



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 10/6-7/18

“The Christian Movement”

Acts 2:36-41

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Family Activity: This weekend is World Communion Sunday, meaning that Christians across the entire world will celebrate together in the Lord’s Supper. This is an important weekend because, even though not all Christians think exactly the same, we can still come together as part of God’s family. This week, invite someone to join you for a meal or dessert. During your time, see how many things you can find that you have in common.

Discussion Ideas

- Favorite trip
- One activity you would like to try
- Best childhood memory
- Something I am afraid of
- One thing I couldn’t live without

Monday, 10/8/18

“Mercy”

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- When is a time in your life that you did not receive mercy? How about a time you were not able to extend mercy?
- How has God's mercy changed you? How do you feel you are able to extend mercy to others today?

Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for the ways your mercy has rained down on us. You have called us into the light, and we are grateful for your grace that has redefined us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may extend your gift to others. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Tuesday, 10/9/18

“Love Deeply, Serve With God's Strength”

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- It is not a big secret that the early church fought and disagreed with each other. It is sure a good thing we got that out of the way early! Ok, so we didn't quite get over that particular hurdle, but the good news is that Peter's words today are relevant. Which suggestion from the scripture speaks to you most? Why? Have you ever considered your words to be those of God's?
- What does it mean to love other Christians deeply? How do you or could you serve with God's strength?

Prayer: God we glorify your Holy name today. Show us how to love each other with a depth that could only be found in you. Illumine our lives so that the gifts you have given us may honor you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Wednesday, 10/10/18

“Gifts”

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

- We each have a unique purpose in the family of God. Of the gifts listed above, which do you feel is your strongest? How is God calling you to use that gift to glorify God?
- How would you say your gifts complement the body of Christ as a whole? How could your gifts be used for a new Christian movement here at Platte Woods UMC?

Prayer: Good and gracious God, we thank you for your grand design. Help us to see the grace you have given to us through our connection with one another. May we glorify you by the ways we work together so that others can experience your presence in our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Thursday, 10/11/18

“Prayer and Affirmation”

Colossians 1:3-12

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world — just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

- Part of being in community together as Christians is praying for one another. Who is on your prayer list? Reading this passage, is there anyone you would like to add to this list?
- One of the things that I always notice about Paul's letters is that his greetings are filled with affirmation. Who can you affirm today?

Prayer: God we praise your name and thank you for all of the people you have placed in our lives. Help us to be prayer warriors for those who serve alongside us. Give us a spirit of affirmation so that we may build up your kingdom. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Friday, 10/12/18

“In It Together”

I Corinthians 12: 24(b)-26

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- As the body of Christ our connection means that we are in it together for the long haul. Whether we suffer or celebrate, we do it together, as God’s family. How have you seen or experienced the body of Christ suffering? How have you seen division in the body of Christ?
- One of the great joys of being a part of the body of Christ is that we can celebrate together. A win for one is a win for all. How have you been able to rejoice with the body of Christ recently? What is one personal celebration that you could share with others?

Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for the gift of relationship with you and with others. We thank you for the many ways we can celebrate together as the body of Christ. During our times of division and suffering, we ask for your strength and guidance so that we may overcome. Give us hearts that always seek after you for your unity and reconciliation. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

***This week’s devotions were written by
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