

Journey Guide

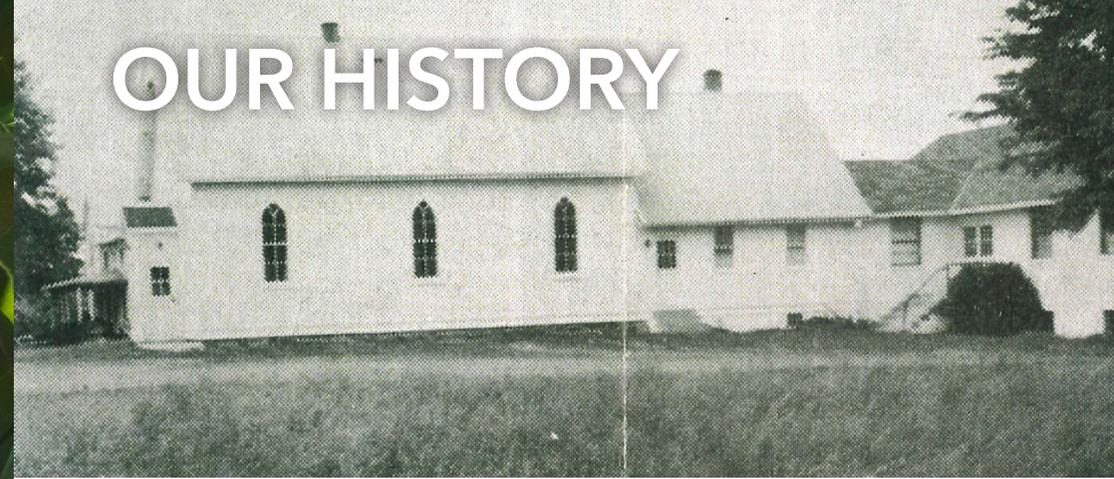
dream 
what God will do through us



dream

OUR HISTORY

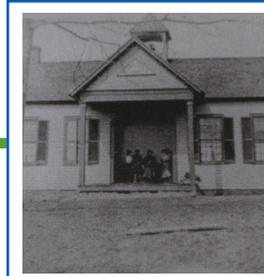
OUR HISTORY



It all started in a school. As early as 1892 worship services were held at the Frying Pan School, a one-room building that once stood near the four-room brick building that now stands at Frying Pan Park. In 1891, the church, listed as Frying Pan church, was included for the first time in a list of five other churches that was called the "Dranesville Circuit". The church arose from a motivation to help people transform their lives through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The first pastor reflected on the spiritual needs of the community and fledgling congregation when, on May 16, 1891, he wrote in

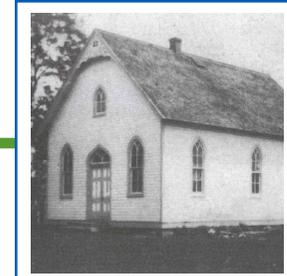
the record of the first quarterly conference, "The general condition of this circuit, all things being considered, is fairly good... but let us be deeply impressed that the spiritual condition is not what it should be. More earnestness, faith, and spirituality are needed."

The Frying Pan church would have never started without help from the larger Methodist connection. By 1895 the church name was recorded as "Floris", so that its name would match the newly established post office in the community. Along with a desire for a vital faith, the congregation



1892

Worship services were held at the Frying Pan School.



1895

First Floris church building was built.

wanted to reach others in the community, and began plans to build a church facility where people could find a church home. In 1895, the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South gave \$100 to Floris to erect a church building, which was built later that year. Members and friends of the church did much of the work and covered the remaining costs of construction with generous contributions. Over the years, members of Floris were willing to widen the circle for those searching for a community in which to worship and to live. As the community grew and more people became a part of the congregation, additions were made to the church facility including rooms for children's Sunday School, a fellowship hall and a kitchen.

Floris Church was the center of its community. At the same time the church was involved in community outreach, Floris members reached out to offer programs and ministries that blessed the lives of local residents, displayed compassion to those in need and

met real needs of those who lived in the area. The Sanctuary was the only auditorium for miles. The church opened it to community groups who held conferences, lectures and concerts. Liberty bond rallies and drives for the Red Cross were held during World War I. Outdoor festivals and social occasions for all ages were conducted. Graduation exercises for the nearby high school were held in the church as late as 1917. Floris members opened their doors and let a Presbyterian congregation hold worship services in the sanctuary while their building was constructed. Scrap metal drives were held on church property to support troops during World War II.

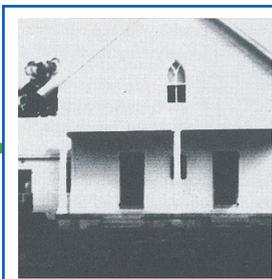
While all these activities took place, the desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ remained constant. During the pastorate of Rev. W. Boyd Bryant, 1937-1941, a second church site was established in the community around the current Navy Elementary School. Services were held in a blacksmith shop. When Rev. Bryant could no longer lead

these services due to illness, the minister of Floris Presbyterian Church took over. From this beginning the Presbyterian Chapel at Navy became the Presbyterian Church at Pender. Floris' commitment to make disciples has never been about building a bigger church. It has been about helping to usher in the Kingdom of God and bless the lives of our neighbors.

It wasn't always easy. There were years and even decades after the children of founding families grew up and moved away, that the membership of Floris United Methodist Church was in decline. The church continued to focus on the basics of congregational life: worship services that were relevant and rooted in the Christian tradition, Bible study for adults, ministries for youth and children, events that welcomed the community, congregational care that communicated love and offered help in time of need and acts of charity and mercy that benefited the poor and vulnerable locally and around the world through the denomination.

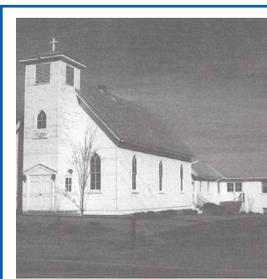
Over time those efforts created fertile ground for the growth of the church.

The community is always changing. The construction of Dulles Airport in the late 1950s, changed the area as dairy farms became subdivisions. People from around the world became residents of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. Soon the church was full of new neighbors who were looking for a church home. Floris UMC had to again decide if it would widen its circle to welcome the community or if it would stay in an existing property that was at capacity. Land was purchased just south of the original building. In 1993 the congregation moved to the new Sanctuary and educational facility at 2930 Centreville Road. Within six years it became evident that the facility and property would be too small to accommodate the continued growth of the church and surrounding community. The congregation responded with the purchase of its current property at 13600 Frying Pan Road, just north of the very first church.



1937

A second church site was established then Floris Presbyterian Church took over.



1950

Children's rooms, a fellowship hall and a kitchen were added.



1993

The congregation moved to a new Sanctuary and educational facility.



