

CONNECT To GOD



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August 2019

Paula's Pondering

The Bible speaks of gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit, yet many time Christians tell me they have no special abilities. I can only believe either that this is false modesty, that people aren't reading their Bibles, or that they simply don't understand spiritual gifts.

A spiritual gift is not a talent. Though natural abilities are given to us by God, they must be developed or practiced to be useful. Often, these talents are used for the individual's betterment. For example, a virtuoso piano player must practice and learn for many years before his/her talent is realized.

Spiritual gifts, however, are given to all believers by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the church, not for the individual's benefit. Unlike natural talents and abilities, spiritual gifts do not need to be developed to be useful. Instead, the believer simply "has a knack for that." Spiritual gifts cannot be earned. God gives them according to God's own discretion and grace.

Most of our understanding of spiritual gifts comes from Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; and Ephesians 4:11. In these passages, 20 spiritual gifts are identified: Apostleship, Prophecy, Evangelism, Shepherding, Teaching, Words of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Working of Miracles, Discernment, Helps, Serving, Administration, Leadership, Exhortation (encouragement), Giving, Compassion, Speaking in Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues. Some scholars also include Craftsmanship, because Exodus 35:30-35 speaks of the Spirit of God filling two of the Hebrew men with the abilities to make artistic embellishments to the Tabernacle, including the ability to teach others how to do it.

Most people have a primary gift and 2-3 supporting gifts, though some people have several primary gifts. No one has all the gifts, however. These gifts can change throughout your life as God's use of you changes.

It is often difficult for us to discern our own spiritual gifts (especially if it's a gift you wouldn't have chosen!), though they are easy to see in others. But if you are

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working out of your gifts, you'll find the tasks are fulfilling and purposeful, while, if you are trying to accomplish something you aren't gifted for, you'll probably find the experience frustrating and hard.

The easiest way to find out how you are gifted by God is to take a spiritual gifts inventory. There are several of them out there - some are even on the internet. They consist of statements that you rank by how closely that statement applies to you. After you are finished, you total up the rankings you gave, and the inventory tells you which of the gifts most apply to you.

I recently taught a class where the participants took such a spiritual inventory. I have several copies left, and I have put them on the back table in the sanctuary. If you'd like to discover your spiritual gifts, feel free to take a copy and complete it at your leisure. There are 2 pages of statements (front and back), an answer sheet, and explanations of each spiritual gift in the packet. If you have any questions on how to fill it out or how to score it, ask me. I'll be glad to help.

Blessings,
Pastor Paula

Growth Through Suffering

1 Peter 1:3–9

When we focus on God, we are in a better position to grow in maturity and godliness. When our suffering persists, the Lord may also have other purposes in mind:

To increase our trust. You might think the happiest people are the wealthy or famous. But the truly contented are those who are at peace with God because their faith has been tested—and they know He has only their good in mind.

To strengthen our dependence upon Him. The apostle Paul testified about how his persistent thorn taught him reliance upon the Lord’s grace and strength (2 Corinthians 12:7–10). Instead of believing that we can handle things on our own, we likewise learn to depend more fully on God when our circumstances leave us powerless.

To manifest Christ’s life in us. God wants us to be a living example of the conduct and character of Jesus Christ. For this reason, He uses suffering to sift, sand, and prune whatever doesn’t belong in our life. But in those hard seasons of change, He also sustains us, providing all that we need in order to persevere.

To purify our hearts. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that the pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God (Matt. 5:8). The purification of our heart is an ongoing process. Sometimes it takes difficult situations to identify the things that keep us from delighting in our relationship with God.

Do you trust that God loves you and wants the best for you? Decide to be more open to the work He wants to do in your life through the hard times.

