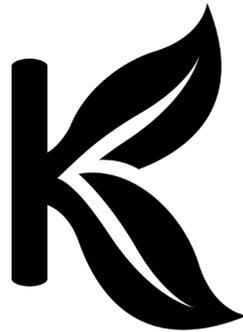


Week 2: August 21st - August 27th



KINGWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

More to Life.

Denominational Affiliation Prayer and Fasting Guide

KUMC 40 Days of Denominational Discernment

Proverbs 2:1-6

*My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
3 indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
4 and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

KUMC pastors and members are in a season of denominational discernment in preparation for a churchwide vote on September 25, 2022. Our community of faith is united in seeking the will of God through 40 days of prayer and fasting prior to voting.

In Scripture, 40 days refers to a time of trial, seeking, and testing. Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai when he received the 10 commandments, and Jesus endured 40 days in the wilderness before He began His earthly ministry to fulfill the Law. As a church family, KUMC will spend 40 days seeking the Lord's guidance through prayer and meditation, fasting, and listening as we discern our denominational direction.

Discernment begins with us listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Join in this process by opening your Bible to the scripture each day to read the Word of God, pray the prayers provided in addition to your own prayers, and listen for the many ways the Lord will reveal his will to you.

If you would like more information about the denominational discernment process, please visit kingwoodumc.org/affiliation.

Week 2

Sunday, August 21st | Day 7 - Discernment

Isaiah 42:16 MSG | *“But I’ll take the hand of those who don’t know the way,
who can’t see where they’re going.
I’ll be a personal guide to them,
directing them through unknown country.
I’ll be right there to show them what roads to take,
make sure they don’t fall into the ditch.
These are the things I’ll be doing for them—
sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute.”*

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, we ask You to take us by the hand and be our guide on this unfamiliar path. Show us the way to go and keep us from stepping off Your path. Teach us Your voice and give us Your wisdom. All of Your words are just and true, Your ways higher than ours and we trust You. Remove the distractions that keep us from hearing Your wisdom and insight and free us from anything that keep us from receiving Your divine guidance. We choose Your instruction over our own desires. Amen.

How do you need God to guide you personally?

Monday, August 22nd | Day 8 – Humility

1 Peter 5:5-6 MSG | *But all of you, leaders and followers alike, are to be down to earth with each other, for—God has had it with the proud, But takes delight in just plain people.*

So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Abba, we come to You as plain people aware that Your Spirit rests upon us. We humbly hand over our desires, anxieties, and preferences and yield them to Your will. Humility is the currency of Your kingdom and we desire it because it leads to freedom in You. Thank You for Your gentle and careful watch over us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What desire, anxiety, or preference is the Lord asking you to give to him?

Tuesday, August 23rd | Day 9 – Covenant

Exodus 19:3-6 | *Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”*

1 Peter 2:9 | *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Wednesday, August 24th | Day 10 – Prayer and Fasting

Every Wednesday, we will fast together at lunch time. Fasting is a period of time during which Christians deny themselves something (usually food) in order to spend that time feasting on the Word and will of God. If you are unable to fast from food, fast from technology, social media, or other activity you typically do at mid-day and devote that time to God in prayer and meditation.

After meeting the woman at the well, Jesus' disciples return to him and asked if he had eaten because he had no food. Jesus says to them, *"I have food to eat that you know nothing about. My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."* (John 4:32-34)

Prayer

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

God, we surrender this time to You in the name of Jesus and ask You, through your Holy Spirit, to make us aware of your presence. As we read Your Word, let it be food for our souls, renewing for our minds, and refreshment for our spirits. Like Jesus, let our food be doing Your will. Give us a craving for Your Word. Amen.

Confession and Repentance

Take time to confess your sins to God and return to Him. Give over to Him any worry, anxiety, or distraction of the day that may keep you from being fully present. Turn to God and yield this time to Him.

Scripture Meditation

Read the verses below several times pausing to recognize the thoughts that come to mind.

1 John 4:18 | *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through these verses? What nourishment, assurance, correction, or wisdom do you received from these verses?

Thursday, August 25th | Day 11 – Revelation

Ephesians 1:15-20 | *For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms....*

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Wonderful Father, thank you for this community of believers and the love they have for Jesus. Give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know your heart. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to see and experience the great power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at Your right hand. Teach us to live as the holy people You created us to be. All glory, honor, dominion, and power belong to you, Jesus, and it is in Your name we pray. Amen.

What do you want the Lord to reveal to you?

Friday, August 26th | Day 12 – Cleansing

Psalm 51:10 | *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Gracious Father, we humble our hearts before You knowing that we can only stand in Your presence because of the grace we receive through the cleansing blood of Christ. Wash us with living water and purify our hearts. Holy Spirit, bring us into communion with You and help us receive the refreshment of forgiveness. Make us one in You, a redeemed people. We want to live in perfect peace with you. Amen.

How is your soul?

Saturday, August 27th | Day 13 - Prayers for Pastors and Leaders

Galatians 5:22-26 | *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

O Lord, we thank You for Your love that greets us every morning. We praise You for Your faithfulness and mercy which are new each day. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

God, we commend our pastors and leaders to Your tender mercies and provision for their health and wellbeing, safety and protection, and their ministry. Today we pray for the fruits of the spirit in the lives of our leaders and pastors. We pray that love, joy, peace, and patience will guide; that kindness and goodness will walk with them; that faithfulness will be their banner, and that gentleness and self-control will steer their course. Help our pastors and leaders to see each person today through Your eyes. And help them to see You in the pastors and leaders who serve KUMC. Thank You for the pastors and leaders who answer the call to serve Your Church. Amen.

What are some ways you can support KUMC pastors and leaders this week?

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



@kingwoodumc
kingwoodumc.org
(281) 358-2137