

Life At The River: God's Intent for Community Life

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 21-30

Prayer Link

Prayers for the Community

Ardienne Fleener, at home; Robert Pagan's Mother, cancer treatments; American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.

Additional Requests: _____

SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS – HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

E-Prayer Chain: A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. Please send your prayer request to: sugarriverumc@tds.net. *(Quicker response and more confidential)*

Prayer Link Listing: If you would like to have your concern listed in this weekly publication, please contact the church office: sugarriverumc@tds.net or call 845-5855. *(Printed for worshiping Community)*

Please note in your request if you would like the E-Prayer and/or the Link listing. If you would like to join the E-Prayer team, please indicated that as well.

Inspirational Link

Thoughts and Insights from Worship

The Word Link

Daily Readings from God's Word

Life Together as Companions in Christ

Acts 2:40-47

40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this *corrupt generation*." **41** So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. **42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. **44** All who believed were together and had all things in common; **45** they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Monday, September 22 – This weekend’s sermon was focused on the importance of being involved in authentic Christian community which happens at its best in small groups. Jesus chose twelve disciples and it was with this small group that Jesus spent most of his time. This week we will look at Bible passages which teach us about our life in the church – and the value of connecting with other Christians. The author of Ecclesiastes wrote of the importance of having friends in faith. This passage is often quoted at weddings, though it is not so much about marriage as about community and friendships which are rooted in faith. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12.** Note that in verse twelve three strands are mentioned when the writer has simply been talking of two people – many believe the third strand he speaks of is God – the message being that relationships that are bound together by a love for God have an amazing strength. Do you have friends that share your faith – with whom you talk about your faith, and who encourage you in your walk with Christ. If you are not involved in a small group, and you did not sign up on Sunday, call the church office at 845-5855 and we’ll help you get connected with a group this fall.

Tuesday, September 23 – Virtually all of the New Testament was written to Christians living in community – worshipping together, meeting together in people’s homes. Most of the New Testament documents were written to and for churches – a handful of the letters were written to individuals who were leaders of or participants in churches. Last week we read verses from Colossians. We’re going to re-read them now, but looking at how we might fulfill these verses through participating in a small group – **Read Colossians 3:12-17.** What would a small group look like that practiced these things in this way? We are looking for people to host small groups in their homes this fall. Would you be willing to host a group in your home (after the first six week study the group will likely begin rotating – meeting in the homes of others)? Call the church office at 845-5855 if you would be willing to host a small group in your home.

Wednesday, September 24 – The author of the Book of Hebrews wrote to Christians who were experiencing persecution for their faith. They knew the value of meeting together – they did so even under the threat of arrest. **Read Hebrews 10:25** where the author challenges the believers to continue to meet together. What were they to do when they met together? Paul teaches us about how Christian community and fellowship is meant to work in Romans. **Read Romans 12:3-8.** How might these verses apply to a small group of Christians meeting in homes? Strive to have one conversation today with someone about spiritual things. Aim to be used by God to encourage at least one other person today.

Thursday, September 25 – **Read Romans 15:1-6.** The task of Christians within the church is to bear one another’s burdens – to encourage one another, to build one another up, and to help one another during the difficult times. Do you have people at Sugar River – friends and brothers and sisters in Christ, that you have the kind of relationship with that you could share your struggles with them, and that you would call upon them during a time of need? If not, this is part of what you will find in small groups when they launch this fall. If you do have a group like this at Sugar River, then pray that you might be used by God to help bear another’s burdens, and to help build them up.

Friday, September 26 – As we close this week and its emphasis on Christian community let’s return to the early church, as found in the Book of Acts, to see how these Christians lived in fellowship with one another. **Read Acts 2:40-47** (it is found on the sermon notes on the back of this page). Notice that 3,000 people became Christians in one day – this became the church in Jerusalem – and they met together in the temple, but they also met in homes. What did these early Christians do when they met together? How might this guide our small groups today? Prayerfully consider becoming a part of a small group this fall – this will change your life and help you grow in your faith and experience the joy of Christian friendships and fellowship.

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The Spirit Link

God’s Action Point for My Life

I feel led by God to...