

PRAYER: Dear God, open our eyes today so that we may see you and your love in the faces of everyone we encounter. Amen.

ACTION: Replace the batteries in your flashlights so that when needed, you will have a reliable source of light.

Saturday, August 23, 2025 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 6:1-5 <https://tinyurl.com/yduccax3>

PONDER: Some people will pick at your scab just so they won't feel their own pain alone. Maybe that's what the Pharisees were doing in this passage. Perhaps they were unhappy with their own emptiness, and they didn't want anyone else to have their hunger eased, so they criticized those who were finding food for their bellies. Jesus was a well-known "rule breaker" by this time in his earthly ministry. Not that he was intent on being the "bad boy rebel", but because he knew that rules that kept people on the margins, hungry, homeless and unloved were not "just" rules, but unjust rules. How many times do we avoid doing something that would help somebody else because we use the excuse of "rules". I'm not talking about cheating or stealing and hurting someone else. More like, don't withhold something that could give a person what they need. It's something to ponder, alongside the Pharisees.

PRAYER: Dear God, reveal to me when I have the ability to help, and prod me to feel empowered to help others in ways that are helpful. Amen.

ACTION: Ponder where you might have hardened your heart, and consider how to soften it.

Daily Prayer Meditations are a project of Gobin Memorial UMC, Beech Grove UMC, and Brick Chapel UMC in Greencastle, Indiana; Fillmore UMC in Fillmore, Indiana; Rosedale UMC in Rosedale, Indiana; and Grace UMC in Franklin, Indiana.



DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

August 18 to August 23, 2025

Monday, August 18, 2025 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 John 4:1-6 <https://tinyurl.com/32uwryww>

PONDER: Don't believe everything you hear! In the current age, we have a lot of information coming at us all the time. How do we make sense of what is of God and what is of the world? One thing is for certain: God is greater than all the spirits that try to lead us away from the one true spirit of Truth. When we listen for God's Truth, God will reveal it to us. When we speak from God's true heart of love, the world cannot harm us. We cannot be distracted by false prophets. True prophets call us to reflect – false prophets seek to divide, diminish, discourage, submit to everything and everyone but Jesus. Stay focused on God's Truth, dear friends!

PRAYER: God of Truth, keep me from being consumed by anything less than Your Truth. Thank You. Amen.

ACTION: The loud voices aren't always the voices of truth. Pay close attention today to who and what is trying to distract you from the joy of life in Jesus. Think of ways you can stay focused on God's Truth.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 (by Ashlee Vitz)

Acts 7:9-16 <https://tinyurl.com/2wvezkwy>

PONDER: In this passage, we are reminded of Joseph's journey — a story marked by betrayal, suffering, and ultimately,

redemption. Sold into slavery by his own brothers, Joseph faced immense trials. Yet, through it all, God was with him, guiding and sustaining him. This is such an excellent story to remember as we endeavor to see God's faithfulness mirrored in our own lives and the lives of those around us. Despite the challenges we face -- whether personal, communal, or global -- God's presence remains steadfast. Joseph's story encourages us to trust in God's purpose and timing, even when we don't fully understand our circumstances. But what about all the horrible things in the world? Great question! Jesus, Himself, taught us to pray to God, "Thy will be done." Friends, if God's will was being done every day and, in every way, we wouldn't need to pray that prayer. Yet, Jesus told us it is good and right to pray this. As believers, we are called to live in the tension that God can use what others intended for evil and change it into something that can be used for good. We hold this alongside knowing that God's will is not chosen by many in the world. Jesus holds this tension together so perfectly in John 16:33 when He says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." What an excellent example for us to have in our lives. Joseph's wisdom and forgiveness from today's reading allowed him to rise above his hardships and become a source of salvation for his family and many others. In our own lives, we are called to respond to adversity with grace and resilience, trusting that God can bring about transformation and healing.

PRAYER: Faithful God, thank You for Your unwavering presence in our lives. Help us to trust in Your purpose and timing, especially during times of trial. Grant us the wisdom and compassion to respond to challenges with grace, and use us to bring Your hope and healing to others. Amen.

ACTION: This week, reflect on the ways God has been faithful in your own journeys and commit to extending that same grace and compassion to others. By doing so, we participate in God's redemptive work, bringing hope and healing to a world in need.

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 (by Ashlee Vitz)

Luke 19:45-48 <https://tinyurl.com/v9brsfws>

PONDER: Jesus driving out the merchants from the temple wasn't just an act of anger — it was a reclaiming of sacred space.

He protested systems that exploited the vulnerable in the name of religion. Worship and justice are linked. Where people are excluded, faith must speak up.

PRAYER: Jesus, help me see where injustice hides in plain sight. Give me the boldness to turn over tables when your love is distorted. Amen.

ACTION: Take note of one injustice in your local community. Learn about it, pray over it, and consider one step you can take toward change.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalms 71 <https://tinyurl.com/3syk3d2s>

PONDER: When I was a young Christian, I was taught to express my love to God any time, day or night. I was taught that God's love is always around, and I believed it. I still believe it. I have to only reach out to have him surround me with warmth and love. I was also taught that God loves to hear how much we love him. It's like having someone share with me how much I am appreciated in our friendship. This psalm makes me think about the times I ask for God's help and how much I should let him know how much I love him and know what he can do for everyone. It is a psalm that I will try and use as a psalm of praise and gratitude.

PRAYER: God help me to put things into the right perspective each day. Help me to put you first in my comings and my goings. Amen.

ACTION: Keep a list of how and when you pray to increase speaking to God with joy.

Friday, August 22, 2025 (by Lisa Trigg)

2 Peter 1:19-21 <https://tinyurl.com/5xu86adj>

PONDER: Prophecy brings into the light those things that often remain hidden, and so the bible's prophets are less interested in predicting the future than in revealing God's message of truth for us. Prophets open our eyes. The dawn — the light that pierces the horizon at sunrise — is an external source of light. When light rises "in your hearts", it is the light of interior illumination as the love of Jesus shines in the human heart. This is both spiritual and prophetic light working together, and it allows us to find God in unexpected places. People, led by the Holy Spirit, do well to pay attention to the light and love of God.