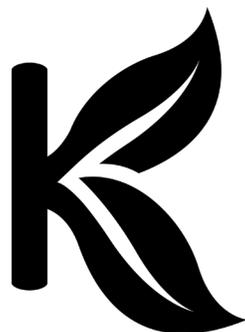


Week 5: September 12th - September 18th



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 5

Monday, September 12th | Day 28 - Awakening

Ephesians 5:13-14 | *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

Ezekiel 37:11-14 | *Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”*

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.

Come, Holy Spirit, and wake us up! Shine Your light on our slumber and our comfortable habits that steal away space for You in our lives. Show us what we have buried inside of us that needs to be brought to life so that Your kingdom will flourish. Through Your lovingkindness, bring us to repentance so that we may handover the hardness of our hearts and receive a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit. Breathe new life into Your people, in our relationships, and renew our minds. Rekindle the flame of the Spirit in us so that every person we meet will know the love of Christ. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

How are you praying for an awakening?

Tuesday, September 13th | Day 29 - The Lost

Luke 15:11-22 | *Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.*

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

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 Father, we pray for the lost to return to You. Thank You for watching over them and calling to them while they wander. You will not abandon them. As Your family, we watch with You, pray with You, and stand ready to receive them in love. As they walk through difficulty, and in desperate places, we ask You to surround them with people who know You and will lead them to You. We pray that You will reveal yourself to them and they will know they are seen, known, heard, and loved. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Who are the lost you are praying for today?

Wednesday, September 14th | Day 30 - 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.

Matthew 28:18-20 | *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

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

Thursday, September 15th | Day 31 – Hope

Hebrews 10:23 MSG | *So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

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, You always keep Your Word. Your promises keep us going when we hold to them and keep our eyes fixed on You. Help us to remember that when we worship together, serve together, pray and fellowship together we are a visible sign of the hope we have in You. We pray that we worship, serve, pray, and fellowship with enthusiasm and joy so that the world will know our steadfast hope, Jesus. Amen.

When have you see the body of Christ as a visible sign of hope to the world?

Friday, September 16th | Day 32 - Fruit of the Spirit

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.

Lord Jesus, we belong to You. We confess that often we fail to behave like Your beloved. We have gossiped, slandered, and spoken in anger against each other. Forgive us, we pray. We ask You to increase in us Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control so that Your Church produces the most beautiful and delicious fruit. Help us to die to self each day so that there is less of us and more of You for the world to see. Let them know that we are Christians by the way we love each other through our words and actions. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What fruit of the Spirit would others say they see in your life?

Saturday, September 17th | Day 33 - Prayers for Pastors and Leaders

Isaiah 53:5 | *But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

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.

Jesus, we thank You for Your Word that reminds us that 'by your wounds we are healed.' You have pardoned our sins and restored us to Your favor. You have suffered in our places. Lord, we pray that You would grant healing for our pastors and leaders. Let Your healing power flow over them and touch every organ and function of their bodies. Let Your healing pour over their hearts and heal their emotional and spiritual wounds. We pray that they feel the peacefulness of Your healing and restoration today. Lord, show us ways to support and lift them up so that they will be strengthened by our love for them. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

How are you praying for KUMC leaders today?

Sunday, September 18th | Day 34 – Praise

Psalm 104:33-34 | *I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

*34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the Lord.*

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. Today we pray these words of praise written for your honor and glory.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing | Written by Charles Wesley, 1739

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.
Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened
tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold Your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.
Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
In Christ your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins
forgiven;
Anticipate your heaven below, and know that love is heaven.
He speaks and, listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.
On this the day the glorious Sun of Righteousness arose
On my benighted soul He shone and filled me with repose.
Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.
Amen.*

In what ways do you give praise to the Lord?

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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