2001

Floris UMC bought property off of Frying Pan Road for a new church facility,

Floris UMC raised \$125,000 for Sierra Leone to found the Child Rescue Center

In 1999, the Rev. John Yambasu, a pastor from Sierra Leone, Africa, preached at Floris UMC and told the congregation about the suffering that people in his country had endured during the decade-long civil war there. The congregation felt moved to respond. Floris UMC used the coming of the year 2000 as an opportunity for a Millennial Offering with the goal of collecting \$25,000 to start a ministry to orphaned children in the city of Bo. By the end of December, Floris UMC had raised more than \$125,000 and in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone founded the Child Rescue Centre. This ministry brought energy and vitality to the church and today, a partnership of 16 churches work together through the non-profit Helping Children Worldwide, Inc., to support the

ministries at the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital.

In April 2006, Floris UMC moved into the first phase of the current facility. The second phase was completed in July 2010, and included a 900-seat Sanctuary, the Gathering Space and related meeting rooms. Many were concerned that an ambitious construction project might divert the attention of the church from its focus on blessing those who were in need. During this time, the congregation made an intentional effort to work with and support organizations in the community that care for persons who are homeless, mentor and serve children at Hutchison Elementary School, continue to support and expand the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, build Methodist parsonages and a church in Cuba, perform relief work in Haiti and in the United States and create a student ministry program with a strong mission emphasis. Floris UMC members also began a tradition of giving away the annual Christmas Eve offering in 2006

and have given away more than \$2,800,000 in the years since then.

In January 2015, Floris UMC found a new way to grow when 80 members planted a new congregation, Restoration UMC, in an elementary school in Reston, Virginia. This new strategy of reaching the community is actually not new at all, but a historical practice of Floris UMC present at its founding. Despite the growth and changes to the congregation and the surrounding community, Floris UMC remains true to the ideals of the original visionaries who established it. We continue to focus on the spiritual health of our community. We care about the vulnerable and the poor in our community and are active in mission-related work around the globe. Church members grow in faith through small groups where they study the Bible and consider how to live out their discipleship in their lives. We continue to think about how and where we might next invite people into a relationship with God.



2006

Floris UMC moved into phase one of the current facility.



2010

Phase two was completed and included a 900-seat Sanctuary.



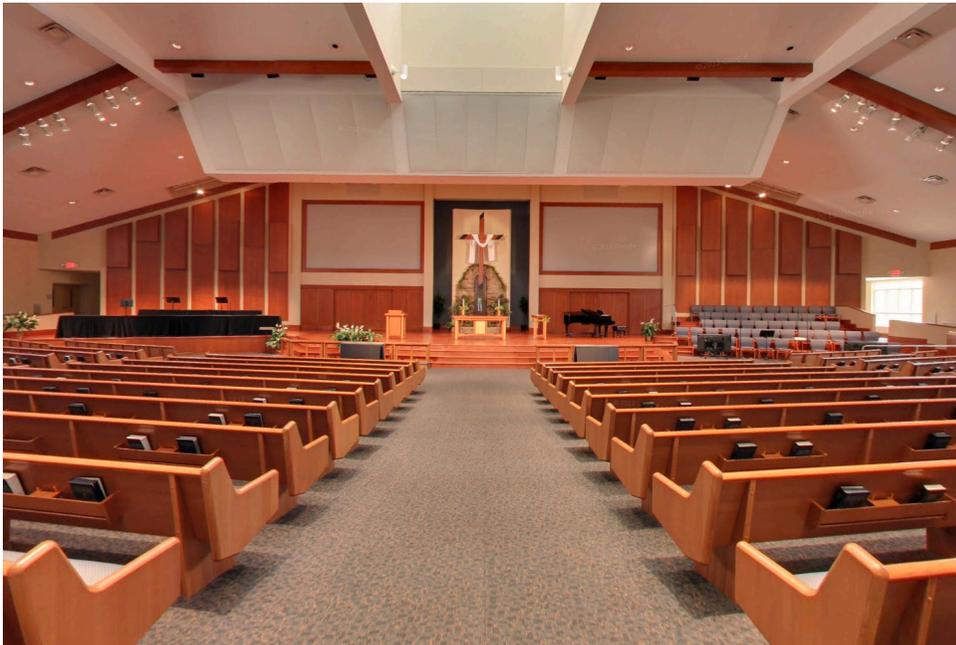
2015

Floris UMC started a new campus in Reston called Restoration.



2018

Floris UMC starts a new Capital Campaign.



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OUR FUTURE

OUR FUTURE



OUR FUTURE

Floris United Methodist Church has a vibrant history dating back 126 years. As we continue today to live out our mission, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we are the recipients of a wonderful history created by people who could never have imagined how they would bless all who now call Floris UMC their church home. Many of our leaders have been asking, what's next for Floris UMC? The Church Council has been working to answer this question. In 2014, we launched the successful \$4,200,000 Imagine capital campaign with the purpose of reducing the \$9,440,000 debt, reaching young adults, launching the Reston campus and breaking

the cycle of poverty through investments in the Hutchinson Elementary School Partnership and the Sierra Leone Women and Infant Health Initiative.

The Church Council believes that now is the time to take bold steps to reach new people in our community with a message of hope and love. After months of study, focus groups, listening sessions and surveys, we considered your input on the following initiatives to launch the Dream 2018 capital campaign. We want to further help you become the person you want to be, through reaching out to the community and growing God's kingdom.



What's next for Floris UMC?

DEBT REDUCTION: \$3,000,000



Floris UMC has successfully built a campus that is valued at \$31,250,000. Since the time of construction, we have worked to secure the financial future of the church as we reduce and pay off our debt. In 2017, we successfully refinanced our building's long-term debt with a ten-year fixed rate loan. This enabled us to reduce the amount of interest we would be paying over the remaining life of our previous loan, while securing a lower interest rate that is now fixed rather than variable.

The congregation has conducted a series of capital campaigns which reduced our debt by more than 50 percent from \$13,800,000 to less than \$6,500,000 today. We currently enjoy an opportunity to pay down our debt at a historically low interest rate of 3.19 percent that is fixed for ten years. The Dream Campaign will also invite newer members to contribute to this goal. By reducing our debt today, we limit our financial risk if the economy passes through turbulent waters in the years ahead.



STUDENT AND FAMILY MINISTRY DISCOVERY FUNDS: \$200,000



The framework of student ministries has not changed for several generations. The program works with students to educate them in the Bible and Christian faith, introduce them to a caring community and give them opportunities to serve others. These are worthy goals for middle and high school students, but they don't address another essential longing in our area: the health of families.

Many of us would like to know how to have a better experience of being a Christian family. We want to have a loving community right in our homes. These funds will be utilized to renovate our student ministries to better equip our kids and the families in which they live. We want to work with consultants and best practice churches to implement a fresh and effective ministry model that reaches closer to home. While this initiative will include the

renovation of the Hangar to create a more modern student space, it is the ministry itself that we hope to renew in the months ahead.



