

Pastor Peter Norton's message notes from July 12, 2020

## Summer in the Psalms: Psalm 116 & 117

One of the major themes in the psalms is praise. These psalms were composed for the community to pray and sing together in worship. The purpose of praise is to bear witness to God's character, actions, and blessings. When we praise God together in worship, we learn more about who God is. We draw closer to God in appreciation and trust. Through praise, our hearts grow closer to God.

Psalm 117: 1-2 shows the classic pattern of praising God:

**Praise the Lord, all you nations!**

**Extol him, all you peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast love towards us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

**Praise the Lord!**

Here we see a pattern of a call to praise God, a reason to praise God, and a final call to praise the Lord. Psalm 117 reminds us that we are never alone.

In Psalm 116 we hear the words of thankful praise to God following divine deliverance from a personal crisis: **"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications . . . when I was brought low, he saved me."**

How many of us have been surrounded by death? The death of a dream? of a loved one? of your job? of a caring community? How many of us have been saved from death by the mercy of God? The psalmist invites us to remember when God was our deliverer. During the 9-11 crisis, the United Methodist Church saw the largest growth in the past several decades. People were hungry to draw closer to God. People needed to know that God would deliver them from this crisis. They needed hope. God helped and comforted them.

Right now, we are all going through a crisis with the pandemic, unstable economy, and racial tension. Many of us have a personal crisis. To keep moving forward, we need to know that God will deliver us from our troubles. We need to praise God together in community and remember.

People who have never been involved in faith or haven't been for some time are turning to God. As in the psalm we read today, they are asking for God to deliver them. By praising God together in worship, new people can see who God is and believe. It is up to each of us to welcome them, pray for them, and encourage them to grow in their faith. One way we can encourage people to grow in faith is to share stories with others about how God has brought us through challenges.

The author of Psalm 116 is offering us his testimony that God delivered him through a crisis. The psalmist asks, what can I return to the Lord as a sign of thanks? What does the Lord require of me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. In the presence of the people of God, I will tell the story of my deliverance.

Each of us is called to share the story of God's goodness in our lives. Take time to write down a story of a time God delivered you from a crisis and share it so that others might turn to God in their distress, receive God's blessing, and believe.

Praise the Lord! He is greatly to be praised.

## Preparing For Worship

### Scriptures for the coming week

Monday	July 20:	Psalm 62
Tuesday	July 21:	Psalm 40
Wednesday	July 22:	Psalm 86
Thursday	July 23:	Psalm 91
Friday	July 24:	Psalm 121
Saturday	July 25	Psalm 126

### Worship Service

**UMC-Burg is now open for church! Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 11:00. Or, you can still join us on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.**

The Psalms, more than any other part of the Bible, express our deepest emotions and encourage us to bring them to God in prayer. Join us this summer for the sermon series "Summer in the Psalms" as we pray together through the Psalms.

## Our Church Family

### Prayer concerns from our church family

Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia Peggy Province, Nita Woodrel, Charles Baile, Jim Hudson, Marcella Fler and her brother Orville Welker, June Mellinger, Earlene Brown.

### Birthdays for the coming week

July 20: Paul Engelmann, Grace Kennedy  
July 21: Malachai O'Brien  
July 23: Aedan Price, Dee Ann Farmer, Eldon Yung, Proffitt Blackburn  
July 25: Jordan Helmig

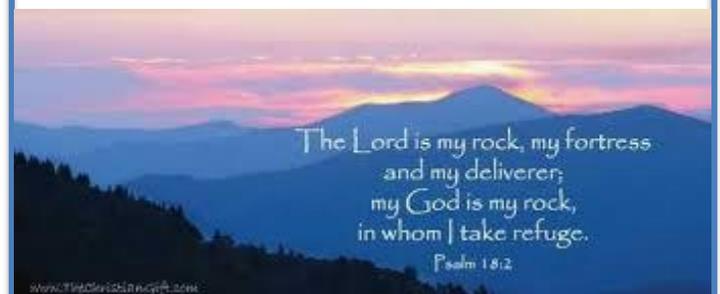
### Anniversaries for the coming week

July 20: Al and Nancy Scism  
July 24: Greg and Mel Lightfoot  
July 25: Peter and Courtney Blaszczyk, Jim and Barb Metcalf

## Join Us Saturday, July 18, At The ROCK

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

We want to make The **ROCK** into a place where we can house new and upcoming campus ministry! Bring work clothes, some gloves and a hard-working spirit!



## Quilting Group Keeps Alive An 80+ Year Tradition Of Quilting And Camaraderie



Pictured above left to right: Doris Rogers, Marilyn Harding, Carolyn Hutchko, Beverly Jackson, and Earlene Christie show the quilt they are currently working on.

As you make your way through the second floor of the church on Wednesday mornings, you can't help but be drawn to Room 234 by the lilting laughter and chatter of the quilting ladies. And once there, they are so welcoming and fun, you won't want to leave.

Currently, seven women make up the ecumenical quilting group: Earlene Christie, Marilyn Harding, Carolyn Hutchko, Beverly Jackson, Margie Marsh, Doris Rogers and Judy Murray, treasurer.

According to Carolyn, there has been a quilting group at the Methodist church for at least 80 years. Carolyn said, "I'm 81, and I know they were quilting when I was little." While now the group meets every Wednesday from 8-11:30 a.m., this wasn't always the case. Doris said, "When this group started, they quilted all day. They would bring their lunch. They would come in at 8 and quilted until noon. They stopped and ate lunch and then quilted in the afternoon." Several of the Wednesday crew's wives quilted, and some people would stop by just to visit. The group recalled several women who have been members of the quilters including Ruby Culp, Nita Woodrel, Mary Roach, Sherri Swanson, Christine Haldeman, Anna Weigand and Janelle Shepard

Doris, who has been quilting with the group for 22 years, explained that the group used to have at least eight quilters, and it would take two and a half to three months to finish a quilt. They did lots of twin and double-sized quilts. They also do baby quilts. Doris said, "We always had a baby quilt because when you get the larger quilts to where they are rolled down knee to knee, only be four people can quilt at the big quilt, so two or three of the quilters would work on a baby quilt. Nita Woodrel was the one who mostly traced the pattern on the broadcloth for the baby quilts." Currently the group is working on a full-sized quilt and would be happy to take baby quilts.

Where do the quilts come from? Different people contact any member of the group, and their names get put on a list. The person must bring a full top, batting, and sandwiches already made and ready to go on the frame. Fortunately, the quilters have their own room now, so they don't have to put the quilt and all their supplies up each week. The money the quilters earn is dispersed around Christmas. They usually give

the church \$100 and the rest to a charity. In the past they have given money to such organizations as Catholic Charities, the Food Center, and Salvation Army.

The quilters bring years of sewing experience to their group. Carolyn was exposed to quilting when she was six or seven years old and was just starting to learn to sew. Doris learned to quilt when she was 16 and newly married. She lived in Freeman, Missouri, and her mother-in-law and sister-in-law encouraged her to join a group of 15 women who quilted. Marilyn said, "I made my child's dresses; when we moved to town, I didn't have anything else to do, and I didn't know anybody, so that's when I started quilting, around 1976. I've been here with the quilting group about four or five years; Nita Woodrel introduced me to the group." Earlene was looking for something to do when she retired. She comes from a family of seamstresses so was able to pick up the quilting skills: "My mother sewed and made clothes for us as children; my aunt in Kansas City used to demonstrate sewing machines, and she made my wedding dress."

The women love their quilting group and agree the main reason is the camaraderie. Beverly, the official needle threader, said, "I like to be with people; we're all people persons. And, someone usually brings refreshments for a mid-morning break. We just have so much fun." Carolyn added that she enjoys "learning something about others in our group." The women also enjoy the creative aspect of it. Marilyn explained, "The quilt looks altogether different when it's quilted than when it's just a top. I enjoy seeing it when it's done. The little part I do is part of the whole. I just love every part of it."

Anyone is invited to join their group. Doris said, "We would welcome anyone who wants to come quilt with us or learn to quilt. You can learn from us if you really want to. Other than that, we're just a group of old ladies who like to get together and talk."

### Sign Up To Volunteer At The Food Center

August is UMC-Burg's month to staff the Food Center with volunteers and collect donations. You can sign up to volunteer by going to the church website: [umcburg.org](http://umcburg.org)

The Food Center has made changes in how they disperse the food. Four to five volunteers are needed. One to two work outside to collect client names for registration, ask about bonus selections, and get their produce list. Two to three volunteers work inside putting the requested produce and bonus items in preloaded bags. The outside workers will then take a cart to the client's car where the client will load his/her own vehicle.

Volunteers will work Tuesdays and Thursdays. First-day volunteers need to be at the Food Center at 12:15 p.m. Training for COVID-19 procedures takes 20-25 minutes. Once volunteers have been trained, they can arrive at 12:30. Volunteers work until 4 p.m. It would be helpful to have the same group of volunteers to reduce training time. Volunteers must wear masks.

If you have any questions, contact Glenda Goetz or Christi Riddle.