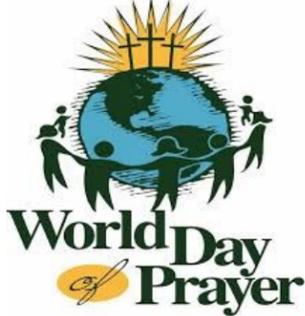


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1. <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:00AM Worship Service 10:30AM</p>	2.	<p>3.</p> <p>Tuesday Prayer Group Parlor 9:30AM</p>	4.	<p>5.</p>  <p>Lloyd Sherrod</p>	<p>6.</p> 	7.
<p>8. <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:00AM Worship Service 10:30AM Methodist Women 4:00PM</p> 	9.	<p>10.</p> <p>Tuesday Prayer Group Parlor 9:30AM</p>	11.	12.	13.	14.
<p>15. <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:00AM Worship Service 10:30AM</p>	<p>16.</p>  <p>David Whitaker</p>	<p>17.</p> <p>Tuesday Prayer Group Parlor 9:30AM</p> 	<p>18.</p> 	19.	20.	21.
<p>22. <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:00AM Worship Service 10:30AM</p>	<p>23.</p>  <p>Rick Leffel</p>	<p>24.</p> <p>Tuesday Prayer Group Parlor 9:30AM</p>	25.	26.	27.	28.
<p>29. <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:00AM Worship Service 10:30AM</p>	<p>30.</p> <p><i>Holy Week</i></p>	<p>31.</p> <p><i>Holy Week</i></p>				

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
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Our Mission:  
Putting our faith into action to make new disciples of Jesus Christ who  
worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

## Every Step Goes Forward—Not Back!

Have you ever felt that at times you are just spinning your wheels in the mud in terms of our spiritual progress. This is so true when we have made great gains in major growth, in which we feel as though we have made tremendous ground. As a matter of fact, this is the way growth goes—periods of intense forward movement that give way to periods of what we feel is stagnation. In those moments when we feel discouraged, it is helpful to remember that we do not ever really go backward. It may be that we are at a standstill because there is a new obstacle in our path, or a new layer to get through, but the hard work we have done cannot be undone.

Every step that we take on the path of our journey is meaningful, and even one that seems to take us backwards is a forward step in the sense that it is what we must do to move to the next level. Any intense growth spurt requires that we rest for a time to fully cultivate and integrate the new energies that have been freed because of our hard work. When we feel that things are not working the way they should, then we must give ourselves permission to take a moment to rest and reflect. We can pray, meditate more, read scripture, feed ourselves good nourishment, and get some extra sleep. Soon we will be energized and excited to work toward the next level of our development, and this rest will make sense because it is something we need to grow and move on.

We notice that when the sun rises each and every day, it follows a path across the sky in only one direction. It does appear as though from time to time it stands still for a moment or sometimes, we can see it move very slowly from one point to another, but we know it is moving steadily forward on its path. We are the same, for once we move through something we can never go back. Sometimes it may appear that we're stuck, when in reality were moving forward to the next important step.

**In His wise and guiding counsel,  
Jerry R.**

