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August 3, 2021

Hello church family and friends!

Have you ever walked into your day, maybe a particularly full or even distracted type of day, and just felt off-kilter? And then at some point realized that God was maybe trying to get your attention and you need to sit still and listen? And then, instead of doing that, brushed off that feeling and gone ahead with the Very Important Things that needed doing? And then eventually really regretted that?

I have. More than once, even. Maybe you, like me, wonder why you don't know better by now, for Pete's sake.

This past Sunday morning, I was excited about the scripture passages and the theme of spiritual growth we are working through together. I was really looking forward to sharing the Lord's Supper together, and spent my prayer and devotional time early that morning praying for each of you by name, and for any who might join us for the first time. But as I rehearsed and edited my sermon, and dressed and drove to the church, and began the little tasks to get ready for worship, I felt increasingly distracted and off-kilter. (Please see first paragraph, above.) About halfway through my sermon, I felt the results of not sitting still and paying attention as I stumbled over something that I suddenly felt was important to say, but that I hadn't sat and prayed with in order to know how (or if) God wanted me to say it.

So naturally, that something has been rattling around in my mind and heart ever since.

In Philippians 2, as Paul is expressing his heart and giving his testimony about the miracle of Jesus Christ, he writes that one day "every knee shall bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father." This is our great hope, and our goal as servants of God, for ourselves and all the world. It gives me tremendous peace and hope to think of that day; I hope it does you, too. I know, though, that when many of us hear passages like this one we wonder, what about those who *can't* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? Who hear passages like this one, and are repelled by them? Like, those who have been abused by Christians or by the church, and have fled from that hurt. Or those who have never heard the name of Jesus. Or those who claim Jesus' name but don't live to follow him, and certainly don't want *\*everyone\** to get the reward. Or those who think they are following him, but are believing and doing it all wrong. Are they lost?

Some say yes, and that is why it is SO IMPORTANT that we share the gospel far and wide. And they may be right. But I know that God knows and claims us, every single one. I know that God looks on the heart, far deeper than we humans can look. I know that, in this life, we see through a glass dimly and know only in part. And I know that Paul expected, and we can expect, that through the power of God and the love and grace of Jesus Christ one day EVERY knee shall bow, every tongue confess, every life glorify, every heart rejoice that Jesus Christ is Lord. Even if that day comes in the next life, when all is fully known, rather than in this one.

Friends, I expect that we will be very, very surprised by who joins us in paradise. That is a great joy to me, because it represents miraculous healing and mercy. And God knows, I need that mercy, too.

Standing on the promises,

Pastor Dawn

# Worship Any and Everywhere!



## THE RACE: The Power of the Team

This week we continue our worship series based in Hebrews 12:1-3 and Timothy 4:7 and quite a few other passages that use the metaphor of athletics to talk about the Christian life. Inspired by the athletes competing this year in the Olympics, last week we talked about the effort, focus, and commitment we should be putting in to our life in faith. This week, we remember that we don't do any of it alone. We'll talk about how to connect with

Christian friends, and the importance of having good friends to love, challenge, and root for us. You might like to read and pray with Hebrews 10:24-25, and Galatians 6:2 as you prepare your heart for worship. See you Sunday.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

*Hebrews 12:1-2a*

## News and Fun Stuff

### August Special Offering

Every month at Epworth, we take a special offering for a particular ministry or need at the church. This is separate from your general fund giving, that pays the bills and provides the base support for all that we do...it's a special thing that your Finance Team has noticed needs special attention. In the coming months, special offerings will go to things like children's ministries, hospitality, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other things. **This month, our special offering is to cover the replacement cost of our new swamp cooler.** If your heart is moved to help fund that, just note on your check or your offering envelope what it's for. And thank you in advance for your generosity!

### Membership and Pizza with the Pastor

Learn about the church, make some new friends, talk about what it means to be a member of Epworth UMC, and discuss whatever else is on our minds. Plus free pizza! First Sunday of every month at noon, at Pizza Barn. If you can't make it, or if you prefer, Pastor Dawn would be happy to meet with you whenever it works best for your schedule. You can always reach her at 775-671-5553.

### Be a part of the Labor Day Parade!

Help design the float, put it together the day before, or (and!) ride on the float to represent Epworth to our community. And especially, **we need candy** to toss to the kiddos! Nothing that will melt in the hot sun, please, but anything else is welcome. Bring candy here to worship on Sundays, or to the office on Mondays or Tuesdays. Thank you!!

## August Birthdays!

Sophia Jeffs, 8/2  
Jim Foster, 8/4  
^Robert McCallum, 8/5  
Debbie Mills, 8/6  
Brody Hughes, 8/7  
John Miller, 8/8  
Ann Rapp, 8/10  
Steve Russell, 8/10  
Sylvia Fausey, 8/12  
Barbie Hertz, 8/12  
Sue Ansoategui, 8/14  
Donna Strickland, 8/19  
Tim Bennett, 8/20  
Ayden Butcher, 8/20  
Logan Butcher, 8/20  
Carol Roeder, 8/26  
Kay Knudtsen, 8/29  
Susan Hurd, 8/30  
^Jerry Ivey, 8/31

*^Our beloved members who have passed away. We are so grateful for their lives, and their presence in ours.*

## Life Line Health Screening on Wed, August 18

Life Line will be giving health screenings here at Epworth, in our Fireside Room, all day on Wednesday August 18. Your insurance may cover the cost. Because we are hosting, we have a few free screenings to give away! To sign up for an appointment, call 1-800-772-8260. To take advantage of the free ones, call the church office and we will print you a copy of the certificate to bring with you to your appointment.

