

## Friendship with God: From Duty to Delight John 14:15, Psalm 40:5

### 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: [sugarriverumc@tds.net](mailto:sugarriverumc@tds.net). We 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 the office at the address listed above. New "links" are always welcome!

### Inspirational Link

### Thoughts and Insights from Worship

### The Word Link

### Daily Readings from God's Word

**Monday, August 18** – Washing the Disciples' Feet. This week we will study the "Farewell Discourse" of Jesus to his disciples. Every passage we read this week takes place while Jesus is sitting at the Last Supper with his disciples. His heart is heavy, knowing that within an hour he'll be arrested, and in less than a day Jesus will be put to death. **Read John 13:1-17.** In homes wealthy enough to have a slave, the slave washed the feet of house guests upon entering the home. In this home the owner of the house has left out a basin of water and towel so Jesus and his guests can refresh and clean themselves. Notice what the disciples are

thinking about on this night, prior to the footwashing. What does Jesus' message and example teach you about his heart? About God's will for our lives? How can you live this passage in your daily life?

**Tuesday, August 19** – “One of You Will Betray Me.” **Read John 13:18-38.** At this point in the supper Jesus tells of his impending betrayal (at the hands of Judas) and of Peter's denial. Why do you think Judas might have betrayed Jesus? What were Peter's motives in promising to stand by Jesus and then later in denying him? In what ways might we be like Peter? Have you ever denied Christ?

**Wednesday, August 20** – I'm Leaving You – Don't Be Afraid! Today we turn to the passage of scripture we focused on in worship the last weekend in March – the Way, the Truth and the Life. **Read John 14:1-14.** What do you remember from the sermon on this passage (if you didn't hear this sermon it is available on our web site at [www.cor.org](http://www.cor.org))? What does this passage teach us about Jesus? In what ways is he the “way, the truth and the life?” How do you explain verses 13 and 14? Were these spoken just to the disciples? Do they assume if we have perfect faith we will only ask for those things that Jesus also wills? Is it possible Jesus is thinking this promise refers back to the command he has given to love one another – and hence he is not thinking we are speaking about anything we might ask for in prayer, but those things which refer to our capacity to love? What other options are there for understanding this sweeping promise? **Read verse 15** which should not be separated from verse 14 in reading this passage – does it help us understand these last two verses?

**Thursday, August 21** – I Will Send you Comforter – the Holy Spirit **Read John 14:15-31** In the light of his imminent departure Jesus promises that he will not leave the disciples alone. As you read this passage what does Jesus expect of his followers? How do we demonstrate our love for him? How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit? What will be the Holy Spirit's work? How have you experienced this? Have you invited the Holy Spirit to fill you, work in and through you, and guide you? This is a good daily prayer. How do you see verse 27 at work in your life? What does verse 28 teach us about how we might look at the death of loved ones who are in Christ if we could see this as their opportunity to be reunited to God our Father? Note in verse 31 that Jesus' ultimate demonstration of his love for the Father is his willingness to die to accomplish God's purposes.

**Friday, August 22** – I Am the Vine **Read John 15:1-17.** What does the vine do for the branches? How does this describe what Jesus does for us? What must branches do? What does this mean for us? How does God prune us? How has God used adversity or disappointment to prune you? What is the purpose of God's pruning? What is Jesus' primary commandment to us and what does this mean for you? **Read verses 18-27.** Here Jesus is promising what, by the time John's gospel was written, had become a reality. The readers of John's gospel were experiencing persecution like this. How would Jesus' words here have comforted them in the midst of their trials? Have you ever experienced persecution or even discrimination for your faith? Notice again the Holy Spirit is mentioned as the “Counselor” – what does Jesus mean by calling the Spirit by this name? Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith even today – millions of Christians around the world face terrible oppression and even death for following Jesus.

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**The Spirit Link**

**God's Action Point for My Life**

I feel led by God to...