LAUNCH RESTORATION LOUDOUN: \$550,000



Over the past year, church leaders from Floris UMC, Pleasant Valley UMC and Arcola UMC have been meeting to explore the possibility of church expansion in Loudoun County. The Rt. 50 corridor area is expected to continue growing at a rapid pace, and all agree that there is more opportunity than any one congregation can meet. We are experiencing a Luke 10:2 moment, where Jesus observed “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Jesus then told his disciples to “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into the harvest field.”

Floris UMC has an opportunity to partner with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to plant a third Floris UMC campus in Loudoun County, a fast-growing community where many Floris UMC members currently live. The new campus which will be located along the

Rt. 50 corridor would be called Restoration Loudoun.

With the success of our Reston campus and because our church is one of the Virginia Conference’s most vital congregations, we anticipate their financial support in a matching grant that would expand our model of “One Church with Many Locations.” This strategy is recognized as one of the very best ways to reach those who do not currently attend church as well as those who are not yet Christians.



LAUNCH A MINISTRY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: \$100,000



Floris UMC is a church for all people. We constantly look to further God’s kingdom and we believe one way to do so is to offer a spiritual and learning environment for all to access, regardless of ability. When the building was designed, special attention was paid to ensure that the physical structure would not prevent anyone with special needs from accessing the entire space.

Now we want to go even further to create a place where non-physical barriers are also removed and where all people will feel comfortable participating and growing in their faith. We will hire a part-time Special Needs Coordinator who will be responsible for training all staff and volunteers to work with people who have special needs, across all ministries. This individual will be responsible for community outreach, training volunteers across all ministries and ongoing staff training.



RENOVATE THE CHILDREN'S AREA AND NURSERY: \$250,000



A consistent theme among churches with thriving children's programming is that the space in which the ministry is done is both visually and intellectually stimulating and that the nursery is located near the worship center. Our current space has become dated and our nursery requires new parents to walk through what seems like endless corridors to reach the nursery. Even though the distance is not that great, the perception is that the nursery is much farther away from the Sanctuary than one would expect. Originally, the proposal was to relocate the existing nursery and children's spaces to the top floor, where the main church office is currently located. When this idea was tested by a sample of the congregation, the overwhelming response was that the price of this move was so significant that other opportunities should be investigated. The revised proposal includes the renovation of the

classroom area and the nursery to make these areas more up-to-date and modern. This could also include moving the nursery closer to the existing children's area to make it more convenient for parents. This project will allow for themed renovations by one of the many professional companies whose sole focus is designing attractational children's space in churches.





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OUR SERMONS

OUR SERMONS

OUR SERMONS

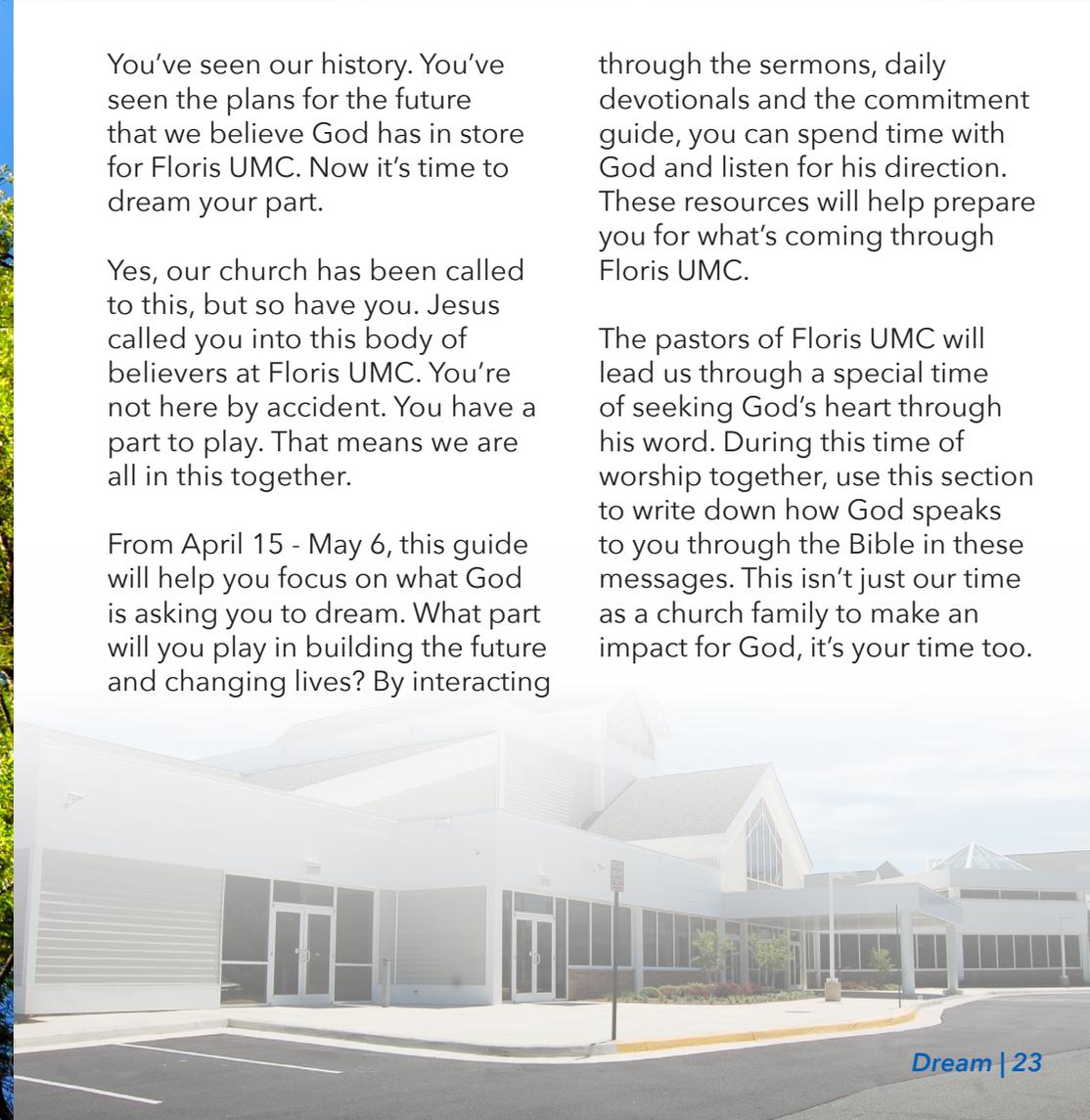
You've seen our history. You've seen the plans for the future that we believe God has in store for Floris UMC. Now it's time to dream your part.

