

Dear Friends in Christ,

The United Methodist Mission is to grow Christian disciples for the transformation of the Aurora - Hoyt Lakes Parish and the world. We seek to fulfill that mission by participating in the “means of grace” the study of scripture, prayer, and worship.

The response from the next two weeks:

January 16 – Which of Noah’s sons was cursed for seeing his father’s nakedness?

Ham Genesis 9:22-25

January 17 – What TWO did men give for constructing the city and the Tower of Babel?

To make a name for themselves and not be scattered abroad over the face of the earth. Genesis 11:4

January 18 – When Abram and Sari, his wife, went down to Egypt to escape a famine, what did they tell the Egyptians?

That they were actually brother and sister Genesis 12:11-13

January 19 – The first example of tithing appears in Genesis 14, when Abram gives a tenth of “battle winnings” to this High Priest.

Melchizedek Genesis 14:18-20

January 20 – God told Abram that his descendants would be enslaved and mistreated for how long?

400 years Genesis 15:13

January 21 – Share one true fact about Abraham’s family.

He had a son named Isaac with his wife Sarah and a son named Ishmael with his wife’s servant Hagar. Genesis 16:15, 21:3

January 22 – How many righteous people did God initially require for Sodom to be spared; what was God’s final requirement after Abraham argued with Him?

50 and 10 Genesis 18:26, 32

January 23 – After God knew Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, an angel stopped him. Abraham sacrificed what instead?

A ram that was trapped nearby Genesis 22:13

January 24 – To whom did God say, “Two nations are in your womb, and two people shall be separated from your body.”

Rebekah Genesis 25:21-23

January 25 – What did Isaac and the Herdsmen of Gerar quarrel over in the Valley of Gerar?

Water Genesis 26:20

January 26 – Who helped Jacob “steal” his father’s blessing which was intended for Esau?

Rebekah, Jacob’s mother Genesis 27:5-10

January 27 – During Jacob’s dream about a ladder reaching into Heaven, what did God tell him his descendants would be compared to?

The dust of the earth Genesis 28:14

January 28 – Tell of one true fact about Jacob’s wives and children?

Eventually Jacob had children by both Leah, Rachel, and their maidservants
Genesis 30:4,9-12, 22-24

January 29 – What was the new name given to Jacob by the man he wrestled with?

Israel Genesis 32:28

January 30 – What were Joseph’s brothers planning to blame his death on after they killed him?

A wild animal attack Genesis 37:20

January 31 – He slept with his daughter – in – law, whom he mistook for a prostitute,. As a result, she had twins. Who was this man?

Judah Genesis 38:15, 27

The reading for the next two weeks:

February 1 – Which two officials offended the pharaoh of Egypt and found themselves in prison with Joseph?

February 2 – What dream did Joseph Interpret for Pharaoh that ultimately led to his being put in charge of all the land in Egypt?

February 3 – What did Joseph have his servant put in Benjamin’s sack, as if Benjamin had stolen it?

February 4 – What was Pharaoh’s response when he heard Joseph had invited his family to Egypt?

February 5 - What did Israel (Jacob) say to Joseph (whom he thought long dead) upon meeting him in Goshen?

February 6 – Why did Joseph become displeased with his father, Jacob, just prior to his death?

February 7 – Whom did Jacob request that he be buried with?

February 8 – The book of Genesis ended with what event?

February 9 – historians believe that the Israelite race in Egypt numbered as many as three million people prior to the Exodus. How many of Jacob’s descendants originally went to Egypt?

February 10 – What was the primary reason the Egyptians disliked the Israelites?

February 11 – What two plans did Pharaoh attempt to implement in order to begin destroying the Israelites?

February 12 – How old was Moses when his mother put him in a basket and hid him among the reeds on the Nile?

February 13 – Why did Moses kill an Egyptian, according to Exodus 2:11?

February 14 – What was Moses’ father-in-law’s name and occupation?

February 15 – When God called Moses from the burning bush, He told Moses that these people would list to him, which people?

The Mission focus for the next two weeks:

February 1 – United Methodist Women for Racial Justice

February 2 – World Student Domestic violence prevention – Budapest, Hungary

February 3 – Methodist Church in India – Annand District – Gujarat, India

February 4 – Marcy- Newberry Association – Chicago, Ill.

February 5 – Conferences in the South Central jurisdiction

February 6 – Methodist Church of Indonesia

February 7 – Forthspring Inter Community Group – Belfast, Ireland

February 8 – Aid to the Aged – Bethlehem, Israel/ Palestine

February 9 – United Methodist missionaries in Central America
February 10 – Middle East Council of Churches – Amman, Jordan
February 11 – Red Bird Mission - Beverly, Kentucky
February 12 – Central Conferences of Africa
February 13 – Methodist Church in Kenya
February 14 – Sunlit Sister Center – Ajung-ri, Korea
February 15 – United Methodist Council on Ministries of Laos

Mission Moment

None of us expects disaster, and my calling as a home missionary is to be ready to serve people in dire situation. My experience in Africa during Rwanda crisis as a disaster pilot and development officer for the Africa office of the General Board of Global Ministries prepared me to throw my ministerial hat into mission relief in Haiti less than two days after the devastating earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people on January 12, 2010. Among many volunteers and organizations present, I was ready to respond to the urgent cry of little Melissa who had lost both legs, bring pastoral comfort to the Jones family of 12 who lost their home and secure temporary shelter for many orphans and displaced families.

*Home Missioner Enock Gustave, chair,
Haiti Prison Ministry, New York Annual Conference*

Scripture

Sitting down, Jesus called the twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35

Everyday Thought

Last? Nobody likes to be last. We have a hard enough time settling for second place, much less last place. Jesus reverses the rank. The person who is most important to him is not the person seeking the status and notoriety. The most important person is like Jesus himself: willing to give up rank and status and importance to serve. For Jesus, last means first in service and first in the eyes of God.

Prayer

Magnificent God my Savior, you have made the world wonderful for me and have given your Son to redeem me. How can I ever thank you or repay you for your grace and kindness. **Today** help me see those you want me to serve with grace and kindness as I try to be more like you. This I pray in the name of the one who washed his disciples' feet. Amen.

Pray the Lord's Prayer...Our Father

When making a decision about the direction you are going, always choose the path that falls in the shadow of the Cross. It will be the path less traveled, but it will be the path most blessed.

Blessings, Barb