



# DAILY DEVOTIONALS

May 5-25, 2025







## May 5, 2025

*They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large..."*

**Numbers 13:27-28**

God's people had reached a crossroads. Moses had led them out of Pharaoh's grip, through the parted sea, and into the manna-supplied wilderness. Now, they stood on the threshold of the promised land. Would they move forward in faith—or turn back in fear? Some brought reports of fear and uncertainty ahead while Joshua and Caleb encouraged faithfulness to God's dream for the people.

Have you seen the headlines lately? Like the Israelites, we, too, face voices of fear—headlines of instability, conflict, and uncertainty. These voices tempt us toward caution, retreat, and self-protection.

Friends, there is another voice in our world — a voice of God's leading and direction. From this voice, we hear God-sized dreams of opportunity ahead; more ways to work together as one community to share love with each other and the world.

Which voice will guide us through this season of opportunity? As one pastor asked, will we form a fearful "Back to Egypt" committee or will we listen to God and join the "Into the Promised Land" committee?

Alan McGrath  
*Senior Pastor*

### Questions to Consider

1. When have I listened to the voice of fear over faith? What were the results?
2. When have I listened to the voice of faith over fear? What were the results?

### Prayer:

*Thank you, God, for your voice of faith and hope in the midst of a world filled with fear and anxiety. Help me find time to listen to your voice. Give me courage to choose faith rather than fear. And may my response to faith lead to more love in this world. Amen.*

# May 6, 2025

*Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and see this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

## **Exodus 3:3-4**

Moses was a murderer, a runaway, a shepherd, yet called by God to be one of history's greatest leaders. As this stewardship adventure begins, there may have been no burning bush or voice from God, unless you count the call from our prayer team or an invitation to a campaign event. And yet make no mistake, no matter your background, you have been called by God to be part of this exciting adventure of faith. Just as God chose Moses, you have been chosen. Can you imagine that possibility? Can you begin to even consider that your participation in this adventure is not simply random chance, not simply a last gasp attempt to raise money? Can you believe God chose you; God called you?

I must admit that when Pastor Alan asked Camden and me to lead this campaign our immediate thought was, "why us; why now?" We are in the middle of a very busy time of life, with two children who keep us on our toes with their numerous extracurricular activities, school responsibilities, and demanding jobs of our own. In addition, I had just said "yes" to leading a local nonprofit fundraiser at the same time as the campaign. "Isn't that enough?" I asked Him.

We prayed about the ask and I continued to feel a reassuring nudge from God that we needed to accept the responsibility he was offering us. And instead of viewing it as a burden of work and meetings, my mind began to shift to an opportunity. An opportunity to shape the future of FUMC Georgetown, an opportunity to take the amazing things God has given this church in the last 175 years and make them even better, an opportunity to bring God in new ways to so many who have been here for generations or who will come in future generations. So, we said "yes."

So, now, I am asking you about your nudge. How is God calling you to take a step in this capital campaign? Will you view this ask as a burden or an opportunity?

Crystelle Markley  
*Capital Campaign Co-Chair*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Do I believe that God has called me to be part of this adventure?
2. Will I take the time to listen to the voice of God in the midst of this adventure?
3. Will I be willing to say "yes" to the call of God?

## **Prayer**

*Thank You, Lord, for calling me to be a part of this adventure in faith. Help me to be open to Your voice, to listen to Your call and to finally discern Your will for my life. "Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee." I now pray for the rest of my church family; help us to be open to Your voice, to listen to Your call, to discern Your will for our lives. I pray in the name of Christ. Amen.*

# May 7, 2025

*But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."*

**Exodus 4:10**

We ask ourselves why was Moses asked to lead the people? Why was he asked to speak for a people he had thought of as slaves?

From infancy Moses had lived a luxurious life. Things were given to him without his needing to ask for them. Is that why he felt slow of speech and slow of tongue? Perhaps it is the reason, but our Lord knew Moses was the right person for the Israeli leadership.

A good leader spends his time thinking about what is best for the people. He does not have to do the job totally by himself. In fact, that is not a leader at all. Leadership looks to the people and finds their talents. In considering our stewardship campaign for renovating our church, our leadership has pulled together committees, media talent, construction professionals, and the congregation itself as part of a big team with a goal to make our church facilities safer and function better. When we read the story of Moses we realize that is exactly how he handled moving the Israelites out of Egypt into the Promised Land. Everyone worked toward their one goal.

As just a small person in the body of the church, can I do what is important in helping find success for the campaign? Times are uncertain, and it seems, money does not go as far as it did last year. When our children needed something, did I not find a way to get it for them? Usually, I end up making a list of pros and cons.