Yes, our church has been called to this, but so have you. Jesus called you into this body of believers at Floris UMC. You're not here by accident. You have a part to play. That means we are all in this together.

From April 15 - May 6, this guide will help you focus on what God is asking you to dream. What part will you play in building the future and changing lives? By interacting

through the sermons, daily devotionals and the commitment guide, you can spend time with God and listen for his direction. These resources will help prepare you for what's coming through Floris UMC.

The pastors of Floris UMC will lead us through a special time of seeking God's heart through his word. During this time of worship together, use this section to write down how God speaks to you through the Bible in these messages. This isn't just our time as a church family to make an impact for God, it's your time too.



Sunday, May 6, 2018

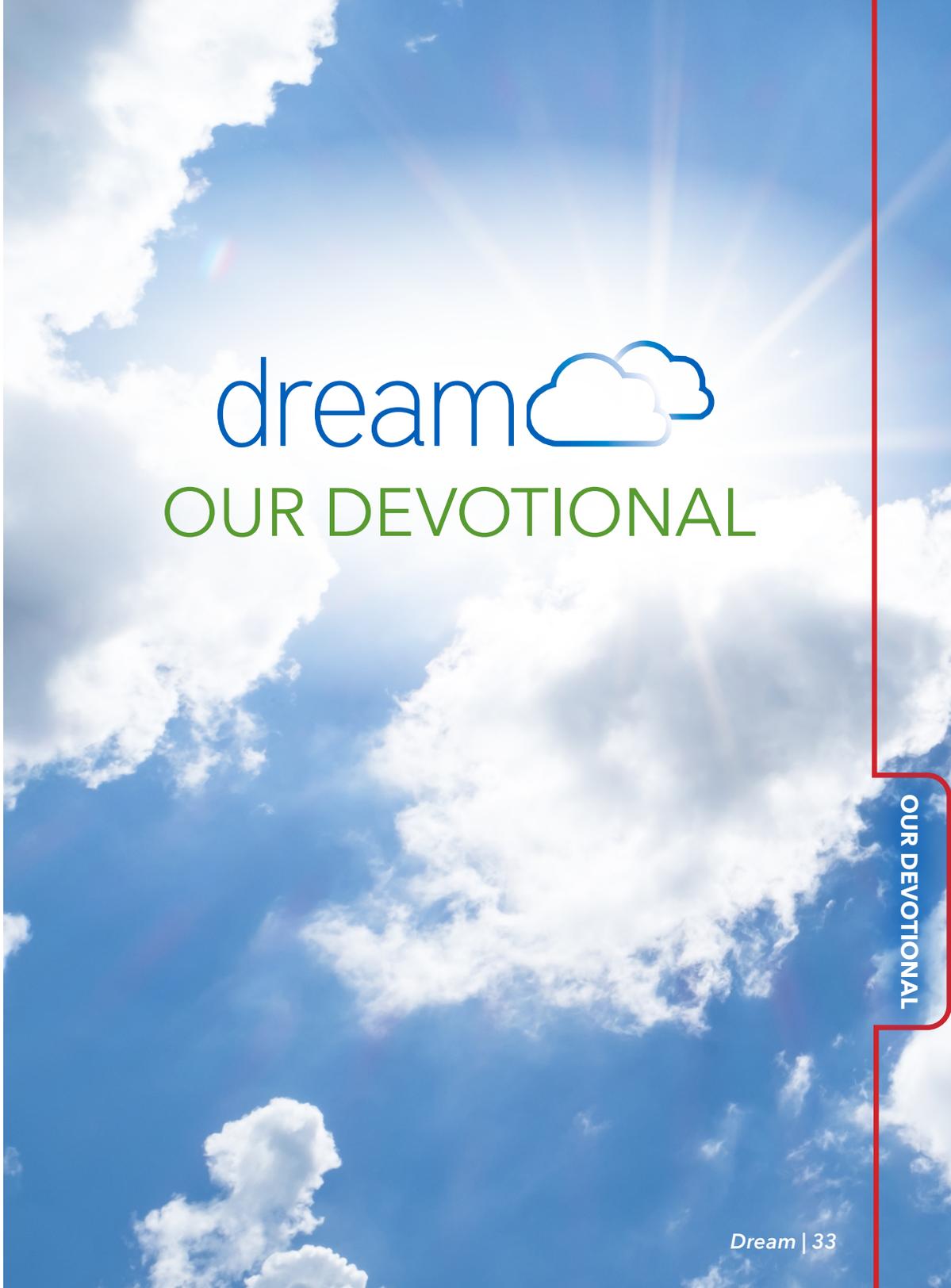
THE GREATEST GIFT

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

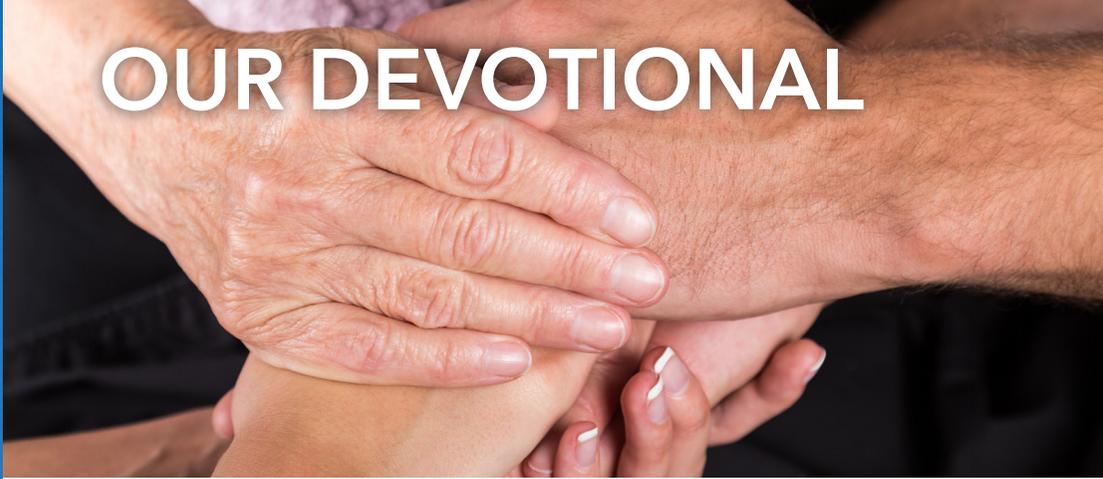
He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:1-8 (NIV)



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OUR DEVOTIONAL

OUR DEVOTIONAL



OUR DEVOTIONAL

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each day's reading has four parts. Expect to spend a few minutes reading, meditating and praying.

Read

Slowly read the passage listed. The passages are relatively short, so take time to consider each phrase. If you do not understand something, you might refer to your Bible's study notes or refer to an online source.

