



August Newsletter

Lessons From An Old Familiar Parable

This morning I read the parable of the Good Samaritan. Even though parables are familiar, it seems they always have something new and relevant to say. These verses caught my attention: “But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.” (Luke 10:33-34).

Yesterday was a busy day at the church. I lost track of how often the bell rang - some came for other reasons, but most were people in need of food, clothing, hygiene supplies, bus passes to get to work or to a doctor's appointment, or for job or housing referrals. It kept Brianna with ICAN busy, it kept Kim busy, and when they had left, I filled in. The interruptions can be frustrating and overwhelming, but there is joy in lending a helping hand and spreading kindness. As I read this parable and thought about yesterday, some lessons came to mind:

Lesson 1: The Road Less Traveled

Sometimes when we encounter people on our life's journey, we end up taking the road less traveled. We may need to be willing to go the extra mile for others, just like the Good Samaritan, who went out of his way to help a stranger. The Bible doesn't say, but I wonder if the Samaritan maybe didn't give a big sigh before going to help. He obviously was headed someplace and helping changed his plans and his travel route. It was an interruption ... but the parable says that he “saw” the man and had compassion on him. “Seeing” took him down a different road.

Lesson 2: Bandages for Broken Hearts

For many of the people who come to our church, face-to-face interaction is as important – or more so – than the assistance we offer. The Samaritan not only saw the man, he “took care of him.” Jesus didn't say what that meant, but it went beyond bandaging his wounds and taking the man to an inn. He stays the night and “cares” for the man himself. I wonder if Jesus wasn't saying he listened to the man tell his story and let out some anger. So many people are hurting and have emotional needs. We can be bandages that heal broken hearts.

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Lesson 3: The Innkeeper's Heart

The Samaritan took the man to an inn so he could rest and heal. Hopefully we, in some small way, are a place that welcomes and provides comfort. We can't meet every need, but we can try to create an atmosphere of belonging and acceptance. The bell can seem like an interruption when we're trying to do other things. I need to remind myself the bell is not an interruption; the person ringing the bell is one reason why I'm here and why our church is here. Our church should be an inn and we are the innkeepers.

Lesson 4: Unexpected Blessings

Sometimes, the people we least expect to help us become our unexpected blessings. Every now and then we get a heartfelt thank you for the help we provide or hear the words, "God bless you." Occasionally, there are tears of gratitude. It's hard not to judge others based on appearances or preconceived notions, but we might find that those we least expect can be our greatest source of blessing and encouragement.

Lesson 5: Paying It Forward

The Samaritan's kindness didn't stop at the roadside. He saw the man and things changed. He gave oil, wine, bandages, money, and, of course, time. According to Luke 10:35, he told the innkeeper that he would return to check on the man and pay any extra expense. All this care for another makes me wonder if someone at some time in his life hadn't helped him. There have been people there for me in my times of need, and I suspect the same is true for you. Paying it forward involves looking for ways to bless others in return. Acts of kindness can spread far and wide, creating a chain of goodwill.

Thoughts?



**Reading the Bible: Got Questions?
Small Group Study Sundays at 9:15 am**

**The Bible is the best-selling book of all time
and yet many people who own a Bible have never read it.**

Many who start reading it soon stop.

They stopped when they felt it had no relevance to their lives.

They stopped when they didn't understand what it meant.

They stopped when they didn't like what it had to say.

The Bible is supposed to be hard and we are supposed to struggle with it.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the parlor as we look at the Bible.

**Whether you've never read it or read it 100 times, you will learn something new. The Bible
is like that.**

Bring your questions. All are welcome.



Why do we read the Bible?

How do we read the Bible?

Who wrote the Bible?

When was the Bible written?

Which translation of the Bible is the best?

Who decided what is in our Bible?



The Chosen Bible Study Continues!

Thursdays at 6:00 pm, we continue our Bible study based on “The Chosen.” Each week we will watch part or all of an episode, and then discuss the episode as it relates to Scripture.

If you didn’t make it to season 1 or 2, you are still welcome for season 3. You can go back and watch season 1 on your own through The Chosen app or on YouTube. Join us anytime.

Where: The parlor

When: Thursdays at 6 pm

Cost: None – there will be free handouts available.



Now there are two ways to start your weekday off right with a short meditation including Scripture, reflections, a question to ponder, and/or a prayer for the day. It will take less than five minutes of your time but help you stay focused on your faith.