## New Adult Bible Studies

We are gearing up for new Bible studies to start next month, and we would love to hear from you. Is there a particular topic you'd like to learn more about? A book or an author you love, that you think would make a good study? Give Kelly Frost a call via the church office to talk about it, 423-4714.

## Mark Your Calendars! Church in the Park on August 29

Join us for worship and a breakfast pot luck in Oats Park on Sunday, August 29 at 9:00am. Praise God, and bless the neighborhood with music, prayer, and scripture all at the same time. It's a ways off, but be sure to remember sunscreen, water, and a fold up chair. Let us know if you need a chair, and we will bring some from church. 😊

## Epworth Choir Returns!!

Your choir has missed singing, and we have so missed their gift of music in worship! ANYONE who loves to sing is enthusiastically invited to join us for rehearsals every Thursday at 7:00pm beginning on Thursday, August 26. Join us, too, for a welcome potluck that same day – Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> – at 6:00pm.

## Men's Breakfast

See you bright and early for breakfast, prayer, and fellowship beginning the first Monday in August, at 6:30am in the Wolf Center dining room. For more info, call the church office at 423-4714 or Jim Wieboldt at 619-302-3362.

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CARCANO

### The Dixie Fire: Cultivating a Culture of Preparedness

Our faith family across California and Nevada are watching and praying as the Dixie Fire engulfs our communities in the north. We follow the news feeling helpless as the acres burn, homes are destroyed, and lives are forever changed by this erratic, extreme fire complex. Dry lightning and tornados spawned by the fire and smoke complicate response and recovery efforts. So, we wait.

But as people of faith, we are never helpless for we know that God is with us and especially with those who are suffering. Even in this time of waiting we are able to act. We will pray for God's mercy as we also pray to become agents of God's mercy by praying with our hands and feet.

**YOUR CHURCH LEADERS  
welcome your ideas,  
questions, concerns, and  
participation!  
Call the church office for  
contact info ☺**

**Pastor Dawn**  
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**Council Chair**  
Grant Mills

**Lay Leaders**  
Doug Coval &  
Kathy Fraker

**Finance Team**  
Jeanie Fahl  
Jake Coval  
Laura Ivey

**SPRC**  
Kathy Reynolds  
Maggie Neidigh  
Barbara Evans

**Outreach**  
Pastor Dawn

**Welcome & Nurture**  
Margaret Knox

**Adult Education**  
Kelly Frost

**Adult Ministries**  
Barbie Hertz

**Kids and Families**  
Ashlee McGarity

**Music**  
Jackie Warburton

**Missions/FDB**  
Kathy Fraker

**Hospitality**  
Kathy Reynolds  
& Judy Kroll

**EUMC Food Pantry & Help  
Ministries**  
Margaret Knox

**UMW**  
Judy Pritchard

**Scouting**  
Steve Endacott

We face this fire, as we have faced those in the past and will face those to come in what promises to be a historically catastrophic fire season, by building upon our California-Nevada Conference's culture of preparedness.

Right now, our financial support is crucial. Our dollars make gift cards, hotel rooms, groceries, and clean water possible for our brothers and sisters affected by the Dixie Fire and their calls for help are coming. [Go to [www.cnumc.org/offices](http://www.cnumc.org/offices) and click on "disaster relief"] to donate to our California-Nevada Conference Disaster Relief Fund. [Or go to <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>] to send your financial support to UMCOR which supports fire relief and recovery throughout the Western US.

Many of you have donated your time and money to prepare fire buckets and sifters. Because of you, more than 500 fire buckets are ready to be sent forth to help those who need them. Thank you! These vital fire tools are stowed in our 4 Conference depots close to areas that tend to be most impacted by wildfires. Many of you have also been trained to walk with families who have been affected by fires. I give God thanks for your willingness to extend a helping hand and a listening ear in these ways and so many others. God can use your good hearts and your willing spirits to respond to the present need.

Steve Elliott, California-Nevada Conference Volunteers in Mission coordinator reminds us that, "Our Conference response to wildfires is very much a ministry of presence - walking along side those in need." Here are several ways Steve suggests we can train and prepare for service:

1. Register to become a disaster response volunteer. You will be notified about training and service opportunities.
2. Commit to being trained: Introduction to Volunteering in a Wildfire Response or the Basic Early Response Team Training are both available.
3. Offer to serve on one of our wildfire response efforts, either short term during the relief phase or later on during the recovery/rebuilding phase.
4. Access our disaster response ministry web page at <https://www.cnumc.org/disasterresponse>, and find downloadable resources on how to build a fire bucket and how to get involved in being part of the recovery.

If you would like a virtual or in person presentation on wildfire volunteering contact Steve Elliott, [UMVIMCoordinator@calnevumc.org](mailto:UMVIMCoordinator@calnevumc.org).

If you are interested in preparing much needed wildfire buckets contact Sonja Edd-Bennett, [sonjaeb@calnevumc.org](mailto:sonjaeb@calnevumc.org), for details on what is required for fire buckets and where they are most needed.

We are called to be God's agents of mercy, especially in this season. Let us together pray with our hearts, hands, and feet as we help our local churches and communities face the Dixie fire!