Apply

Read the brief interpretation in light of the passage. What is the Biblical writer trying to say? What is the main point? Using the questions, seek the Spirit's guidance in your own response to the passage. These questions are intended to cause you to slow down and reflect on the truth God is teaching you. How does the

Biblical teaching apply to your life? Where do you need to grow or change? How has Christ already changed you?

Pray

Spend time listening and talking with God. Ask God what the passage is saying to you. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Do

Daily suggestions that may help root the message of the scripture into your heart and life.

Sunday, April 15, 2018

DAY 1 - TREASURE

Matthew 6:21 *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Read

Matthew 6:19-24

Apply

Jesus reminds us that much of what we treasure has no lasting value. Money and things will not accompany us to heaven. Yet, we live in a society that encourages us to want more; more things, more money, more power. In these verses, Jesus teaches us that one of the most important things we can discover is what we most treasure. That is where our hearts are most closely aligned. What is your treasure?

Jesus alerts us to the powerful tug that material wealth often possesses, an allure that makes us act contrary to our Christian faith. We say that we live for heaven and yet our spending habits would argue otherwise. Jesus calls us to examine where we place our money and our heart.

1. **Where is the bulk of your treasure? Is that where your heart is?**
2. **When you give, does that frighten you or excite you? Why?**

Pray

For a heart that desires to pursue treasure that will further the Kingdom of God.

Do

Look at your bank statement and your credit card statements. Specifically, where does most of your money go? Are those your priorities?

Monday, April 16, 2018

DAY 2 - THANKS

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 *" You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."*

Read

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Apply

The Israelites had been very aware of God's grace for 40 years. God had provided them with the essentials of life: food, water and clothing that had not worn out. God had led them with pillars of fire and cloud. There had been challenges but at the end of the day, they were doing well. This scripture is reminding us that it is God who blesses us and it is God to whom we offer thanks.

Giving thanks nurtures our relationship with God, diminishes our pride and enables us to walk humbly with God and others.

1. **How often do you offer thanks to God? Do you practice daily habits of gratefulness?**
2. **What causes you to struggle with pride?**

Pray

For a thankful heart and a spirit of humility as you reflect on the blessings of God.

Do

Make a list of all the things you have to be thankful for today.

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

DAY 3 - BLESSED

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Read

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Apply

God provides "every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." There is no need to be hesitant in generosity because of a fear that we will not have enough for our life. Instead, we can give with a cheerful heart, trusting that God will bless us abundantly. God knows our situation. God is aware of our scarcity and abundance. Our giving comes from a heart that trusts God in all circumstances.

1. What would it look like to trust God fully with your material wealth?
2. What helps you to be a cheerful giver?

Pray

For thanksgiving for God's abundance in your life.

Do

Write down three times when you have been a cheerful giver.

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

DAY 4 - SECURITY

Luke 12:15 "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"

Read

Luke 12:13-21

Apply

The rich fool thought that he could trust in his grain. Yet the grain outlasted his own life. He invested his wealth with something it could not give, security. It would always be there to make his life comfortable. However, the things of this world are unstable, like a pile of sand ready to collapse. God's response to him is blunt: "You fool."

Having an abundance of money is not construed as negative in God's eye, but believing money will make us happy is foolish. When is enough, enough? When we trust God with our life, including our wealth, we can relinquish the grip we have on wealth and give our financial worries to God. We can ask God to help us acknowledge how our wealth could be used to bless the world.

1. How much money is 'enough' for you and your family?
2. What would it look like to use your wealth to bless the world?

Pray

For a renewed heart that sees money as a gift to use to bless the world.

Do

Look at your long-term goals: home, retirement and children. How could you reprioritize your spending so that you would gain some financial freedom?

Thursday, April 19, 2018

DAY 5 - TRUST

Matthew 6:24-25 "You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. "

Read

Matthew 25:14-30

Apply

We tend to think what we have is not enough. We can squander opportunities in the mistaken belief that we need to hold on tightly to what we have in our hands. In this well-known parable of the talents, the message is to use it or lose it. How we use what we have tells us who is in charge of our life.

- 1. What would it take to trust God with all that you have? Imagine what you could do with what is available to you right now.**
- 2. What is the difference between hoarding and saving? Which one do you practice most?**

Pray

For a heart that can trust God enough to take a calculated risk.

Do

Dream about what you might do if you invested some of what you have now. Make a plan for making that happen.

Friday, April 20, 2018

DAY 6 - CONTENTMENT

Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"

Read

Hebrews 13:1-6

Apply

In the midst of exhorting Christians to live according to the gospel, the writer to the Hebrews actually commands contentment. Just as contentment is a result of trusting God, it is also the means of trusting God. To be discontent is to accuse God of being either unloving or impotent. Contentment with our life is as important as the virtue of love, hospitality or mercy.

Unfortunately, we live in a culture of discontent. So often we see ads on television and on social media trying to convince us that what we have is not good enough. The message they convey is that we need something new, something better and something more fashionable. Desires begin to direct our thinking.

Paul advises Timothy to stay focused on the lasting joy of contentment. "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." (1 Timothy 6:6)

- 1. Are you content with what you have? If not, then why?**
- 2. How do you handle the pressure to 'keep up' or conform to a higher standard of living?**

Pray

For a heart that is content, that isn't always looking to new things for satisfaction.

Do

Carefully look at a few ads today. What type of better life do they promise? Is it real? How are people enticed into thinking that their life isn't good enough without a certain thing?

Saturday, April 21, 2018

DAY 7 - DO GOOD

1 Timothy 6:18 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Read

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Apply

God wants us to be happy. He wants us to experience abundance as a gift to be shared with others and to be enjoyed. When we love money too much we become like Ebenezer Scrooge, focusing on financial gain and forgetting it is a gift to be shared. This scripture reminds us not to love money, but to love God and ask for God's direction when sharing our abundance.

1. **Take an honest look at some of your most intense desires. Does money play a role in them? In what way does it play a role?**
2. **What do you think about people who have a lot more money and possessions than you? Are they better people? More secure? Do they live a better life?**

Pray

For a heart that recognizes the beauty of Christ above all the 'things' we might own.

Do

Take one alluring aspect of money and write a list of the ways it affects your life. For example, "The ways that I act like money gives me pleasure are..." or "The ways I act like money makes me better than other people ..."

Sunday, April 22, 2018

DAY 8 - WELCOME

Luke 14:13-14 "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed."

Read

Luke 14:12-24

Apply

In this parable Jesus helps us understand that all people have value in God's kingdom. We would like to think that the social issues described here happened only in the first century and do not happen in our own society, especially in our churches. Unfortunately, far too often Christian communities are not always accessible for everyone. Jesus calls us to include those who are often excluded. As God's people, we are to be humble and seek to live by a different social standard than the world.