1. Meditate at Eight on our church Facebook page. Go on Facebook and look for Irvington United Methodist Church. Every weekday morning, Monday through Friday, a short meditation/devotional will post. The daily post takes just a few minutes to read. Too busy to read at 8 am? The post stays up on the Facebook page and can be read later in the day. Miss a day? The day before ... and the day before ... and the day before is still there.

Want to help us out? Share Meditate at Eight on your Facebook page. It's the Facebook way of telling your family and friends and inviting them to check it out. There's a share link to the bottom right of each daily mediation. Help us expand our reach!

2. Did you know our church also has a YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and look for "Shining the Light with IUMC." A picture of our rose window (see above) is with our name, so you'll know you're in the right place. In addition to sermons, you can listen to the daily meditation on your phone or computer. While you're there, hit the subscribe button ... it costs you nothing and will help us reach more people.

Make Meditate at Eight a daily habit ... whether you join us at 8 am, noon, or 8 pm.



Chair Exercise Class!

Feel the need to get moving, but not sure
where or how to start?

Want to get out of the house, see old friends,
and hopefully meet new friends?

Chair exercise class for age 50+ adults (although open to younger adults facing mobility problems).

When: Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Where: IUMC Fellowship Hall (basement)

What: A 30-minute chair exercise class focusing on improving range of motion, core strength, and raising stamina! This class is tailored to those who struggle to get around or deal with life's daily aches and pains. It will be led by a personal trainer.

Cost: While donations are appreciated, they are not required or expected. We want ALL to be welcome!

And... Because we are Methodists, there will be music, laughter, a brief meditation, and food!

Our desire is also to offer food, clothing, and hygiene kits to anyone who comes who is in need. This is open to the church and to our Irvington community.

While this is a low-impact exercise program, if you have any question about your ability to participate, please consult with your physician. If you want more details about the program before joining, please see Pastor Denise.

See you there!



Would You Be Willing to “Adopt” a Room?

An announcement was made in church a couple months ago that we hired new custodians for our church and pre-school. The problem is that our two new hires, combined, are part-time and, as you know, our church is BIG! There is simply no way to adequately clean the entire church in the time allotted ... and we simply can't afford to pay for more hours.

Would you be willing to adopt a room in the church and clean it once a week? We have identified some smaller areas of the church that could be cleaned well in an hour or less each week. We can assist you in getting access that will work with your schedule and will provide cleaning supplies (of course, if you have a preference, you can bring your own).

Here are the rooms/areas we have identified: (that remain on the list).

- The music director's office

- The youth room

- Fellowship Hall (this is large and could be divided, but the cleaning needed is minimal – and would not include the restrooms or stage)

- Fellowship Hall Kitchen

The preschool custodian will take care of the preschool classrooms and restrooms. The church custodian will take care of restrooms, the main sanctuary, hallways, the parlor, church offices, entryways, the south narthex, some downstairs cleaning, windows, etc.

If you are willing to take “adopt a room” either let Pastor Denise know or contact the church office. Also, if there is any area of the church you think needs TLC and you want to volunteer for that, no reasonable offer will be refused!!! If we work together, we can keep our church looking beautiful!

SUNDAYS

9:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Irvington United Methodist Church

30 N Audubon Road

Indianapolis IN 46219

Our Staff

Denise Robinson, **Pastor**

Gregory Baranovsky, **Music Director/Organist**

Kim Fulton, **Office Manager/Financial Secretary**

Lori Steuer, **Preschool Director**

Greg Boyce, **Custodian**

We are on the Web at:

www.irvingtonumc.org

Our email address and telephone number are:

info@irvingtonumc.org

(317) 356-7231

Visit us on Facebook



Mondays at 1:00 pm in the Parlor & on Zoom

We are studying the Minor Prophets. Bring your Bible and join us. Handouts are available each week and you can join in any time. It doesn't matter if you've studied these books before or struggle finding them in your Bible. All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 813 7695 8874

Passcode: 216949

ICAN OFFICE NEEDS

- *Body Wash**
- *Deodorant**
- *Shampoo & Conditioner**
- *All gender/size underwear**

IUMC OFFICE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- *Canned Soups, Pasta, chili and Stews**
- *Regular crackers that come in a box of Sleeves (RITZ or Club type)**