



We have spent time in Advent seeking the true meaning of meeting the Messiah. Christmas is over, and the new year is coming. In the following year, I ask you to create a way to keep the Christmas spirit in your hearts all year round, since God wants us to remember how much He loves the world and what it means for Him to send His Son to us. I would like to suggest some ideas to grow your spirituality, which we have practiced during the Advent spiritual nights.

First, make a daily plan for the whole year to read the Bible. You will receive the 52-week Bible Reading Plan this year again. If you have already started reading the Bible with this plan, please continue with the same plan. If you haven't tried reading the whole Bible yet, I strongly encourage you to make a decision to do so this year. You will get to know God better and more deeply and will have a closer relationship with Him.

Second, write a journal, daily or weekly, about some of the great things God has done for you. You will be surprised how many great things God has provided you with, and how awesome and graceful God you have.

Third, develop your dynamic prayer life using Scriptures, Hymnal, Saints prayers, and the Lord Prayer: Use scriptures when you pray. Many scriptures will give you examples of how to pray, when to pray, and what to pray for: Use hymns when you pray. Hymns are prayers with melodies. We have many beautiful hymns that show who God is, what God has

done for His people, what kind of Messiah Jesus is, and what he has done for our salvation. It is a shame if we sing two or three hymnal songs only on Sunday mornings. Sing it aloud so that God will hear you and answer you: Use Saints prayers when you pray. We as Protestant Christians do not pray to Saints. However, we can use the prayers when we pray to God since those prayers teach us how to pray and why we should trust and obey God; We have already seen what kinds of benefits we can get when we pray the Lord Prayer with our intention.

Fourth, when you pray for yourself and your neighbors, make a list of prayers each week. During the Advent spiritual nights, we prayed for our members, the community, our church, and the UMC. When we prayed, we were given a list of whom we should pray for on the night and the whole next week. Make a list each week and pray to God. God opens His ears and hearts to your prayers.

I hope you remind that God wants us to keep our Christmas spirits all year round and remember that through our Messiah we are given a new status as Peter says, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.”

May the Lord bless and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you, and may the Lord be gracious on to you!

Blessings,
Hyesook



a message from **BISHOP TRIMBLE**



I'm not leaving the Church!

My grandparents, Julius and Lucile Pryor, and parents, John and Marybelle Pryor Trimble, were members of Old Ship African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church in Montgomery, Ala. My mother, who is 96 years old, still remains connected to, and shares a part of her tithe with, Old Ship AME Zion. Established in 1852, Old Ship AME Zion Church is listed as the oldest black church in Montgomery, Alabama. This historic church was served by white ministers until 1862. Its original building was given to the congregation by the Court Street Methodist Church which is now First United Methodist of Cloverdale, Alabama.

When my parents were married and moved to Chicago, they chose the nearest Methodist church within walking distance as our family had grown and, at the time, my parents were raising six children. Christ Methodist Church, now Christ United Methodist Church, a community-based church on the Southside of Chicago became our home. It was out of Christ Church that I was confirmed and became active in MYF

(Methodist Youth Fellowship). It was at Christ Church I was able to attend Methodist camps and participate in Young Life urban ministries such as going camping in Boulder, Colorado. It was at Christ Church that the Bible came alive and peace and justice were never divorced from evangelistic efforts aimed at becoming disciples of Jesus, bringing others to Jesus, and professing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

While shooting pool at Africa University with students this past October, I was able to share that it was at my church where I first learned to play ping pong and shoot pool. The church was a place of belonging and affirmation, and out of this inner-city Chicago church over 25 men and women expressed a call to ministry – some of us remain connected today.

The early disputes, I remember, in our church were related to the addition of a Gospel Choir and drums in the church, pastoral authority, and how welcoming we would be to outside groups who wanted to use the church building. Over the course of 25 years, even after I had left the church for college and seminary, there were several chapters in the life of the church when a handful of people would leave for a more popular church, a safer neighborhood, a senior choir dispute, the length of worship service, or the proverbial “I’m not getting fed the Word” excuse. My mother never left. She never stopped tithing and she never stopped praying for whoever the pastor assigned to our church was. After being widowed in 1969, it was the church that walked with my mother and our family in grief. It was the church that helped this public school teacher raise six children, sending five off to college.

Our church was not perfect and we did not always get the welcoming piece right. Like many churches, we became comfortable with the people we knew and the ministries we supported.

People moved away to different communities, young people went off to college and the military in the church would decline in number, rebound and decline again. Some people stayed and served meals in one of the largest feeding programs in that part of Chicago based in the church. Some continued to support children and youth who often came without parents. And some stayed committed to weekly prayer and Bible study, and the ministry of encouragement.

My mother was and is one of those persons. On the matter of getting spiritually-fed, she has always believed that we each have a responsibility to read the Bible and participate in Bible study. "When I go to church on Sunday I have already had breakfast, prayed, and read daily devotions." She, to this day, writes and sends notes and letters of prayer support and encouragement all over the country to family and friends, including to those who share with her the experience of losing their spouse to death.

My mother would be considered in our current debate on the way forward, a Traditionalist with progressive beliefs about full inclusion. For her, it is God who judges and we who have the opportunity and responsibility to love God and others. Her roots are too deep to leave the church.