By seeing my thoughts in print, it has been easier to make proper decisions. I think this might work for all of us in making our church even better. We must believe God is our leader in this new campaign.

And this I do believe.

Sarah Ettredge  
*M&Ms Senior Adults, PALS Ministry*

## Questions to Consider

1. Will my contribution help make the church building better?
2. When should I start planning for the campaign monies needed?
3. Even with doubts about how I can be helpful, does our Lord count on me to do my best?

## Prayer

*Our Father in Heaven, as you hear our prayers, we say thank you for your blessings. Our church has made 175 years trying to be the church to help others. There have been many successes because you have led us on the right path. Please be with us during this time as we struggle to once again do what is good for our family of faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



# May 8, 2025

*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision,  
"Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."*

*... And Abram said, "O Lord God what will you give me, for I continue childless." He (God) brought him (Abram) outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord ...*

**Genesis 15:1, 3, 5, 6**

When God called Abraham to leave his home and his comfortable life in Ur to strike out on an unknown adventure with God, Abram believed God and was willing to step out in faith to follow. God made Abraham a promise that he would be the father of a mighty nation. Abram believed, and began his journey with God. Now, many years later, Abram had been through many adventures and challenges with God, and God had given him great success and wealth. But Abram still lacked the most important promise, a son to be the fulfillment of the original promise, to be a father to a great nation. Abram had begun to question, to doubt how God would fulfill this promise.

God heard Abram's heart and he took him out under the stars to renew the covenant. God again promised Abram that his descendants would be too numerous account "and Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord declared him righteous because of his faith." All along Abram had been demonstrating his faith through his actions and through his obedience to God. Though it would still be a long time before the promised son came, *but Abram believed*, and he continued to be faithful.

This is a wonderful reminder for all of us that we are in covenant with God through our faith in Jesus by trusting his promises, and by doing our best to obey. As we consider the question in our campaign prayer, "God, what do you want to do through me?", we need to remember that God promised to protect Abram and to reward his obedience. That promise is ours today, just as it was Abrams. What we must do is to show our faith and to trust and obey to the best of our ability. Let us be willing to step out in faith as Abram did, and to follow where God leads us.

Janet Crockett  
Foundry Sunday School Class, Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Questions to Consider

1. Have I lost any of my original enthusiasm?
2. Do I believe in the vision?
3. What does God truly want from my church, this campaign, and my life?

## Prayer

*Precious God, please help me not to get so caught up in accomplishing what I think I need to be doing for you that I forget about the promise you have already answered and the blessings you have poured out on me. Please help me to be like Abram, and not to be afraid to step out in faith, to follow you as Abram did; help me to trust and obey. Amen.*

# May 9, 2025

*Then Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."*

**Joshua 3:5**

The Israelites were so close to their heart's desire, so close to reaching the Promised Land that they had spent decades working for.

They faced setbacks, they faced disappointments, they faced the fears that they were still not ready. And as they stood upon the powerful banks of the Jordan, with the Promised Land set just out of their grasp, they were flooded with so many waves of emotions that the end goal felt even farther out of reach. How could they do it without their leader, Moses, who had passed? Would they ever reach that land? Would they ever be who God wanted them to be?

Everybody has the one beautiful thing that they so desperately wish their heart could reach. Perhaps it's your dream career, a relationship with someone who inspires you, or in my case, figuring out whatever I have to do with my life when I graduate from high school. Initially, when we set these goals and work towards them, we can feel bubbles of excitement urging us to keep going. But as it gets harder, and it takes longer, we can feel as if we are stumbling backwards, rather than moving forward. Like the people of Israel, we wonder, "How can I possibly do this? How can I overcome these challenges?" When I take a step back to view my own life, these feelings of doubt overwhelm me, and leave me with the questions:

"What am I to do with my life? How can I overcome my fears and struggles to see who I really am?" Now these questions can be daunting, and feeling as if there is no answer is even scarier, but if we stop and listen, we can realize that God *does* have a response for us:

*"Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."* When we sanctify ourselves, we set ourselves aside from these fears and challenges that surround our goals, and allow ourselves to be used for a holy purpose. I've learned (through much trial and error), that it can be hard to set yourself aside to be used for God. It's like taking your hands off the wheel and trusting you'll get to your destination - in one piece. But it is through this whole hearted trust, this push to set yourself aside to be used by God for God that we can see that "the Lord will do wonders among you."

Emerson Guerra  
Student Ministries

## Questions to Consider

1. Am I beginning to experience any doubts or questions about our church, our campaign, or my involvement?
2. Are there parts of my life that I am holding back from giving to God because I am afraid?
3. How can I intentionally set my life apart to be used by God?