1. **When have you been aware of instances where people have been excluded because of ability or social standing? What did you do in response? What could you do?**
2. **Who are the poor, the crippled and the lame in your life?**

Pray

For a God to soften your heart and reveal to you those you choose to avoid.

Do

Find out how our church is welcoming to people of different abilities and social groups.

Monday, April 23, 2018

DAY 9 - GIFTED

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Read

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Apply

Paul uses the workings of the human body to illustrate how the body of Christ is to work. He was speaking against an attitude of elitism that elevated some and put down others. He likens the church to the human physical body. He tells us that we are each gifted in particular ways; no gift is better than another. We are to discern what our individual spiritual gifts are and then cultivate them for Jesus.

1. What gifts do you have? How have you used them for God?
2. What gifts do you see in other people? Are there some people whose gifts you have a hard time determining?

Pray

That you might fully utilize the gifts God has given you and that you might help others fully utilize their own gifts to glorify God.

Do

Take a Spiritual Gift Inventory.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

DAY 10 - ONE

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Read

Galatians 3:26-29

Apply

The external social conditions of the world have no place in the body of Christ. When we become a Christ follower, we leave behind our old perceptions of the world and put on the ways of Jesus. This new reality directs our interactions with others and reminds us that our identity is found in Christ.

1. What social hindrances do you struggle with? How might you live into a different reality?
2. What challenges do you see for the church today?

Pray

For a life that expresses the equality of all people.

Do

Write five sentences about your understanding of being one in Christ.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

DAY 11 - FAMILY

Psalm 115:14-15 "May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Read

Psalm 115

Apply

In the Hebrew bible, families were held in high esteem. They understood how important it was for faith to be passed on from generation to generation. This Psalm reminds us to give God glory because of God's love and faithfulness in our lives. The author reminds us to trust in God at all times and remember how God has been present when it felt like no one else understood. Verses 14-15 are a blessing of hope for Israel. We can understand them as a blessing of hope for the church today. Our prayer is that the church might grow and prosper for generations to come.

- 1. Why is it important to understand that children are not just the responsibility of their immediate families, but also of the community of faith?**
- 2. How can we strengthen families in our church? What could we do to encourage them in this time of confusion and anxiety?**

Pray

For a heart of love for families. Pray that our church might be a place of safety and welcome for all of God's children.

Do

Write a note of encouragement to a family. Tell them you are praying for them and how you admire their faith.

Thursday, April 26, 2018

DAY 12 - DIRECTIONS

Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."

Read

Psalm 127:1-5

Apply

This Psalm, written to David's son, Solomon tells us of the importance of asking God to direct our lives. We are quick to assume responsibility for everything we do, we often forget to turn to God when making decisions. It is important to seek God in all of our lives ranging from business decisions to family decisions. This is not just a Psalm about the blessing of having children, it is a Psalm about the importance of turning to God in all that we do. In whatever way children are a part of our life, whether in our homes, students in a class or as young people we interact with at church, we need to remember they are gifts. We need to remember the great responsibility we have been given to help teach the way of faith.

- 1. Are you allowing God to build your life?**
- 2. How do you allow God to watch over your life and the life of your family?**

Pray

For a humble heart that wants God to direct your life.

Do

Make a list of all the young people you interact with on a daily basis. If you find you rarely interact with them, look for more opportunities. Perhaps you could volunteer at Vacation Bible School or serve on a Sunday morning with students.

Friday, April 27, 2018

DAY 13 - WATCH

Deuteronomy 4:9 "Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

Read

Deuteronomy 4:8-10

Apply

Moses wanted the people to understand that what they do and say makes a difference. Others were watching children of God taking note of their actions. Moses wanted them to remember their experience of trusting God in the wilderness so that they would remember how God was always present. It was important to teach their children, so they would also come to know the unfailing love of God. This scripture is as important today as it was for the Hebrew people. Remembering and sharing our faith experiences, both the challenging and the easy, help all the people of God grow in faith.

1. What do you think Moses was trying to teach the Israelites? Do you think it was helpful?
2. Do you think this scripture is important for today? Why or why not?

Pray

For a desire to share your memories of God's faithfulness with others.

Do

Look in books or online for stories of how God has been faithful in other people's lives.

Saturday, April 28, 2018

DAY 14 - SIMPLIFY

Luke 18:16 "But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

Read

Luke 18:15-17

Apply

Jesus loved children and admonished the disciples when they tried to keep them from him. He said that if we don't "receive the kingdom of God like a child we shall not enter it." Children have so much to teach adults. Children are open, humble and often have a beautiful, simple acceptance of Jesus. We can learn from children, and approach Jesus with open hearts and eager minds. Instead of making everything so complicated we could try simply asking Jesus to help us be like little children.

1. What would it look like for you to open your heart like a child?
2. How could you make your faith simpler and easier to access? Would that help you be closer to Christ?

Pray

For a heart like an eager child.

Do

How could you encourage other Christians to trust like a child? How could our church community do that?

Sunday, April 29, 2018

DAY 15 - CHOOSE

Joshua 24:17 "It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled."

Read

Joshua 24:14-24

Apply

In this text, Joshua lays out a challenge to the people of Israel. He wants to know if they will choose to serve God. The people respond, "We will serve God!" Joshua knows that the people have options. Either they can serve God, who has brought them out of slavery, or they can choose to serve other gods. They have to make a conscious decision. Today the choice is the same and equally important. If we are to help our children and students navigate today's world with hope, then we must choose to serve the God of love and grace.

1. Have you chosen to serve God? How does that direct your life?
2. In what ways do you help teach and care for students and children? How might you serve?

Pray

For our students and children and those who nurture and teach them every day.

Do

Ask a child or student what the church means to them. Share with them what the church means to you.

Monday, April 30, 2018

DAY 16 - PEACE

Philippians 4:9 "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Read

Philippians 4:8-9

Apply

Paul is writing to the Philippians in order to help them deal with stress, worry and disagreement. He understood that in order to be faithful people, we need to find ways to talk with a heart of peace. When we allow Christ to rule our hearts, we can live in a mode of rejoicing rather than one of worry and stress. A joyful heart does not mean we are always bubbly and happy, but it does mean we understand that our hope comes from God.

1. What things do you think about when you are in a time of stress or disagreement?
2. What does Paul suggest that the Philippians think about in those times? How does that help you?

Pray

For a heart of peace.

Do

Memorize this scripture passage. Start by writing it on an index card and reading it whenever you have an opportunity.

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

DAY 17 - ADVENTURE

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Read

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Apply

This is one of the most beautiful and comforting texts in scripture. We all want to know that God is guiding us and teaching us to follow in God's ways. This is not to say that everything we do has been planned by God. What we do believe is that God desires happiness for our lives. When we follow God's Word and live by God's ways we will enjoy the joyful future God has intended for us.

1. **What do you hope for your future? How does your faith in God guide that hope?**
2. **What would you say to a student who was concerned about the direction of their life?**

Pray

For a church that embraces the hope of God's future.