People did not leave the Church even though they were slaves in 1852, and Methodists were slave owners. The Church remained segregated until 1968 and people stayed

committed to the mission. People did not leave the Church even though God was calling women to preach and the Church did not have open doors, minds, or encouragement. People did not leave the Church even though some believe the death penalty does not honor the commandments in the Bible and is denounced in the Book of Discipline while other United Methodists believe that the death penalty is an appropriate dispensation of justice for those convicted of capital offenses.

The Judicial Council has ruled on the three main proposals and their constitutional legality, giving more direction for those who will deliberate and vote next February.

What should we do? Let us commit to “Praying Our Way Forward.”

No prayer no power, little prayer little power, much prayer much power!

The 2016 General Conference authorized the Council of Bishops to help our church remain united in mission and find a way forward out of our long-standing conflict over human sexuality and inclusion. Lost in much of the debate around Biblical authority, and justice and inclusion is the keyword associated with the Commission established to propose options for us to stop fighting and re-engage in our public mission of evangelism and world transformation.

The Commission on A Way Forward was established with a focus on a new horizon for The United Methodist Church. Lost in the translation of Christian Conferencing Guidelines and protracted debates about language in our book of Discipline is the compelling call for a more helpful and fresh

Wesleyan movement to frame our passion for grace and growth.

“A way forward.” As an adverb, forward means “to or toward what is ahead or in front.”

As a verb.....” to promote or help onward; advance, cultivate, encourage, fasten, further, incubate, innovate, nourish, nurture.”

When I left the Council of Bishops meeting after having received the last update from the Commission on A Way Forward I discerned that the conversation to lead us out of the present conundrum was centered on “a way forward.”

Not a way back. Not a way out. Not a way to create winners and losers, insiders and outsiders.

Not a way to devour or destroy. Not a way to divide, or to quit. Not a way to sugar coat new forms of segregation or redefine the denomination.

As the Hymn writer puts it;

“Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall,
in each loss or triumph, lose or conquer all.
Bound by God’s far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.

Forward through the ages!”

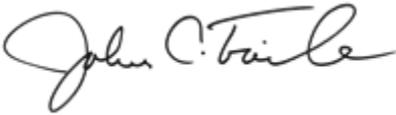
(The United Methodist Hymnal Number 555)

I’m not leaving regardless of what proposal or plans are passed. You don’t have to leave either.

Stay true to the primary mission of making disciples of Jesus and sharing the love of Jesus with one another as commanded in John 13:34-35:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (NRSV)

Remember dearly beloved, we are not voted into the Church, we are baptized into the Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julius C. Trimble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble





BIRTHDAYS

- 4- Jack Warne
- 7- Kelly Williams
- 10- Randy Freebourn, Sr.
- 14- Paul DeBarge

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2- Greg and Frances Jordan
- 22- Jack and Cleota Warne

Servants in Action

January 2018

	Ramp Greeters
1/6/19	John & Nancy Tillema
1/13/19	Jack & Cleota Warne
1/20/19	Dick & June Brewer
1/27/19	Jennie Kellner
	Front Door Greeters
1/6/19	Joanne Ziese
1/13/19	Cam & Sonya Bales
1/20/19	Phil & Dee Malavolta
1/27/19	Karen Lattimore

January Ushers: John Smith, Shawn Johnson, Dave Colbert, & Jason Stowers to fill-in.

Children's Sermon

1/6/19	Trudy Bales
1/13/19	Christine Colbert
1/20/19	Morey Johnson
1/27/19	Pam Meyers



*Help to carry one another's burdens.
(Galatians 6:2)*

~ Brushwood Prayer Concerns ~



Our Church: The Indiana Conference, Bishop Trimble, The North West District, CS Lore Blinn Gibson, Assistant District Superintendent's Lamar Imes, Rob Seewald, and Hugh Rohrer.

Our Nation: Congress, President Trump, Governor Eric Holcomb, other officials. Those in position of authority.

Our Military: Amber Buster (Laney): Florida (Dee & Phil Malavolta), Douglas Siedelmann: Army-Kuwait .

Our Missionaries: Wertzes – Tanzania, Evan and Lydia Smith with CRU Missions at IL University.

In Ministry: Wayne Williams, appointed to Mt Ayr UMC and Morocco First UMC. Hal & LuAnn Cohn appointed to Kewanna UMC. Chris Kosary, appointed to Raub UMC. Jodi Kosary appointed to Wolcott UMC.

Our Shut-ins: Bethel Britt, Sharon Patrick, & Mimi Baird.

Those we lift in Prayer: Dwight Williams, Mimi Baird, Jack Warne, Roy Finch, Jim Paschke, and George & Joan Fox.

Our 10:15am Worship Service: Our Attendees – those returning to church, those seeking a church, those seeking God

January Dates to Remember

2nd- NO AM/PM Bible Study

12th- IMPACT Session 8:30am

14th-UMW 3pm

17th- SPRC 5:30pm

20th-Church Council After Service

23rd- Sr. Saints 11:30am

31st- SPRC 5:30

Bible study will be every Wednesday unless otherwise stated at 9am and 5pm.

Announcements

Worship Service Times have Changed!

Sunday School 9am
Fellowship: 9:45-10:10am
Worship: 10:15am

**Please fill out the blank calendar on
the welcome center with any
upcoming events. Frances will
collect it on Jan. 21st to put events
in the Feb. Newsletter.**

If you have a local event that you like posted on the bulletin board or in the weekly church bulletin, please place it in the Secretary's mailbox or leave a voicemail at (219) 866-3933 with the date, time, location, and a brief description of the event