## Prayer

*Oh Lord, give me the courage and the faith to give my life and all I have, to be used by You. Show me ways, oh Lord, that I can set myself and my life apart for You. Amen.*

# May 10, 2025

*Thus says the Lord to you: "Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's ... This battle is not for you to fight; take your position, stand still and see the victory of the Lord ... "*

**2 Chronicles 20:15, 17**

I am a person of action. When it comes to matters that I care about, such as social justice, those close to me know that my passion kicks in, and I get to work, knowing that I have the ability to "take the bull by the horns." As the oldest of three siblings, as part of a family of strong women (including a particularly feisty grandmother), as an attorney... I often convince myself that I can make things happen. What I often forget at the door is that I am not alone, and that taking time to stand still, listen, and wait upon God, leads to the very best result.

Over the course of the next month, there will be considerable action in and around our church. Many will be feverishly working to accomplish all of the tasks involved with this stewardship campaign. In the midst of all the busyness, there will be questions, differences of opinion, and even doubts and complaints. In those moments, we would do well as a congregation to take time to stand still and wait upon God.

Capital campaigns can be formidable. Can you imagine the courage it took in 1891 to move forward with building the beautiful limestone sanctuary that we are still enjoying today? Or to build a religious education building in 1930, during the Great Depression? How fortunate we were that FUMC members recognized the need, more than 20 years ago, for the flexible space that is the McKinney Center. Over the 175-year life of our beloved congregation, God has been there to lead the way. How exciting it is that, through Him, it is our turn to take our positions, stand still, and see the victory of the Lord!

Debbie Bray  
*Branches Sunday School Class Leader*

## Questions to Consider

1. When have I remembered to stand still and wait upon God, instead of rushing in myself to "take the bull by the horns?"
2. What might be some ways that I can stand still and trust God in this chapter in the life of FUMC Georgetown?

## Prayer

*Teach me, Oh Lord, to stand still and wait for You. Help me to pause and remember that ultimately our success is in Your hands. Teach me to trust. Amen.*



# May 11, 2025

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

## ***Ephesians 3:20-21***

You have probably been told many times, just as I have, that God is larger than the universe, that God created all things and is Lord of all things. We have an intellectual understanding of God's abundant love and God's abundant means for accomplishing what God wants to accomplish. And, yet I find myself struggling with whether I am adequate, up to the task, smart enough, brave enough to do what God might be calling me to do.

My wife, Peggy, and I worked full time jobs while raising our two children. We saved what we could, offered what we could to the church and were able to help our children transition into their adult lives. I had served various roles in a large corporation for 30+ years and decided in early 2008 that it was time to retire from that company and seek a different way to spend my time. So, Peggy and I put together a financial plan that looked adequate and I gave my retirement notice. Then, 2 months after I retired, the stock market crashed, and half of our savings disappeared overnight. We were scared! We needed a different plan! We worried over the ways we imagined that we wouldn't be able to provide gifts for our children and grandchildren, help provide care for our ailing parents and still give money to the church. We lost a lot of sleep worrying over the ways to adjust our lifestyle to accommodate our new financial situation. And we prayed. We prayed for insight and guidance from God. We prayed for our family and friends and our church. Finally, after many months, the market recovered enough that we were able to increase our annual giving. We joined our church's capital improvement campaign with a generous pledge in addition to our regular giving, while admitting openly to each other our worries about whether it would backfire. And through all this we learned that God doesn't do math the same way we do. God multiplies when we add. We subtract and God adds even more. We divide and God reverses the sign. We learned through the experience of God's abundant grace that far more was accomplished than we had thought to ask or imagine. Thanks be to God!

Bruce Schrott  
*Director of Adult Discipleship*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. In what ways am I limiting God's impact in my life?
2. In what ways are we limiting God's impact in our church?
3. Am I being generous with God and myself as I consider my financial gift?

## **Prayer**

*God of abundant grace and love, forgive me for the times my lack of faith has limited what you can do through me. Fill me with confidence that your math works better than mine and, together, we can accomplish far more than I can think to ask or imagine. Fill my dreams with faith and trust in you for it is through your son and the power of the Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.*

**May 12, 2025**

*I pray that according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*

***Ephesians 3:16-17***

The theologian Henri Nouwen wrote this about fundraising (paraphrased):

There are two models for fundraising. One is the “beggars model,” which says that you have money... our campaign needs your money ... give us your money ... please.

But, the other form and the one that speaks to my heart, is what Nouwen refers to as the “spiritually based model,” which says that as you have money, our church has a vision; a vision for ways in which the world can be made better. And if your hopes for the world are in concert, in communion with our vision, then together, we can make a difference.

