

July 29, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Yesterday in worship at Huntley United Methodist church we talked about prayer. His disciples came to him one day and asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." Evidently they wanted a little guidance on the subject. They are not alone. We still need guidance on prayer because the one thing that is for sure about this topic, at least in my experience, is that there is nothing simple about prayer.

Popular singer/songwriter Dolly Parton even takes up the question of prayer in her popular song, "Hello God." Some of the lyrics go like this:

"Hello God, are you out there?
Can you hear me, are you listenin' any more?
Hello God, if we're still on speaking terms
Can you help me like before?
I have questioned your existence,
My resistance leaves me cold
Can you help me go the distance?
Hello God, hello, hello

This old world has gone to pieces
Can we fix it, is there time?
Hate and violence just increases
We're so selfish, cruel and blind
We fight and kill each other
In your name, defending you
Do you love some more than others
We're so lost and confused

Hello God, are you out there?
Can you hear me, . . ."

Speculation about prayer often leaves us with more questions than answers. No wonder the disciples came to Jesus that day and asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." Prayer is crucial to our faith, yet remains a mysterious process. Some people have forsaken the faith because they prayed and did not receive what they expected. Others have prayed with the same result and it has drawn them closer to the Lord than ever before, although with altered expectations.

Ultimately prayer, for me, comes down to trusting God completely with our lives. I believe the saying, "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good." We can trust God whatever occurs because God loves us and is working to make all things work to our good. In other words, pray knowing that God hears your prayers and loves you, and leave the results to God. And if you don't get the answer to prayer you desire, learn to find comfort and wisdom in accepting whatever answer God sends you. Indeed, the entire foundation of prayer is trust – trust in God's ultimate love and trust in God's desire to provide for his children.

District Superintendent Deborah Christine will be at Huntley United Methodist church to meet with members on Tuesday, July 30th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

Our annual Worship in the Park is Sunday, August 4th. This year it will be a Christian Music Concert featuring "Homeward." Music begins at 10:30 a.m. A potluck meal will be served after worship. Please bring picnic place settings and lawn chairs. Cold drinks and extra food will be provided at no cost.

A Blood Drive will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Shepherd on Wednesday, August 7th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Call Patty at 839-1430 or Vitalant at 877-258-4825 to register.

Dave and Pat Beddes will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 14th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Shepherd Community Hall. A potluck meal will be served.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman