The wind/hail damage deductible is now

1 percent of the total value of the \$8 million dollar policy. Savage said that all church policies have increased substantially for wind/hail damage. This deductible figure is the replacement cost if the church sustained a total loss. Missouri is a replacement cost state.

Our Workman's Compensation premium went down \$34 from the previous year.

Council voted to accept the insurance for the new year. Please note that trustee chair Roger McFadden researched numerous other insurance companies over the summer to replace GuideOne but didn't find anyone offering good coverage at a less expensive cost.

August financials showed a continued drop in tithing, though September has increased some.

Pastor Andrew stated that two young families have indicated they are ready to join the church.

Cynthia Goodloe, Jordyn Ortega and

Lauren Negrete have submitted applications to work in the nursery on Sundays with Allissa Bell. We will have two staffers each Sunday who are Safe Gatherings certified, working on rotating Sundays beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Andrew stated that he will start up Youth Group on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m., beginning Nov. 3, utilizing the UMC Orange curriculum for middle and high school students. Chelsea Huffman has indicated she is interested in assisting with Youth Group.

**Chili Supper:** Steven Fuller is heading up the chili supper planned for Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. We are in need of our bakers to make desserts for the supper. We expect a higher than average voting public, therefore are in need of more desserts than usual.

The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.



## QUILTER'S BACKPACK A MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFT

Betty Allen to Marcia Hicklin

A large black man under the age of 25, I think, was living in the bus stop next to Price Chopper on N. 7 Hwy., (Blue Springs). I went up around 10 p.m. to give him your quilted bedding and found him asleep, sitting up leaning on his backpack.

I left the bedding and some water without waking him. The next day I went back to check on him and decided to talk to him. He was extremely polite and I told him that I had left the quilt.

It was then that I noticed he was using the bedding to cover his belongings. He said, "Do you mean this?" and he stroked it over and over.

He said it was the most beautiful gift anyone has ever given him.

I explained where it had come from

and who had made it. He said that you could see that it was made with care and love.

He said the girl who was homeless was walking and roaming around and he did not know if she would return. I asked how he had ended up here and he said his dad had driven him there and left him.

His legs were really swollen and walking was hard for him. Plus, the heat was going up daily.

I gave him \$40 and some food.

I came by for the next two days and found only all his belongings under the quilt. I did not think he would survive the extreme heat coming (this was early August), and contacted my state representative for my next step.

When I went back, all of his stuff was gone and I have not seen him since.

## Children's Sunday School is back in session!



Above: Can you tell our Sunday School kids are enjoying class? Showing big-smiles are from left: Adley Dobson, Kendall Dobson, Briley Huffman, Jack Worthington and Logan Dobson. Our teachers for this fall are Bria Dobson and Jess Eaton. Class is 10 a.m. Sunday mornings. Parents are welcome to join our adult class while the kids are in their class, which is also at 10 a.m. and facilitated by Sarah Black.



Baby Grace volunteers recently had a day to organize its new location in the former Scout room. Left: Pastor Andrew, Emalie and Lauren Negrete assemble clothing racks for the kid's clothing that were previously stored in totes. Another organization day will take place soon.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Karen Yates

10/10 Jennifer Coen

10/21 Susan Small

Let Liz know in the office if we don't have your birthday!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 5:30 p.m.

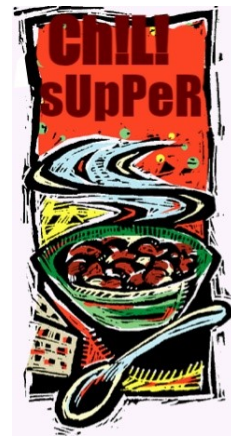
We will have our annual Trunk or Treat Sunday, Oct. 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Brings the kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews for a night of spooktacular fun and ghoulish treats in a safe environment.

Plus, we need volunteers to help set up, break down and set up a table, dress in costume and hand out candy!

A basket is in the hallway outside the sanctuary for candy donations. Please reach out to Teri James if you're able to volunteer, or Liz Johnson in the church office.

## CHILI SUPPER

Be sure to save the date: **Tuesday, November 5th, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** for our annual Chili Supper! It coincides with Election Day.



**Cost is \$10 per person (\$5 for each child under age 10)** and includes a bowl of chili with all the fixings, dessert & beverage. We need volunteers to help serve.

Please reach out to Steven Fuller or Liz

Johnson to volunteer.

**Our Bakers: We will need double the normal amount of desserts due to the size of this year's election and anticipated chili supper guests.**

Lexington United Methodist Church  
1211 South Business Highway 13  
Lexington, MO 64067

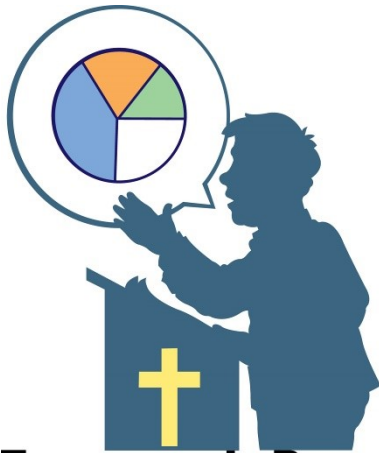
First  
Class  
Stamp

**WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.**

**Sunday School: 10 a.m. Adult &  
Children's Classes.**

**Choir Rehearsal: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**ONLINE: [lexmoumc.org](http://lexmoumc.org)**



## Treasurer's Report September 2024

September Offering:	\$11,096.76
Reimbursements:	\$ 4,529.60
Less Expenses:	<u>-\$12,953.22</u>
Total	\$ 2,672.98
*Year-to-Date:	(12,972.35)

**Teri James: Treasurer**

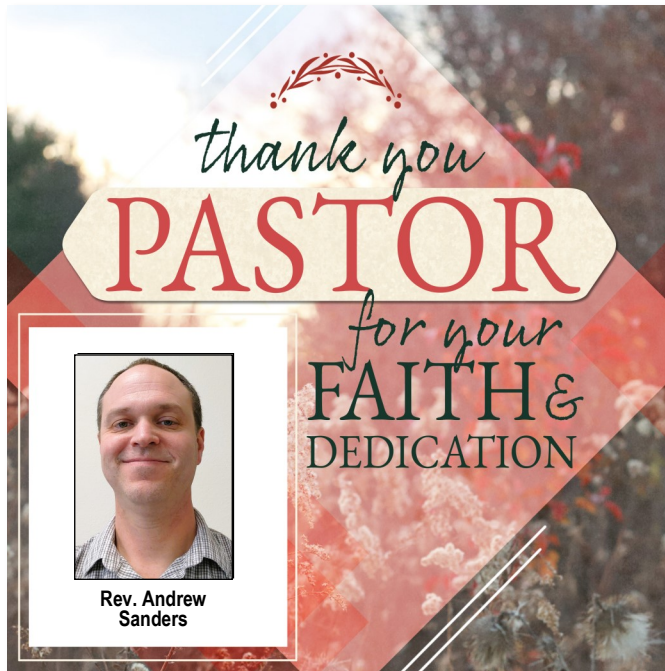
**Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary**

**Sharol McMullin: Finance Chair**

**Phillip Davis: Council Chair**

**Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders**

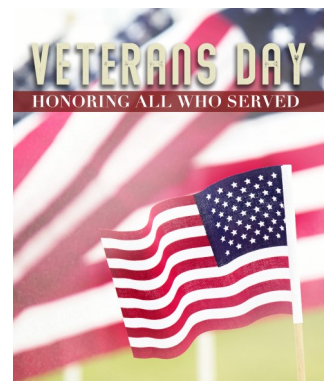
*"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9*



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please be sure to remember Pastor Andrew in your prayers and in gratitude for his wonderful service to LUMC. His faith, leadership and spiritual guidance is invaluable. We are truly blessed to have him here at Lexington UMC!

## Honoring our Veterans Nov. 10th

Please join us **Sunday, Nov. 10th** as we honor our **Veterans with a special service at 5 p.m. here at LUMC.** We will have the other three churches joining us, including their choirs with special music. If you served in the military, **please send Liz J your photo, rank, time served and where served by Nov. 1st. [secretary@lexmoumc.org](mailto:secretary@lexmoumc.org).**





# ERNIE COUCH & REVIVAL

Here at Lexington UMC  
Sunday, November 10, 11 a.m.

Liz Johnson | Editor

**S**unday, Nov. 10 at 11 a.m., we will have a different kind of worship at Lexington UMC. Ernie Couch & Revival will be here to present Gospel music in a “fun, honest and heartfelt way. Their blend of traditional overtones with new and innovative sounds has lead listeners to refer to the group’s style as ‘Americana Gospel.’”

Their music tends to appeal to listeners of all ages.

**Ernie and Jason Couch** began working together while they were members of the Plainsmen Quartet 35 years ago. In 1992, they decided to start their own group in order that they could present their music, their way.

Ernie and Jason have traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada, appearing in churches, concert halls, fairs, corporate events and festivals.

There are now three generations of Couches performing Gospel music and producing a high energy, entertaining program.

Ernie Couch & Revival perform an average of 100 concerts per year. At least 10 of their singles have graced the Gospel charts in the U.S. and Europe. They have recorded with other artists such as George Beverly Shea, Jake Hess, George Jones,



Petra, Patti Page, James Earl Jones, Poco and many others.

“We want to reach everyone from all age groups and backgrounds, with the message of the music,” said Jason Couch. “We enjoy what we do and want the people to enjoy it just as much. We certainly will give it all we’ve got in the time we have.”

You can check out Ernie Couch & Revival for yourself through their website: [erniecouchandrevival.com](http://erniecouchandrevival.com) or on their **Facebook** page.

Please join us Sunday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. for this entertaining, fun-filled time of music and revival. A love offering will be taken to support the group’s expenses.

## Time to update email, phone, mailing address, birthdays

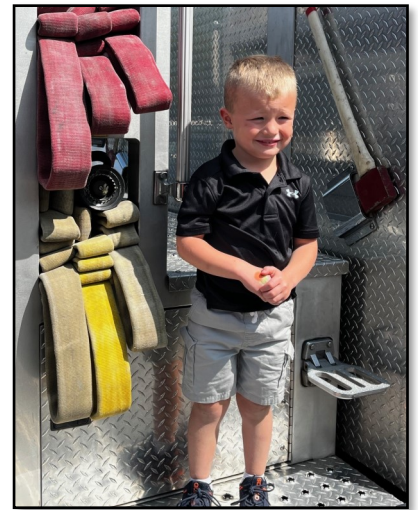
I am updating our member email addresses, snail mail address, phone numbers and birthdays. If you are not receiving our weekly emails, then I don't have your correct email address. If you have moved within the last 1-2 years, please let us know your new mailing address. If you have changed your phone number or eliminated a landline, please let us know your correct phone/cellphone number. If we aren't recognizing your birthday, then please provide that to me in the church office. Please contact Liz in the church office to make corrections or deletions: [secretary@lexmoumc.org](mailto:secretary@lexmoumc.org) or 660-259-2483.



# BACK-2-SCHOOL BASH



Left: Pastor Andrew was a hit with his balloon animals, making one here for Kathryn Roberts' granddaughter Nancy, with Sutton Eaton looking on. Right: Bailee Smith paints a decorative graphic on a youngster's wrist.



Left: Nancy (Kathryn Roberts' granddaughter) strikes a pose on the back of the fire engine, while Teri James' grandson, Hunter, does the same (right). Center: Sutton Eaton tries her hand at painting a graphic on a little girl's arm.

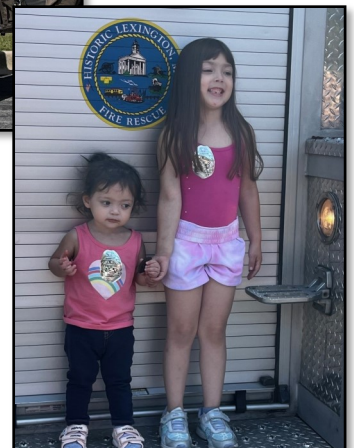


Left: The kids (and adults) loved checking out the Lexington Fire Engine and ambulance (not pictured) here for our Back-2-School Bash.

Above: A member of Lexington Fire & Rescue demonstrates the fire hose for the kids at the Back-2-School Bash. Right: Charlotte Reynolds, Phillip Davis' granddaughter checks out the inside of the fire engine.



Many thanks to everyone who organized and worked our Back-2-School Bash on Sept. 8th. Everyone had a blast. Additional thanks go to Jim Martin for arranging a Lexington fire truck and ambulance to be on hand, along with some of his responders who showed the kids how everything worked. Wishing the kids and teachers a wonderful school year! Right: Izzy & Emalie Negrete got a chance to stand on the back of the fire engine.