My sense is that when we follow this spiritually based model, we please God as we give from our heart, from our sense of beliefs and values. This is the profile of “a cheerful giver,” one whose giving aligns both with their heart, and with their understanding of what God hopes from them - with how they best relate to the world of God’s imagination.

Speaking personally, there are any number of reasons why Cindy and I are supporting this campaign with the largest gift we have made to any organization. Certainly, we have deep gratitude for ministries of our church that have made such a difference in our lives, the lives of our children and the lives of so many in our community. That holds for both the past and the present.

But our prime motivation is about the future. It’s about our confidence that values we hold, belief in God, the stewardship of all of God’s creation, the welcome to all, the sanctity of all of humanity and the vast potential of a child, will continue to be upheld by our church community.

It is our hearts, we pray Christ dwelling within our hearts, that are leading us in these decisions ...

Tom Locke  
FUMC Foundation

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Do I have an anchor in my life?
2. Do I find myself being swept away by the demands of society and culture?
3. Is my giving simply transactional, or does it come from my faith, my values, my hopes for the world?

## **Prayer**

*Oh Lord, I confess that I often find myself being swept along by the currents of life. I put my faith and hope in power, people, and possessions. Forgive me. Help me to turn to You during this campaign that my life would be rooted, grounded, and anchored in You and Your wonderful love. In the name of Christ, Amen.*



# May 13, 2025

*For God so loved the world that he gave ...*

**John 3:16**

It took almost dying from a tear in my stomach to fully grasp God's love for me. I cried out in pain, He heard me, filled me with the Holy Spirit as only He can do, and my life has never been the same. Sadness, that once seemed like the only emotion I felt, has been replaced with a joy and happiness that mere words cannot express; and, can only be happening because God loves me! My life, since moving to Texas a little over a year ago, has been a blessing, a joy, a wondrous growth in my faith, and a deep desire to ensure our church continues to reach out to those who need His healing touch. My commitment to our campaign will be made with gladness and a hope that it reflects my willingness to help others.

Pam Norvell

## Questions to Consider

1. Why do I give?
2. Does my gift adequately reflect God's love for me and others?
3. Who do I personally know who needs to know the love of God through Christ?

## Prayer

*Loving and Giving God, thank You for loving the world so much that You gave up Your only son that I might live. Help me, Oh God, to give like You. Help me to give with a generous and loving heart. Open my eyes to a world that stands in desperate need of Your wondrous love in Christ. I pray this in His name. Amen.*

# May 14, 2025

*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.*

**John 3:16**

This keystone statement of the Christian faith shows us several things about God and His love for mankind. First, God loves us first – before we knew God, before we were created. Second, God's love is sacrificial: He gave His only Son in order to restore our relationship with Him. Third, the grace that God demonstrates begins with God. It is God's initiative to deliver grace to us; it is not our initiative. Fourth, as Jesus' earthly ministry shows, God is love. God is compassionate beyond any earthly measure, and desires humanity to live life to the full. Fifth, God's love extends to the whole world. There are no boundaries to God's love or grace.

God's love led our church to help outcast and homeless orphans in Rwanda, so they could become educated, healthy, and able to sustain life for their families. These orphan-led families are being transformed from homeless, hungry, and outcast, into productive and respected members of their communities; and their big smiles and warm hugs demonstrate their accomplishments.

A healthy, growing church gives sacrificially out of thanksgiving for God's love and the gifts God provides to each of us. Those gifts then become blessings that enable God's love to be shown across the community. This outreach transforms our lives and those whom we touch.

Reagan Cook  
*Mission Ministries*

## Questions to Consider

1. How has God blessed you? Draw a timeline.
2. Where have you blessed others?
3. Does your giving to your church reflect God's blessings, your thanksgiving, while offering hope to those in need?
4. Imagine what your church would look like when it reaches more people in need and shows what God's grace is like to your community.

## Prayer

*Dear Lord, Creator of everything and the giver of all sustenance, thank You for Your deep love and grace. We know You equip us for our journey with You. Transform us into the people who you intend us to be, beyond what we are today. And may all our efforts accomplish your will and be to the glory of Your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen*



# May 15, 2025

*We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.*

## **2 Corinthians 8:1-2**

The most notable acts of generosity I've experienced were during my time working with Habitat for Humanity. A new employee, John, caught my attention with his optimism, dedication, and hard work at all the job sites. He did more work than anyone else, constructing houses while having the biggest smile on his face. You can imagine my surprise when I found out that he was homeless himself and crashing at a friend's place. How could someone with so little be able to provide so much for others? Although he didn't have a place to live, he ensured that others in similar situations had shelter and a home to be proud of. Instead of focusing on what he didn't have and how he could improve his own wealth, he focused on how he could improve the lives of those around him. His generosity sparked further acts of generosity from new homeowners who felt the need to pay it forward by helping build houses for future homeowners.

What do we want? Research tells us that the more we earn, the more we want, making wealth comparable to addiction. What would happen if, by God's grace, our perpetual desire to gain more could be transformed into a heartfelt desire to give more? What would happen if we spent as much time figuring out ways to give as we spend figuring out how to earn, have, and keep?

Mara Strohl  
*College Age Ministries*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Who has taught you about generosity?
2. Can you recall a time when someone who could least afford it gave you a generous gift? What was it like? How did you respond? Did it affect you in any way?
3. Can you recall a time when you were particularly generous? What was it like? What did you learn? How has it impacted your life?

## **Prayer**

*Oh God, thank You for the examples of generosity You have sent into our lives. Forgive us, Lord, for being more concerned with how much we can earn, have, and keep, instead of how much we can give. Open our hearts, Oh God, to the joy of generosity. Amen.*



# May 16, 2025

*For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of partnering in this ministry to the saints, and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.*

## **2 Corinthians 8:3-5**

It simply makes no sense. The Macedonian Christians, in the midst of their own poverty, in the midst of their own struggles, were begging earnestly for the “privilege” of giving. To most, it just makes no sense at all. Who begs for the privilege to give?

It seems odd to me as well. And yet, I have been part of ministries, campaigns, and new ventures when the Spirit was moving, when I knew in my soul that God was at work, and I desperately wanted to be part of this thing. I knew this ministry or big effort was going to be life-changing for people, and so I wanted to support it however I could. Did I beg for the privilege to give? No, not exactly. But I was willing to squeeze my budget or sacrifice in some other area, so that I could be part of the work God was doing.

I imagine that is exactly how the early church felt. The Spirit of God was moving among them, and they were seeing lives changed. They became less concerned about themselves, and more concerned about sharing this good news with others. They were less worried about their provisions, and more concerned about providing for the group or the ministry. They were being called to follow where God was leading, and they were willing to sacrifice for the cause. They “gave themselves first to the Lord” and then to the others. What if we all lived like that?

Tina Schramme  
Associate Pastor

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Where do I see God moving or working?
2. Am I open to what God might lead me to do, even if it means sacrifice?
3. Where do I give of my time, efforts, and resources? Does this align with my values?

## **Prayer**

*God who moves among us, I know you are moving and calling me forward, always. Show me where you want me to go and give me courage to follow. Let the Spirit guide me in ways that stretch my faith help me grow. Amen.*

# May 17, 2025

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved.*

## **1 Corinthians 10:31-33**

This scripture is the concluding remarks of Paul in his recommendations to the church at Corinth about whether or not it is morally correct to eat meat from an animal that had been sacrificed to an idol in a Roman temple. His conclusion was that it depended on your eating companions. You could eat the meat if your guests had no misgivings about this practice, but you should forego eating the meat if it would be offensive to your guests. As he said "I try to please everyone in everything that I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many....". Do I reflect God to the world in all that I do, not seeking my own advantage? Of course, we all must consider our own advantage some of the time, but the truth often is that I seek my advantage most of the time. If I look at my checkbook or my credit card statements, I am confronted with this same question. What do my spending patterns reflect?

A couple of years ago, a pipeline company condemned a right-of-way across the ranch that my sister and I own. We were paid for the easement, and we agreed to set the money aside to remodel and enlarge the small house currently on our property. However, we put that project off. Now, I am being asked to contribute to a capital campaign at our church, and I feel called to make a sacrificial gift. I have decided to forego the construction at my ranch and give that money to the church. My hope is that my gift will be used to the advantage of others, just as I have been the advantageous recipient of the gifts of others in the past.

Stephen Benold  
*Discover Sunday School Class Leader*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. What does my life reflect - more advantage to me or to others?
2. Am I willing to honestly seek God's will for my life, including my finances?
3. How can I reprioritize my financial life in order to better reflect God and his love toward others?

## **Prayer**

*Dear God, I confess that I do not always reflect You and Your love. I confess that much of my time is spent in seeking my own advantage. Give me the courage, Oh God, to seek Your will for my heart, my life, and even my finances. In all that I do and say, help me to reflect You and Your love. I pray through Christ my Lord. Amen.*

# May 18, 2025

*... Children, how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God.*

## **Mark 10:24**

Two experiences in my life have taught unforgettable lessons about money. The first was a sermon I heard from the pastor who would later marry my husband, Bill, and me. I was a single teacher, living month to month with few extras. I was active in the church and a regular attendee all my life, but surely no one expected me to pledge money at this time, with my income? I would do that later. I did not see myself as someone who was “trusting in riches,” as I had very few.

It was pledge season and one Sunday the pastor posed this question: “What would you do if you arrived here at church this morning and the doors were locked?” He asked how important the work of the church was to us, and to our community, and to God. This altogether interrupted my logic! My walk with God was of utmost importance to me, and the worship, teaching, friendships, and outreach of the church were my mainstay. I had a small epiphany that morning, and I made a commitment that going forward in my life I would pledge a regular sum to the church that Jesus loved. I would remember that the riches entrusted to me were meant to be shared, lest I begin to take my comfort and peace from them.

Some years later after Bill and I were married, both working with two small kids, he got sick and was bed-ridden for about a month. He owned his own insurance business, so no work meant no income. I was a teacher. There were no bonus checks, and our savings were slim.

When the end of the month rolled around we didn’t have the money to pay our mortgage. I was beside myself with worry—the eleventh commandment in my house growing up was “Always pay your bills on time.” Bill was very sick and I needed to keep things going. I called our pastor, explained the situation, and asked for prayers. I needed a God-sized miracle.

At the end of the day I was more than surprised when our pastor appeared at the front door. He handed me an envelope with a check for the amount of our mortgage payment. I burst into tears. I was certainly not asking for this, not expecting this! Who could I thank? “The donors asked me not to share their names,” he said. “But in your life you will have many opportunities to pay it forward.”

The overwhelming generosity of some anonymous friends still brings a tear to my eyes. And my pastor was right. That one act of kindness is something I often recall, and have many opportunities to repay. I can put myself in that place of feeling empty, hopeless, desperate. I can see the power we have to lift others up, to love out loud, to pay it forward.

We are in a season of assessing the stewardship needs of our church building, and my two lessons still apply.

Barbara Bergman  
*United Women in Faith*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. What would I do if I arrived at church one morning and the doors were locked? What if we all decided we couldn’t keep this church operating?
2. Given the extravagant generosity that Jesus has shown to me, what am I willing to sacrifice in order to pay it forward?
3. And finally, if I use my imagination, how many people can I envision being forever changed by the love and grace of our God through the sermons, small groups, baptisms, marriages, outreach, and friendships of First United Methodist Church, Georgetown? And what is the part I can play?

## **Prayer**

*Lord, we give you gracious thanks that you are the Word made flesh, and by your Spirit you still dwell among us. Thank you for all of the ways we come to know and serve you through our church. We ask your blessing upon our church, and upon each of us, that we may trust you with our riches, and multiply our treasure by placing it in your hands. Amen.*

**May 19, 2025**

*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

**Isaiah 40:31**

When Jim and I decided to buy a house closer to downtown Houston, where he worked, I thought we would find our house and be moved in within 6 to 9 months, not realizing just how bad the Houston housing market was at this time. We met with a realtor and started our search.

Several months had gone by before we found the first house; it was a great house and I prayed that if this was our house they would accept our contract and if not that there would be a higher contract ahead of ours, and there was a higher contract. God had answered my prayer. So I continued to look, strengthened by my answer, that this was not our house and to be patient and wait.

After six more months, the second house came on the market, and as I prayed for this house, I asked God, "If this is our house, they will accept our contract and if it isn't our house it would already have a cash contract." And again, God answered my prayer. This was not our house. So I waited, renewed by His answers and I continued to look.

After another six months or so, the third house. By this time Jim was so ready to buy a house, this house, any house; our search had been going on for over a year and a half and he was ready! He saw it and liked it. I liked it too but it needed another bedroom, which meant an addition and construction. Our realtor was as anxious to sell as Jim was to buy so she swept us up to her office to fill out the papers. I didn't feel right about this; I was not sure. He asked me what was wrong and I told him that I hadn't prayed about this house and I couldn't sign the papers. So we left and in talking about it we knew we didn't want to spend time on remodeling this house just to buy a house. God was with me, speaking to my heart, this is not the one. Wait ...

And after looking for over two years and walking into over a hundred homes, the fourth house is the one we fell in love with, the one I had prayed for without ever seeing it. It was the perfect house for our family and I prayed that this was our house, that they would accept our contract and none would be higher. And our wait was over, this was now our new home.

Our waiting on God had given us a home and a neighborhood where we could renew our strength and grow; where we could raise our girls. We had great neighbors and found a new church home, a church where we already knew people and had friends there. (God had gone before us.) We had a home we used for Sunday school parties, MYF gatherings, swim parties, couples Bible studies, Young Life board meetings and parties, and parties for the summer recruits at Baker & Botts. God used this house and our church home to prepare Jim's heart for His ministry. This is where Jim found his calling to the ministry.

Susan Turley  
Chancel Choir, Handbells

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Am I willing to wait upon God?
2. What are some of the barriers in my life that prevent me from waiting on God?
3. Is there a special time that I can devote to waiting upon God?