Upcoming Events

- 8/4 Communion
- 8/11 Outreach Team
- 8/15 Nomination Committee
- 8/18 Education Team
- 8/25 Congregational Care Team



Birthdays

August

- 8/6 Dale Armstrong
- 8/9 Linda Hoeshele
- 8/11 Pat Townsend
- 8/17 Heidi Maurice
- 8/19 Carolyn Sorensen
- 8/24 Anna Inman
- 8/27 Shirley Weaver
- 8/28 Asia Townsend
- 8/30 Bev Crabtree



Sunday Sermons

- 8/4Life Hacks: The Big One
- 8/11Belonging: Membership Has Its Privileges?.... Matt. 10:7-22
- 8/18Belonging: We Vow To Pray 1 Sam. 13:5-14
- 8/25Belonging: Missed Opportunities Heb. 10:19-25

Church Mice

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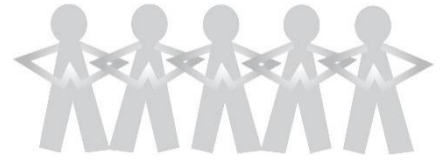
Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
 Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
 Carol Marcks..... 427-5725 or 560-5627
 Marilyn Berry796-5789
 Lucille Bolen560-5131
 Mary Branstad..... 796-9659 or 868-3752
 Ann Fiene257-5214
 Jackie Leffingwell257-1123
 Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398

Carol Buhrlé 796-3630 or 225-8174
 Shirley Weaver461-9224 or 716-1184
 Chris Pauley 571-3922
 Gayle Elliott 257-9655
 Arletta Cahill 600-9203
 Flora Costanza 914-8034
 Sandy Bower 373-5603
 Anna Inman..... (660) 232-1221
 Jackie McMenemy 461-7577

Prayer Chain



Bread Of Life Food Pantry

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open **Wednesday from 3-5pm** and **Saturday from 5-7pm**. No appointment needed!

We need weekly donations! We are always in need of paper products and personal hygiene items.

Items in high demand: hygiene products (soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine napkins), toilet paper, paper towels, canned food (meat, soup, vegetables, fruit), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, boxed sides (instant potatoes, Au-Gratin potatoes, pasta, spaghetti sauce, dry beans & rice), powdered milk, shelf milk (available at Walmart, Big Lots, Costco), laundry soap.

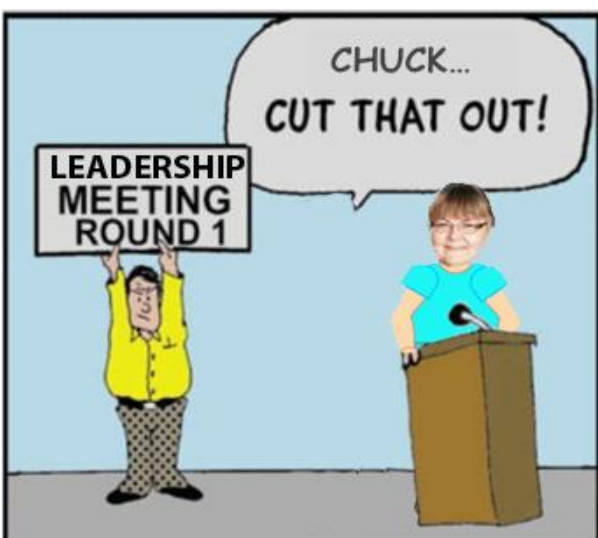
Thank you for your donations!

Website: <http://stmumc.net/outreach-ministries/food-pantry-clothes-closet/>

**NO REPORTING AVAILABLE FOR
MAY OR JUNE**



Leadership Meeting Minutes



JUNE 25 MEETING

There were 12 in attendance for the June 25 meeting. The meeting was opened up in prayer by Craig Bolen at 7:00 p.m.

- **Budget:** We discussed the budget and fundraising ideas.
- **Missing supplies:** The issue of missing supplies was discussed. That seemed to be handled.
- **Office Painting:** The committee liked the new office paint and thanked those who painted it.
- **Committees:** The Teams of the church were discussed. Teams will start late July/ first of August. Each team needs

a contact person. The congregation will be split into the following teams: (1) Outreach, (2) Building & Grounds, (3) Hospitality (Make the church comfortable/Greeters outside), (4) Education, and (5) Congregational Care. The Leadership Council will make the boundaries/guidelines for each team.

- **Prayers** were asked for all the flood victims.

The Leadership Council minutes passed/carried with no amends.

Leadership council ended with a prayer by James Brison.

JULY 18 MEETING

There were 11 in attendance for the July 18 meeting. The meeting was opened up in prayer by Shirley Weaver at 7:00 p.m.

No errors or corrections needed for the minutes from the June 25 meeting.

- **Office Copier:** There was discussion on the copier lease bring up with Sumner One in three months. We save money with the new lease plan (about \$700 a year). In the new lease, the number of color copies are increased to 1,500 and black & white copies were lowered to 1,000... The copier is now set up with codes. Codes were set up to see how many and who is making copies. You need a code to print. See the secretary or Paula Smith if you need a code. Rosemary Garten approved. Craig Bolen 2nd. No discussion needed. Motion was approved by the council.
- **Passwords:** There was discussion of allowing the secretary to change old passwords. The council approved.
- **Fireworks Stand Fundraiser:** The Fireworks Stand fundraiser was a UMM project. Craig Bolen reviewed the money raised from fireworks tent. Discussion was brought to the table about outsourcing running the tent, but the downfall is we would only receive \$500. It was decided not to outsource next year.
- **Heifer Project:** Shirley Weaver discussed the Heifer project. Chicken bank deposit will be done by Chuck & Pat Townsend. Mandy Townsend will deposit it this month.
- **Weed Problem:** Shirley Weaver also discussed the weed problem in the flower bed. She is outsourcing this project to her grandson who has a landscaping company.
- **Food Pantry:** Discussion lead by Paula Smith about the great need for volunteers for the food pantry. We are to always treat anyone coming in need with respect and kindness. Food pantry/clothes closet hours are Wednesday 3–5pm and Saturday 5–7pm.
- **Mission Possible Book – Chapter 3:** Discussion was led by Paula Smith. Topic points: (1) Volunteers are accountable, (2) Always start with a goal and then work through it, (3) Mission to vision, use the S.I.M.P.L.E. method, (4) Allow after the events, have follow-up meetings to discuss the pros/cons, (5) A board is always accountable to Christ, (6) The minister oversees paid & non-paid staff, (7) Governance are responsibility of the board, (8) Fiduciary, Generative & Strategic Discussed Guiding principles, approved by Rosemary Garten, 2nd by James Brison & motion was approved by council (with the knowledge principles can be added/deleted as needed)..... The people to lead the discussion for the next 3 chapters are Carolyn Sorensen (August), Chuck Townsend (September), and Keith Buhrle (October).

Next meeting is August 15 @ 7pm. James Brison closed the meeting with prayer.

UMM Minutes

Thirteen (13) in attendance for **July 20** meeting. Breakfast served. Last month's minutes and Treasurer's reports approved. Lawn mowers in good shape. Indian Taco Dinner possibly in August. \$100 Church Camp Scholarship donated. Discussed new ideas for outreaches and whether we'll have a car show. Next meeting August 17.

Fireworks Stand

St. Mark's profited \$7,139 in fireworks sales.

\$1,428.02.. UMM

\$1,428.02.. Church

\$4,282.96.. Church Programs

The remaining \$4,282.96 was designated to various church programs by the people who worked at the fireworks stand.

We want to thank the volunteers who made it possible.



UMW Minutes

Five (5) in attendance for **July 10** meeting. Shirley Weaver called meeting to order. Treasury balance is \$2,861.41. Ice cream social for Hemophiliac campers is July 29. Sign-up sheet for workers in back table in sanctuary. Festival of Sharing Dental Packs donation box are in back of sanctuary. Monetary donations welcome.

Festival of Sharing

Deadline for packs is Sunday, September 8. Sharefest is Saturday, September 14. To register for the Mission Run/Walk or volunteer, go to <https://missouri-reg.brtapp.com/SharefestYouthRegistrationKC2019>. T-shirts are \$10. See Shirley Weaver for questions.



