

**New Beginnings: Developing our Holy Discontent**

Exodus 2:11-13

**Prayer Link****Prayers for the Community**

American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.  
Additional Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS**

Did you know that Sugar River UMC has an active E-Prayer Chain? A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. If you have a request you would like the E-Prayer Chain to pray for, please send it to: [amberw@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:amberw@wisconsinumc.org). Amber will send out the request as soon as possible to activate our circle of prayer.

If you would like to become a "Link" on our E-Prayer Chain, please send your email address to Amber at the address listed above. New "links" are always welcome!

**Inspirational Link****Thoughts and Insights from Worship**

The Scripture readings this week are all related to the covenants of God and God's people. As you read this week, may your commitment to keeping your covenant with God be strengthened.

**Monday, January 21 - Read Deuteronomy 29:9-15.** This is a renewal of the covenant God entered into with Israel in Exodus 24. What is the same in these two passages? What is different? To whom is this promise given? Who are "those who are not here today"? (vs. 15) How does this relate to us today? What are the results of keeping the covenant for God's people?

**Tuesday, January 22 - Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.** If you have a study Bible, read the introductory section to find out about Jeremiah and the circumstances surrounding his writing this book. Who is this passage speaking about? What are the promises that are being made by God? How will the new covenant be different from the old one? Who will be the teacher of God's ways when this is fulfilled? Has this come to pass, or do you think the time is yet to come? What are the implications of this passage for your daily life?

**Wednesday, January 23 - Read Romans 12.** The opening verse of this chapter admonishes us to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices". What does this mean? How do you offer yourself to God? In what ways does the world try to make you conform to its pattern? How do you resist that? When are you tempted to think more highly of yourself than you ought? How do you overcome that temptation? How could your spiritual gift help you to offer yourself more completely to God in covenant with Him? How does our behavior towards others effect our covenant with God?

**Thursday, January 24 - Read John 15:1-10.** What are the circumstances surrounding this chapter of scripture? To whom is Jesus talking? What does it mean that Jesus is the vine? That his disciples are the branches? Who is the gardener, and what is his role? What are the implications for your life? How does this passage relate to being in covenant with God? What is the command that Jesus gives his disciples? What did Jesus say would be the consequences of being his disciple? How does that make you feel? Who is the Counselor? What is the Counselor's role in keeping the covenant? What in this passage is relative for your daily life?

**Friday, January 25 - Read Hebrews 9.** If you have a study Bible, read the introduction to see who the possible author is, and to put this chapter in context. What does the writer of Hebrews have to say about the Old Testament covenant? About the new covenant made through Jesus? What is the basis for the new covenant? Why is the new covenant better than the old one? What is the outcome of the new covenant for those who believe in Jesus? What is the sanctuary that Jesus entered to give us the new covenant? Based on the readings this week, what new understanding do you now have of the importance of covenants with God?

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I feel led by God to...