## **Prayer**

*Dear God, forgive me for always being in such a hurry. Teach me to slow down. Teach me to wait. Teach me to listen. In my waiting and listening, Oh God, bring renewal to my heart, my life, my family, and my church. Amen.*



# May 20, 2025

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.*

## **Psalm 130:5**

Periods of waiting can be profoundly challenging for mental health, stirring anxiety, uncertainty, and even despair. Psalm 130:5 acknowledges this struggle, but it also models a holistic response: the psalmist waits with their whole being—mind, body, and spirit—anchored in hope.

Waiting is not passive resignation but an active process of trust. When we consciously place our hope in something greater than ourselves, like God's promises, it can reduce stress, foster resilience, and offer a sense of peace amid uncertainty.

The psalmist's approach—waiting with their whole being—encourages us to engage our minds (choosing hope over despair), care for our bodies (practicing self-compassion), and nurture our spirits (leaning into faith and community). This integrative posture can help us find meaning and growth even in difficult seasons.

If you are struggling with waiting, remember:

It's normal to feel tension and discomfort.  
Hope, especially when grounded in faith, can be a powerful tool for mental wellness.  
Community and honest prayer can provide support and perspective.

Heather Gause  
*Young\*ish Ministry*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. How can you care for your mind, body, and spirit as you wait?
2. Who can you reach out to for support during this season?

## **Prayer:**

*God, help me to wait with my whole being. Anchor my thoughts in hope, calm my body, and strengthen my spirit as I trust in Your timing. Amen.*



# May 21, 2025

*Be still, and know that I am God!*

## ***Psalm 46:10***

If silence is indeed God's first language, then how is it possible for us to hear the voice of God when we are surrounded by a cacophony of sounds...computers, TVs, iPods, cell phones? Henri Nouwen, priest, professor, writer, and theologian gives us a clue to the answer when he says, "Through a spiritual discipline we prevent the world from filling our lives to such an extent that there is no place left to listen."

Be still, and know...

What are the spiritual disciplines we could employ to help us find a place to listen? I like to call those disciplines "the three S's"...silence, solitude, and Sabbath. You likely understand the words silence and solitude, even though the practice of them may be difficult for you. By Sabbath I am referring to a chunk of time set apart to direct thoughts and actions toward God.

"Deep speaks to deep, spirit speaks to spirit, heart speaks to heart." - Nouwen

Be still ...

St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) reminds us:

Let nothing disturb you  
Let nothing frighten you  
All things are passing  
God never changes  
Patience obtains all things  
She who possesses God lacks nothing  
God alone suffices.

Be ...

Kathy Pena  
*Director of Congregational Care*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. How can I be intentional about practicing silence so that I may be present with God?
2. Is there a chunk of time in my week for me to practice "the three S's"? If not, how can I make that time available?
3. Am I willing to listen for God's voice in the silence?

## **Prayer**

*Dear God,  
Help me to find a quiet place in this noisy world, a place where I can be still and listen for your voice. Help me to find time in my busy life, time to be alone with you and to listen. And, dear God, once I hear your voice, give me the courage to be obedient. Amen.*

# May 22, 2025

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.*

## **2 Corinthians 9:11-12**

It's hard to speak of one without the other that being "gratitude" and "generosity." During this special time of our church, we are asked to give our finances not just as an obligation but in response to these questions: How has God and this church made a difference in my life? God, what do you want to do through me? Because we have been blessed with so much, it is a natural response wanting to give back a portion of what God has already given to us. Our response of gratitude and generosity is a way of saying "Thank You" to God.

It's hard to imagine a life without being a part of a church family and not having a relationship with God. This is especially evident in times of crisis most of us have experienced or will experience in life. The love, support, and strength given by God is reflected by the way we care for one another as a church family. If we took time to list ALL the many ministries our church has to offer and the impact they have on the lives of children, youth, teens, young adults, adults, and seniors, we truly would have hearts full of so much gratitude. ALL these lives need nurturing from our church to bring them into a closer, fuller, more meaningful relationship with Jesus. It's our duty as disciples of Christ to bring others into the fold to know what a difference a Christ-centered life can be. It is out of God's great abundance and generosity toward us that we show our gratitude back to Him through our generous giving.

Caren Paull  
*Greeter, Homebound Communion Ministry*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. What are the ways God has blessed me?
2. Have I responded to God's blessings with gratitude and generosity?
3. How has being a member of FUMC Georgetown had an impact on my life?
4. How can I show my gratitude through generosity?

