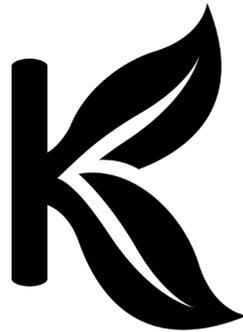


Week 4: September 5th - September 11th



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 25th, 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 4

Monday, September 5th | Day 22 - Peace

Matthew 5:9 | *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

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 Jesus, by Your example, help us to be bearers of peace through our words and actions. Your death for us on the cross reminds us that peace is not the absence of conflict, but the interruption of violence, pain, and suffering by love, comfort, and healing. This is why You give us Your peace and You trust us to be stewards of peace. Show us when and how to be a disarming presence that leads from fear to love, deception to honesty, and hate to peace. Let us not settle for calm that is counterfeit peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Where is God asking you to be a peacemaker?

Tuesday, September 6th | Day 22 – Community

Acts 2:42-44 | *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.*

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, You have a plan for Your people to live together in community. Bring us into authentic community that challenges us and leads to spiritual maturity in Christ. Help us each day to die to our own desires and live for each other so that we will all know You personally and not just know about You, Lord. Please lead us into relationship with people who know You deeply so that we can link arms with them and walk with You. Give us the courage and conviction to center our relationships around You, Jesus. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Where is God offering you opportunities to be in community with other believers?

Wednesday, September 7th | Day 23 - 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

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.

Scripture Meditation

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

Ezekiel 37:9-10 | *Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

Thursday, September 8th | Day 24 - Trust

Romans 15:13 | *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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 of hope, we put our trust in You. We rejoice when we are reminded of Your faithfulness to us. Today, bring to our minds the ways You have carried us, protected us, healed us, and bound our broken hearts. We can be sure that we will endure change and hardships, but Your trustworthiness is our source of hope and we can take heart that You will not abandon us. Let these reminders strengthen us so that our hope in You overflows into the world that so desperately needs hope. Amen.

When has God carried you, protected you, healed you, or bound your broken heart?

Friday, September 9th | Day 25 - Doers of the Word

James 1:22-25 | *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*

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.

Holy Spirit, we ask that You stir up love and longing for Your Word in us. Teach us to be participants on the kingdom team and not just fans in the stands. Forgive us when we make excuses for not showing up when You've called on us to come join you. Give us opportunities to join You and surround us with encouragers to spur us on to love and good works. Let us experience the joyful freedom of being part of Your work in the world. In your name, Jesus. Amen.

Where is God calling you to participate?

Saturday, September 10th | Day 26 – Prayers for Pastors

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 | *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with 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.

Loving Lord, KUMC is blessed to have the pastors You have brought to our congregation. Thank You for them and for their families. We pray Your blessings of strength and rest over them as they answer your daily call to serve Your Church. Lead them and protect them as they faithfully prepare to deliver Your Word, lead us, comfort the sick, attend meetings, teach, and make themselves available to us. Strengthen their marriages, children, friendships, and working relationships. Send them little encouragements from the congregation or others and give them times of rest each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How are you praying for pastors' spouses and children today?

Sunday, September 11th | Day 27 - Grace

Psalm 103:8 | *The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*

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.

Father, we are grateful for the grace You give so that we may come to You in our sin and brokenness to receive Your mercy and forgiveness. Thank You for not holding our sin against us but washing us clean and making us new over and over again. Through Your Holy Spirit, help us to show the same grace and mercy to others who hurt us, and with whom we do not agree. Lord, we ask for healing of our heart wounds and the wounds we have inflicted on others. Increase in us the fruit of Your spirit so that we may be more like Jesus. In His name. Amen.

To whom do you need to give the gift of grace and mercy?

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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