Missouri Student Dental Pack

4,816 requested versus 2,460 shared in 2018

\$11 | Estimated Pack Value

Place items in a 1-gallon ziplock bag. Place completed packs in boxes labeled "Missouri Student Dental Packs" and mark the quantity on the box's exterior. Extra brushes are for family members.



4 child-sized soft toothbrushes (in original package)



2 adult soft toothbrushes (in original package)



1 dental floss (any size)



1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more)

GET TO KNOW THE AGENCIES YOU SUPPORT

Cornerstones of Care	Northwest Missouri	1,000 People Served Each Month	Mission: Partnering for safe and healthy communities.
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Eagle Lake Camp

United Methodist Churches are hosting a day camp August 5-9, from 9 am - 4 pm each day, for ages 7-12. You still have time to sign up. You can register your child or grandchild at www.eaglelakecamps.com and choose Uptown Independence Day Camp or you can get a registration form at the church.

Leviticus 2 -The Grain Offering

[Leviticus 2 - Grain or Meal Offering](https://youtu.be/AH2Kq6Dpk2o)
<https://youtu.be/AH2Kq6Dpk2o>



The five offerings of the ancient Hebrews are shadows of the cross with each one representing a different aspect of Christ's life and death. **John 5:46**, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me." All of these offerings pointed to Jesus - the promised Messiah! But they should also be a picture of us as His followers.

Leviticus 2:1, "When anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it."

The grain offering was the only bloodless offering because it does not speak of Christ's death, but rather His sinless life. It was an offering of fine flour or grain sometimes baked into bread and sometimes not.

The grain offering always followed the burnt offering because God cannot accept your work (grain offering) until you've accepted Christ's work (burnt offering). Hebrews 9:22, "And according to the [a]Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Remember– these sacrifices picture Christ, but also us...

Leviticus 2:1, "When anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.

Leviticus 2:1, "...his offering shall be of fine flour" because the grain offering foreshadows Jesus as the "Bread of Life." John 6:35, "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

Leviticus 2:1, "...he shall pour oil on it." Oil pictures the anointing of the Holy Spirit on both Christ's life and ours." (Matthew 3:16, Acts 1:8)

Leviticus 2:1, "...put frankincense on it." Frankincense was used to prepare the dead for burial. Like Jesus, we become a "sweet aroma" by freely offering up our lives. Ephesians 5:2, "and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Leviticus 2:2, "He shall bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

Leviticus 2:2, "...shall take from it his handful of fine flour." God owns our entire lives, but He only takes a handful.

Leviticus 2:2, "...shall burn it as a memorial on the altar." As our lives go through the refiner's fire, we naturally begin living increasingly like Christ. As we become more and more like Christ, our lives become a sweet aroma and a memorial to God!

Leviticus 2:3, "The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons." It is most holy of the offerings to the Lord made by fire."

Leviticus 2:3, "...The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons." The first fruits of a man's labor belonged to God. What was left provided for their needs.

Leviticus 2:4–10 outlines the different ways the grain offering could be made. It was sometimes an offering of raw grain or sometimes an offering of baked or unleavened bread.

Leviticus 2:11, "No grain offering which you bring to the Lord shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the Lord made by fire.

Leviticus 2:11, "...you shall burn no leaven." Leaven in Scripture is a picture of sin. Our lives are to be pure before God and free from sin.

Leviticus 2:11, "...nor any honey." Honey in Scripture is a picture of God's Word (Revelation 10:10), and it need not go through the refiner's fire because it's already pure.

Leviticus 2:12–13, "As for the offering of the first fruits, you shall offer them to the Lord, but they shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma. And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.

Leviticus 2:13, "...shall season with salt." Salt was a universal preservative. Our lives should be preserved from corruption and moral decay. The "covenant of salt" God has made with us is binding and unbreakable and will never fade away.

Have you received the Bread of Life, broken for you?