## **Prayer**

*Thank you, Lord, for the many ways you have blessed me. I am grateful for my church family and the ministries of our church to help us grow closer in relationship with you and spread your love. Help me, out of gratitude, to make a gift that reflects ALL the many blessings you have so richly poured out on me. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**May 23, 2025**

*Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."*

***Luke 19:8-10***

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his life changed. The same for me. I was a typical teenager until I became a Christian. Then, I became a regular at church services and activities. Today, at age 89, the First United Methodist Church of Georgetown is my church home and through it I have come to know God more fully.

In recent years I have imagined that Jesus is a companion. As I walk, he walks beside me. He sits next to me during Sunday morning services. He is interested in the discussion about our plant improvement.

During the month of May, the church will ask me to make a three-year pledge. The pledge will be for the amount of money I will give for work on our buildings. Much repair, replacement, and many additions are needed.

Jesus tells me I must support this building program. He wants me to pray. Then he believes that I will step forth in faith and make the best pledge that I can.

**Ken Armstrong**  
*Contemporary Forum Sunday School Class Leader*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. How have I met Christ in my church?
2. How is my life changed because of meeting Christ?
3. How is my life different because of Christ and the church?
4. Can I pray about sharing with others, privately or publicly, about my willingness to give as a grateful response to God's love?

## **Prayer**

*Oh, Giving and Loving God, remind me now of all the wonderful ways You have blessed me, touched me, and changed me. Give me the courage and boldness to share my story with others, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**May 24, 2025**

*And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

**Mark 2:4-5**

This is just one example of friends who would do anything to help one another. Friends that were willing to dig through a roof just to have the chance of making the paralytic better. Friends that stopped whatever they were doing, and never once said, "We can't help you, we're busy right now."

As we begin to go through our devotional journey in faith, you may be thinking, "This kind of stuff seems impossible!," however what we can take away is that it's not all that impossible when you put your trust in God. When you become overwhelmed with willingness and a desire to pull your own weight, that is when you can really see the presence of Jesus Christ helping you along the way, even if he's the person you're going to see. When you take a look at the people in the scripture, you can see the same willingness and desire to make their friend better. They worked through crowds and even a roof just to see Jesus and have their friend walk again. Even if you're not at that scale, you've still been blessed and God is still asking you to pick up your corner, one way or another.

This is evident with one of my own friends, who is now passed on after she was robbed of life from cancer. When she was still with us, however, she was constantly doing things for other people, and one of her most popular things were the baked goods she made. She never failed to bake some of the most amazing cookies and brownies I've tasted. She would always bring some for other people to eat, and would barely have any of her own because she would rather give them to others to enjoy. Even when she was diagnosed with cancer, it never stopped her willingness to give for her friends. Only when she passed in July of 2024 was when her giving stopped, which didn't really end until months later via celebration of life parties. She wanted her friends to continue celebrating her life and knowing how much each of them meant to her.

This story is showing that she was always willing to pick up her corner, even when the devil was living in her in the form of cancer.

Charlie Rohre  
*Student Ministries*

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Am I willing to at least pick up my corner so people know the comfort and healing of Jesus Christ?
2. Do the gifts I consider represent what God has given me? Am I willing to pick up my corner of the blanket?
3. Could I trust my friends, through Jesus Christ, to do the same things that the people in the scripture did for their friend?

## **Prayer**

*Oh Lord, thank You for friends who in the past have carried me into Your healing presence. I name them now ... Thank You for all of the blessings You have so richly poured forth on my family and me. Help me to now give back, give me the courage to do whatever it takes for me to pick up my corner of the blanket. In the name of Christ, Amen.*



## May 25, 2025

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road ..."*

**Luke 24:32**

Hearts burning. Burning. What a strong adjective! As the two disciples reflected on their experience along the road to Emmaus and the evening dinner, they connected their recognition of the risen Jesus with the way they felt and thought on the journey. Burning.

The original Greek for "heart burning" is *kardía kaioméni*. We still use the word burning today in both a literal incendiary sense and also to describe passion or zeal. These two disciples, once their eyes had been opened, were able to see the intense experience of walking with Jesus. And it's often that way with us – it's only with hindsight that we understand how the course of our life has been guided from above. What a burning experience.

So it is, too, with our church. We can see over the past 175 years how our congregation has been called into new areas, new ministries, and down new paths. It wasn't always easy, and it wasn't always with a clear sense of direction. But today we can see the greater plan of yesterday. We are now on that portion of the walk that future generations will look back on and celebrate how we were guided by the Maker's hand. Burning.

**Ben Lake**

*Sleep in Heavenly Peace Mission*

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, your lamp is a burning light to our feet. We cannot see the path ahead, but we go forward in the confidence of your direction. We give you thanks for those behind us and ahead of us. Amen.*