Do

What is one thing about the future that frightens you? Write a prayer to God asking for peace and an understanding of God's promises. Share it with a friend.

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

DAY 18 - TEACH

Deuteronomy 11:19 "Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Read

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Apply

This scripture tells us of the importance of teaching the Word of God to our children and students. It is to be talked about at home and away from home. The author is stressing the importance of Christian education at all times of the day. We are even told to display the Word of God in prominent public places. The more we are immersed in the Word of God, the more it becomes written on our hearts. Adults have the responsibility to keep the Word of God in front of themselves so that it will also be in front of the young people they encounter.

1. **Where do you keep the words of God? Are they written on your heart? What does that look like?**
2. **When do you talk about the importance of the words of your faith?**

Pray

For a teachable heart.

Do

Copy today's scripture. Carry it with you and read it over several times a day.

Thursday, May 3, 2018

DAY 19 - ENCOURAGE

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Read

Proverbs 22:4-6

Apply

The job of the parent, or anyone who loves a child, is not to simply watch them grow, but to train and encourage them along the way. Proverbs 22 speaks of discerning a child's strengths and weaknesses and guiding them in a way that takes those into account. When we encourage and mentor a young person in accordance to God's given strengths, we are working in concert with the Holy Spirit. Our hope is that as they mature, they will not depart from God's ways. However, there is no guarantee; but, giving young people the knowledge and wisdom of God can help them as they grow.

- 1. What is the one thing you would want a student to know about God?**
- 2. How do you encourage students?**

Pray

For opportunities to encourage students.

Do

Talk to someone who works with students and ask them how you can pray for them.

Friday, May 4, 2018

DAY 20 - WISDOM

Proverbs 2:5 "Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

Read

Proverbs 2: 1-5

Apply

Proverbs is a book of wisdom written by a few authors. It is a collection of individual statements that have little connection with each other. Solomon, David's son, is the author of much of the book. Proverbs is meant to teach wisdom and cause the reader to think about their actions. In Proverbs 2 we hear Solomon appealing to his son to receive his words with openness and to accept his teachings. His plea is not just the hope of a father for a son, but of someone who wants to share the Word of God. Solomon understands that the person who has the Word of God in his heart, will work from that heart of Godliness in all things. When we impress God's teachings on our hearts we act in ways that are wise. Solomon wants his son to know that this wisdom and understanding must be sought out as if it were silver and precious treasure.

- 1. Where do you search for wisdom? What attracts you to the teachings of God?**
- 2. What do you think of Solomon's desire to teach his son wisdom?**

Pray

For a wise heart, open to the wisdom of God's teachings.

Do

Read the entire chapter of Proverbs 2 and make a list of what Solomon says wisdom will save you from.

Saturday, May 5, 2018

DAY 21 - POWER

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Read

Acts 1:1-8

Apply

The church's mission is not carried out by its' own strength, rather it occurs with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are the church because of the power and presence of God in our midst. In this passage, Jesus assures us that when we allow the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our hearts we gain power. This power will propel us to share the message of the gospel to the "end of the earth". We are the church, called to bear witness to the mighty acts of God, in our own lives and in the world. We are called to follow Jesus and serve him so that others may experience the same gift of love that we have come to know.

1. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit?
2. What has been the greatest lesson that you've learned while following Jesus? How might you share that with others?

Pray

For the power of the Holy Spirit to inhabit your heart and direct your path.

Do

Talk to a fellow Christian about what it means/feels like to follow the promptings of the Spirit.

Sunday, May 6, 2018

DAY 22 - AMAZED

Acts 2:12 "Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Read

Acts 2:1-13

Apply

The Christian church was not begun by human initiative, but because of the presence and power of the risen Christ, through the Holy Spirit, empowering the actions of the community of Christ. In this passage, we read the story of Pentecost and of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples of Jesus. It was a powerful, mystifying and breathtaking time. Many people who witnessed it were confused and skeptical. The events themselves did not generate faith. Faith happened when the disciples shared their own words and what they knew to be true.

1. What words would you use to tell someone about your own faith?
2. When have you witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit? What did it mean to you?
3. How could our giving bring attention to Jesus instead of ourselves?

Pray

For the Holy Spirit to make you bold enough to talk about your faith in Jesus.

Do

Practice an "elevator speech", about two minutes long, that shares why you are a Christian.

Monday, May 7, 2018

DAY 23 - GO

Matthew 28:19 "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."

Read

Matthew 28:16-20

Apply

When Jesus appeared to his disciples for the last time on earth, he charged them to go into the world. He also said that we should teach others to "obey everything". Jesus knew that in order for us to make disciples, we needed to know how to help others transform, even as we transform in Christ. Obedience is a necessary part of transformation. When we learn how to fully follow Jesus, then we can help others do the same.

- 1. What does it look like to "make disciples"? What instructions would you give someone who was not sure how to be a disciple?**
- 2. How is this challenging for the church today?**

Pray

That you have the courage to 'go' into the world.

Do

Meet with three other Christians and talk about how you could encourage each other to 'go' into the world and make disciples.

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

DAY 24 - LOVE

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Read

John 3:16-21

Apply

As Christians, we should be proud and eager to share our faith in Jesus Christ. The truth is we are often fearful of how it will be received or we are afraid we do not have the right words. Maybe we have seen it done poorly and are worried we may offend someone.

We are called to share our faith so that others will have the opportunity to enjoy the same faith we enjoy. One way we can do this is to be a shining example of what a Christian represents. God is love and we can reflect love through our actions. We should also work on finding words that we can use to tell others about Jesus. It may take practice and quite a bit of courage, but if we remember how much God loves us, we will want to share that love with others.

- 1. How often do you share your faith in God?**
- 2. What would it take for you to engage someone in a conversation about Jesus? What would be helpful in taking that next step?**

Pray

For a desire to share your faith with others.

Do

Listen for times this week when you hear someone talking about their faith. How did it make you feel? If you never heard it, why do you think that is?

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

DAY 25 - TELL

Acts 8:35 "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus."

Read

Acts 8:26-40

Apply

Philip has this amazing experience of telling a stranger about Jesus. In one of the most mysterious stories of the New Testament, Philip somehow finds himself next to this Ethiopian eunuch who wants to know more about his faith. It's not important how it happened. What's significant is that Philip was ready to talk about his faith in God and this man called Jesus.

- 1. What would you say to someone who asked you to tell them about Jesus? What is the one big truth you would want to be sure they heard?**
- 2. Why might this experience be challenging for Christians?**

Pray

For the courage to share your faith with even strangers.

Do

Tell a friend what you would say to a stranger who asked you about your faith.

Thursday, May 10, 2018

DAY 26 - TOGETHER

Acts 2:44 "All the believers were together and had everything in common."