Sunday, October 6, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Job 1:1; 2:1-10

*God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.*  
—Augustine

Most of our readers have a lot of life experience. A lot! So you get it when I say that sometimes, life seems to have it in for us. I'm talking about the hard knocks of life; those times when we get hit with a punch that sends us plumb into next week.

Once in a while, life hurts, doesn't it? In the first and second chapters of Job, the ancient patriarch is hurting. In one day, he loses all his camels, sheep, donkeys, oxen, servants and even his ten children. And he ain't feelin' so good, either. He looks like a shadow of his former self. Among other health issues, he's stricken with sores that itch so bad he has to scrape them with shards of pottery. He wants to die. His illness makes Covid-19 look like a sneeze or a sniffle.

Job's friends gathered round, as we learn later in the book of Job. They knew every platitude in the book. Perhaps your friends have said to you in your time of despair, "Well, time heals all wounds." No, it doesn't. Or that friend who said when your infant grandchild died, "Guess God needed another little angel in heaven!" No, God didn't need another angel in heaven. Or, "God won't give you more than you can handle." Tell that to Job or all those who died before they could be delivered from danger.

The next logical move is then to ask "Why?" Why did a loved one die? Why is the world so wicked? Why do we live in a world where children suffer? Why are innocent people struck down because of the carelessness and recklessness of others?

In times of suffering, Job learned *to choose faith*. This is what the great heroes of the Bible did. In Hebrews 11:1, we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The text then identifies some of these heroes and heroines: Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, ... "Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight" (Hebrews 11:32-34).

They chose faith in their suffering. We can do no less.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Help me, O God, to choose faith when I face my hour of trial. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



Week of October 6, 2024

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 5-9

**Monday:** Ezekiel 37-41

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 42-48

**Wednesday:** Daniel 1-3

**Thursday:** Daniel 4-6

**Friday:** Daniel 7-12

**Saturday:** Psalms 112-114

## FALL FUN!

Unscramble the letters in each leaf below and write the word on the line provided. Each word is appropriate for the fall season. Notice the lowercase letters in the leaves. Unscramble these eight letters to form **two words** that reveal an American favorite, and write in the empty leaves below.

BREaM

RENOAG

AFLLeNN

MKppIUN

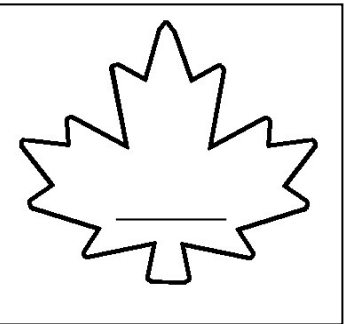
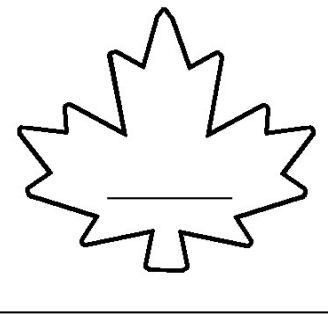
VEAIES

HCTENUSTS

HRAeVST

IELCpFAER

EiCRD



**SOLUTION:** BREAM=amber;  
 RENOAG=orange;  
 AFLLeNN=flannel;  
 MKppIUN=pumpkin;  
 VEAIES=leaves;  
 HCTENUSTS=chestnuts;  
 HRAeVST=harvest;  
 IELCpFAER=fireplace;  
 EiCRD=cider.  
**SECRET WORDS:** apple pie.

**October 6, 2024, is World Communion Sunday**



## Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-31

*Dear God, please find an easier way to teach me what I need to learn. —Anon.*

Curious about what our culture and society think are the most important lessons of life, I turned to the internet. I found scores of articles on the subject. One was called, “Five life lessons most people learn too late.” The lessons? Perception is reality; everything is temporary; the importance of being present; do what you love, love what you do; and being happy takes work.

Most authors of these articles had trouble narrowing down the most important life lessons. One writer’s essay was titled, “137 Valuable Life Lessons to Learn TODAY.” Others needed 20, 34, 35, 50 lessons to learn about living life well. Sort of misses the point.

I did run across one list that struck a chord, and so I pass it on to you now. The suggestions make sense, they are helpful and they dovetail with scripture.

### **Six Important Guidelines in Life**

1. When you are alone, mind your thoughts.
2. When you are with friends, mind your tongue.
3. When you are angry, mind your temper.
4. When you are with a group, mind your behavior.
5. When you are in trouble, mind your emotions.
6. When God starts blessing you, mind your ego.

Being able to master these reMINDers will go a long way to making your life a life of peace and joy.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, with your help, I will be MINDful of these ideas, as well as the wisdom of your word. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 10

**Monday:** Esther 1-2

**Tuesday:** Esther 3

**Wednesday:** Esther 4-5

**Thursday:** Esther 6-7

**Friday:** Esther 8-10

**Saturday:** Psalms 115-118

**The Letter “O”**

The nine words below are spelled correctly, except they are missing one letter — O. Use these incomplete words to complete the verse below where you will find all the missing O’s!

**S, NE, ANTHEr, GD, LVED, UGHr, T, ALS, LVE**

Dear friends, since \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_

\_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ us, we \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_

o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_

o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

*Verse to Remember*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*

—1 Corinthians 10:31

**BRAIN TEASERS:**

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left?

**October 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*“October made the leaves on Main Street fit for a crown. They dripped from the trees in jewel-toned shades: yellow and orange and fiery red. The cool wind sent a confetti-cluster of leaves down around us.” —Natalie Lloyd*

SOLUTION TO BRAIN TEASERS: 1: Washington, D.C. 2: nine. SOLUTION TO THE LETTER “O” PUZZLE: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” —1 John 4:11.



Sunday, October 20, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

*Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.*  
—John C. Maxwell

**B**ible scholars are not sure when Job lived, but many believe during the biblically blank, 400 year period between the death of Joseph and the birth of Moses. Moses was born around 1400 B.C. so Job probably was alive before then — anytime between roughly 1700 and 1400 B.C.

I mention this to give perspective to the recent discovery in southern Israel of a city gate believed to be more than 5,000 years old! If true, it was operational in the early Bronze Age, about the year 3500 B.C., making it the oldest gate ever discovered in Israel.

According to Emily Bischoff of the Israel Antiquities Authority, “This is the first time that such a large gate dating to the Early Bronze Age has been uncovered. ... This was not achieved by one or a few individuals. The fortification system is evidence of social organization that represents the beginning of urbanization.”

The Bible has much to say about gates. Gates were seats of authority (Ruth 4:11). Wisdom speaks at the gates (Proverbs 1:21). Councils of state were held at the gates (2 Chronicles 18:9).

We also read about the “gates of righteousness” (Psalm 118:19). The gates of the temple are mentioned in Psalm 24:9 and 100:4, among other places. And then there are prison gates (Acts 12:10, for example) and the “gates of hell” (Matthew 16:18 KJV, ESV).

Perhaps the most famous gate in the Bible is the “narrow gate.” “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Here, Jesus says that often we face two gates, or two paths, two doors. One is a tight and narrow; the other is wide. The broad gate is wide, easy, well-traveled and is bad news. The narrow gate, however, is hard, less popular but leads to life.

This discussion reminds us that life is often about choices. Perhaps you will have a choice today. Which gate will you choose?

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious God, I know that it is not always easy to do the right thing. May my decisions today be guided by the principles of your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 11-16

**Monday:** Ezra 1-4

**Tuesday:** Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-2

**Wednesday:** Zechariah 3-6

**Thursday:** Zechariah 7-10

**Friday:** Zechariah 11-14

**Saturday:** Psalm 119

*Verse to Remember*  
*Your word is a lamp to my feet*  
*and a light to my path.* —Psalm 119:105



## WATER GLASS PROBLEM

Take three (3) empty water glasses and put them in a row. Turn the first and third glasses upside down, but leave the middle glass right side up. *Your task is to get all the glasses right side up, but you must follow these rules:*

1. You have only three moves.
2. For each move, you must turn over two glasses at a time — never one at a time.

**SOLUTION TO CUP PROBLEM:**  
**First move:** Turn over the first and second glasses  
**Second move:** Turn over the first and third glasses  
**Third move:** Turn over the first and second glasses. At this point they should be all right side up.



- Answers to ROMAN NUMERALS:**
1. Tacoma
  2. Denver
  3. Dallas
  4. Miami
  5. Phoenix
  6. Atlanta
  7. Boise
  8. Cheyenne
  9. Helena
  10. Provo

## ROMAN NUMERALS

**Directions:** Add a Roman numeral to the scrambled word, and then unscramble to come up with a city in the United States.