Read

Acts 2:42-47

Apply

This scripture gives us a glimpse into the life of the early church. After committing their lives to Christ, the believers spent time together learning and growing in faith. They shared meals, both common meals and the Holy Communion. They understood the importance of sharing what they had with those who did not have enough.

Becoming a follower of Jesus is a personal decision, but not lived out in isolation. As Christians, we are called to be part of a community of faith and to offer that opportunity to others.

- 1. What does it mean to you to be the church? In what ways do you need to grow in faith and as part of this community?**
- 2. When was the last time you invited someone to worship or to a church event or service opportunity?**

Pray

For an opportunity to share your faith.

Do

Choose something of your own that you treasure (not that thing you keep in the back of your closet!) and give it to someone else.

Friday, May 11, 2018

DAY 27 - DIFFERENT

Acts 3:10 "They recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

Read

Acts 3:1-10

Apply

We may never physically heal someone like Peter and John do in this scripture passage, but we have the same potential to show others what a difference Jesus can make in their lives. Peter and John were on their way to pray at the temple, something they did every day. This day, they responded to the cry of a man who wanted his life to be different. The crowds watching were "filled with wonder and amazement." They wanted to know more. Why did this happen? Who made it happen? Peter and John were able to share with all of them what they knew about faith, possibly changing the lives of many other people that day.

1. **When have you had an opportunity to tell someone about the church? Or Jesus?**
2. **What words would you have for someone who was looking for a different way to live?**

Pray

For an opportunity to tell someone about your faith.

Do

Write the names of three people you know who need a word of hope.

dream 
OUR GUIDE

FLORIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday: 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM
703-793-0026 www.florisumc.org
LATINO SERVICE SATURDAYS 7:00PM

CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR GIVING

Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

II Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

II Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

Equal giving is never the goal at our church, but rather to come together as a church community – each sacrificing to achieve our vision. There is a role in this capital funding campaign for every member of the church and each contribution enables our success. You will not be pressured or told what you should give, but rather encouraged to pray to discern God’s will for your giving. We ask everyone to pray the campaign prayer:

“Lord, what do you want to do through me?”

GIFTS OTHER THAN CASH



What are gifts other than cash?

- Gifts other than cash include stocks, bonds and other financial assets.

Why contribute gifts other than cash?

- You may receive tax benefits from this type of transaction. The church can easily liquidate and utilize your donation.

How do I give assets, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds to the church?

1. Contact the church finance office. We will provide you with the transfer instructions.
2. Contact your broker and request the transfer.
3. Consult your tax advisor about potential tax benefits.

What if I wish to give another type of non-cash gift?

- Floris UMC is restricted in the types of assets we are able to receive and process. Please contact the finance office to see if your potential gift is acceptable.

How do I give gifts from my IRA?

For those **aged 70 ½ or older**, it may be possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts. When donating from a Roth or traditional IRA, it is important to **make the donation directly from the IRA to the church**. Contact your tax advisor for more information.



OTHER GIVING STRATEGIES



Cash Flow Gifts

Smaller gifts add up! By giving smaller amounts at higher frequencies--weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly--large gifts can be reached in smaller steps. You may want to take advantage of the simplicity of electronic funds transfers for this giving option.

Diverted Funds Gifts

Freeing up funds that are currently going to other areas of spending allows a person to increase giving to God's work. Diverting funds from entertainment, dining out, dues, subscriptions, gifts, allowances, utilities or transportation, offers lifestyle adjustments that impact one's giving.

Delayed Expenditures

Postponing major expenditures such as automobiles, boats, clothing or trips provides substantial giving opportunities.

Income Producing Assets

Interest income, payments from rental properties or income from other assets provide a source for increased giving.

Sale of Assets

Sale of major assets, such as a house, car, land or business provides available income for giving.

Raises/Bonuses

Contributing raises and bonuses is another creative method people have used to increase giving.

Freedom from Debt

Looking ahead to the next three years, you may discover that debt obligations will be fulfilled. This frees up revenue for additional giving.

Unique Skills Income

Some people have marketable hobbies or skills that enable them to give from those new profits.

Charitable Giving Resources

Reviewing all of one's charitable donations in light of their impact on the Kingdom of God affords a resource for significant giving.

Savings and Annuities

Savings for special projects, retirement or a "rainy day" may offer a resource for increased giving. Often we realize that a portion of our savings may safely be given to the work of God's Kingdom through our church.

Corporate Gifts

Business owners may be able to provide gifts-in-kind that result in significant savings to the church and may have tax benefits to the business owner.

NOTE: Any discussion of tax treatment is not intended and should not be considered as tax advice. Consult your personal tax professional for advice on your tax position.

A look at one family's strategy to increase giving

Activity	Week	Year	3 years
Eliminate a family meal out	\$50.00	\$2,600.00	\$7,800.00
Reduce Christmas budget		\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Reduce vacation budget		\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Delay car purchase for 12 months		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Eliminate 6 dates nights		\$600.00	\$1800.00
Eliminate 3 cups of coffee	\$10.00	\$520.00	\$1,560.00
Gift from Savings		\$4340.00	\$4340.00
THREE YEAR TOTAL			\$30,000.00

"In addition, we will continue to support the annual budget and the mission programs."

COMMITMENT CARD AND ONLINE GIVING

Submitting a **Commitment Card** is a helpful tool to you during the planning process. It also helps the church budget for our new initiatives. Commitment Cards may be changed at any point by calling the finance office. We are striving for 100 percent participation. Please be sure to submit your Commitment Card regardless of your contribution.

Online giving, especially when scheduled and recurring, offers convenience to you and a steady, reliable revenue stream to the church. We encourage donors to take advantage of our online giving capabilities.

Online Giving Information

Instructions

- Turn in a completed Dream Campaign Commitment Card.
- Go to FlorisUMC.org/Give to establish a giving schedule

(see instructions "How to Give Online").

- Select the "Dream Campaign" as the fund.
- Please begin your schedule after May 1, 2018.
- Floris UMC will not consider your scheduled giving to be a commitment unless you turn in a commitment card.
- Floris UMC will not change any current scheduled gifts based on your commitment card.

How Can I Simplify My Giving?

- 1. ACH and Credit Card** contributions from your bank account or on your credit card may be set up through our online giving system.
- 2. Bill Pay** is a process in which your bank sends checks directly to the church. Please contact your bank for more information.

Please fill out this card and put in the offering plate

DREAM CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT CARD

After seeking God through prayer to dream what can be done through me/us, I/we commit to the Floris UMC Dream Campaign:

\$ _____ Per Week for 156 Weeks from May 1, 2018-April 30, 2021
\$ _____ Per Month for 36 Months from May 1, 2018-April 30, 2021
\$ _____ Per Year for 3 Years from May 1, 2018-April 30, 2021

Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____





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FlorisUMC.org

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