**Example:**

iphsem + 1,000 = *Memphis*

1. moata + 100 = \_\_\_\_\_
2. eendr + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Isaad + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_
4. amii + 1,000 = \_\_\_\_\_
5. onepih + 10 = \_\_\_\_\_
6. natata + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_
7. sobe + 1 = \_\_\_\_\_
8. yeehne + 100 = \_\_\_\_\_
9. eeahan + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_
10. ropo + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_



Sunday, October 27, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Mark 10:46-52

*Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.*  
—Corrie ten Boom, in *Jesus Is Victor*

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The story of blind Bartimaeus is one of the most well-known of Jesus' miracles. Perhaps it was because there was one sense in which Bartimaeus could see — *really see*. He “saw” that Jesus was able to perform the impossible when all else had failed.

So when Jesus asked him what he wanted, he was quick to reply, “Let me see again” (v. 51).

In response to Bartimaeus' plea, Jesus declares, “Go; your faith has made you well” (v. 52). Wonder of wonders! Bartimaeus receives his sight and “followed Jesus on the way.” His physical sight is restored, but more importantly, his spiritual sight is awakened. And this was due, according to Jesus, to what his heart — without the use of his eyes — could see. This ability to see without the use of our senses is called *faith*.

What happened?

Faith is like a lens, and although Bartimaeus' *physical* lens was in some way defective, his *spiritual* lens was as clear as a spring day. The lens of faith is critical for our spiritual health. We need faith for salvation; in order to receive anything from the Lord, we must ask in faith; and we know that without faith we can't please God.

In fact, whatever is good and necessary for Christian living comes from God through faith.

Bartimaeus was in possession of that special lens — the lens described in Hebrews 11: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

This faith-lens of desperate hope and the conviction of the reality of unseen things empowered Bartimaeus to cast off his robes — anything that hindered him — and rush toward Jesus. Likewise, this same faith-lens helps us to see clearly and to grab the opportunities that come to us from God through Jesus Christ.

So, Jesus commends Bartimaeus for his faith, emphasizing the connection between faith and restoration and illustrating that true faith has the power to restore our spiritual sight, allowing us to see Christ for who he truly is — the Son of God and the source of mercy and salvation.

To sum up, perhaps Bartimaeus models for us the way we might deepen our relationship with God. This unfortunate beggar, blind for so many years, challenges us to examine our own hearts. Are we willing to recognize our spiritual blindness, approach Jesus with a desperate cry for mercy, persist in faith despite obstacles, and trust in his power to restore our sight?

— Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, open the eyes of my heart, that I may see. In your name. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Acts 19:11-41,

2 Corinthians 1-3

**Monday:** Ezra 5-7

**Tuesday:** Ezra 8-10

**Wednesday:** Nehemiah 1-3

**Thursday:** Nehemiah 4-6

**Friday:** Nehemiah 7-9

**Saturday:** Psalms 120-124

*Verse to Remember*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?*

*My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

—Psalm 121:1-2



**“C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!**

All correct answers begin with the letter C. Circle the correct answer.

1. What was Nehemiah’s occupation? centurion, cook, carpenter, cupbearer
2. Who was the Bible’s first murderer? Caleb, Cain, Caiaphas, Cush
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? Caesarea, Capernaum, Cana
4. Which of these books contains the great chapter about love? 2 Chronicles, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Corinthians
5. A man named Simon was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha for Jesus. Where was he from? Cyrene, Caesarea, Cush, Chicago
6. Which of these “C” words has nothing to do with the crucifixion of Jesus? crown, cross, Calvary, cypress

**ON THE RECORD!**

Who made the following statements as read in the Bible? Circle the correct answer.

1. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto you.” Peter, James, John, Paul
3. “What is truth?” Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. “Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!” Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. “Almost you persuade me to become a Christian.” Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. “Entreat me not to leave you for your people will be my people. Where you lodge, I will lodge.” Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. “I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith.” Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

**ANSWERS TO “C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!:** 1. cupbearer; 2. Cain; 3. Cana; 4. 1 Corinthians; 5. Cyrene; 6. cypress.  
**ANSWERS TO “ON THE RECORD!:** 1. Cain; 2. Peter; 3. Pilate; 4. Joshua; 5. Peter; 6. Herod Agrippa; 7. Ruth; 8. Paul.