

# BEULAH BEACON

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD?

By Pastor Don Gibson

*Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. (1 Chronicles 22:19)*

This monthly newsletter, The Beacon, offers a great opportunity for me to share some insight beyond a Sunday morning sermon, insight into everyday stuff like, for example, our church’s mission statement. Have you ever given much thought to our, Beulah church’s, mission statement. Last month, in the January Beacon, we set out to understand our mission statement and to do so by breaking it down into digestible chunks. Perhaps it’s important to refresh our memory, so here is our Mission Statement, “Transforming lives as we are Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God.” Last month we talked about transformation. Transformation, the central task in our mission statement, isn’t our task. Transformation takes place in our lives and the lives of those around us as we Seek, Share and Serve God. So, it is God’s amazing work; the amazing work of God in us and through us to and for others! However, we believe, that Transformation only takes place as we Seek, Share and Serve God. So, what does it mean to do so; to seek God?

Seeking God means that we are seeking His (God’s) presence. “Presence” is a common translation of the Hebrew word “face.” Literally, we are to seek God’s “face.” We understand that God is omnipresent and therefore always near everything and everyone. God holds everything in being. God’s power is ever-present in sustaining and governing all things. Therefore, God is always present with us his children. “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

This truth, God is always with us, is so comforting. But sometimes we fall into the trap of believing that, because God is always with us and we are His children, we do not need to seek Him. I want to remind us that God— the brightness of His personal character — is hidden from us because of our sin. That is why we are encouraged, throughout the whole of the Bible, to “seek the Lord . . . seek his presence continually” (Psalm 105:4).

But what does that mean practically? Both the Old and New Testaments say it is a “setting of the mind and heart” on God. It is the conscious fixing or focusing of our mind’s attention and our heart’s affection on God. Paul, writing to the church of Colossae, writes, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:1–2)

So, seeking God must be a conscious choice; we must direct our hearts, minds and attention toward God. This is what Paul prays for the church: “May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

As we Seek God, we will find that we are transformed! We are transformed to bring a static mission statement to life. To live as those who have a “KINGDOM” impact on others— where they too are encouraged to SEEK God and be Transformed!

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# MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich



The hymn that I have selected to share with you, is one of my favorites. "How Firm a Foundation"

How Firm a Foundation-the author is unknown. A well-known minister from England, John Rippon published it in 1787 in A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors under the first line of How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord. This collection contained a variety of hymns that he thought were powerful. In 1832 a hymn tune was paired with How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord called Protection and then later changed to Foundation. This collection of hymns was published and released eleven times before his death in 1836. One edition made its way to America to the Baptist Churches there in Philadelphia.

This hymn was beloved by Andrew Jackson, who requested that it be sung while he was dying. During the Civil War, both sides were documented while singing it. Others like Robert E. Lee and Theodore Roosevelt requested that it be sung at their funerals.

In December 24, 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis Guild Jr recalls that a sentinel's voice rang out "Number ten, twelve o'clock and all is well, before the call died away, a baritone's voice began singing How Firm a Foundation, ye saints of the Lord, another voice joined in, then another until the whole regiment was singing. The Sixth Missouri joined in then the Fourth Virginia until all along the ridges over the great city were singing."

The Story Behind: How Firm a Foundation Brantley, Taylor 6 March, 2002 Hymncharts, Hearts to God Music 2021 <https://www.hymncharts.com/2023/08/27/the-story-behind-how-firm-a-foundation/>



**CHILDREN & YOUTH HANDBELLS**  
All school age children and youth welcome.  
Rehearsals are on Wednesdays (starting March 6) from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH HANDBELLS

Children & Youth Handbells begin on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 5PM-6PM in the Sanctuary. Our Children and Youth will play on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 and Father's Day Sunday, June 16. We are looking to grow our Children and Youth Bell Choir. Come on out and join us!

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of March, Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of peanut butter, peanut butter alternatives, jellies, and jams. Your donation can be left on the wire rack at the Information Center or in the afterhours donation cabinet in the Breezeway.

## COMMUNION OFFERING

March's communion offering goes to The United Methodist Committee on Relief, also known as UMCOR. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. To donate to this ministry please write "communion" on your envelope or check and place in the communion offering baskets after receiving your communion.

## BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

### MARCH READING

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 Job 19 – 24           | 17 Sunday (Catch-up day) |
| 02 Job 25 – 30           | 18 Psalm 81 – 89         |
| 03 Sunday (Catch-up day) | 19 Psalm 90 – 100        |
| 04 Job 31 – 35           | 20 Psalm 101 – 105       |
| 05 Job 36 – 41           | 21 Psalm 106 – 113       |
| 06 Job 42; Psalm 1 – 8   | 22 Psalm 114 – 119       |
| 07 Psalm 9 – 18          | 23 Psalm 120 – 131       |
| 08 Psalm 19 – 27         | 24 Sunday (Catch-up day) |
| 09 Psalm 28 – 35         | 25 Psalm 132 – 142       |
| 10 Sunday (Catch-up day) | 26 Psalm 143 – 150       |
| 11 Psalm 36 – 41         | Proverbs 1 - 2           |
| 12 Psalm 42 – 50         | 27 Proverbs 3 - 7        |
| 13 Psalm 51 – 59         | 28 Proverbs 8 – 13       |
| 14 Psalm 60 – 68         | 29 Proverbs 14 – 18      |
| 15 Psalm 69 – 75         | 30 Proverbs 19 – 23      |
| 16 Psalm 76 – 80         | 31 Easter Sunday         |



# THE MONTH IN REVIEW



**On Sunday, February 04**, Cindy Hubbard and her mother Adalia Hubbard became members of Beulah Church. You may know Cindy as the McGruff mascot. She will be volunteering at the Easter Egg hunt as The Bunny this year.

**On Wednesday, February 07**, the Wednesday Worship Meals started. Every Wednesday night (until the week of Easter when we will meet on Thursday, March 28) we will gather at 6:00 pm for food and fellowship. All of the meals are by donation and you can sign up for them at the Information Center.

**On Wednesday, February 14**, we gathered for dinner and then in worship for the Ash Wednesday Service, where we deliberately made individual decisions to follow Christ; for God's grace accepts us just as we are.



**On Sunday, February 18**, Joe and Bobbie Welchel became members of Beulah Church. They are a part of the Mariners Sunday School Class, the Men's Bible study and Card Ministry. Pattie Arwood also joined Beulah Church. Pattie is a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the women's Chorus.

**On Tuesday, February 23**, The following email went out to Beulah's congregation.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout our recent season of transition, we have held in highest regard the Wesleyan ideals of scriptural authority, prayer and discernment as means of God's grace, the regular practice of Christian discipleship, and service to others in the name of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we determined that it would be in our best interest to establish formal ties with like-minded, like-hearted, traditional Wesleyan Methodists who share these ideals in faith and practice, and to whom we can become fully accountable (Theology, Mission, Pastoral Support, Connection, and Vision).

Acting on the recommendation of the Transition Team to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church, and approval by vote of the Church Council, and by a vote of affirmation by the Beulah church body (**on February 11**), we applied for church affiliation with the **Global Methodist Church**.

On **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** we received a congratulatory letter from the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church acknowledging receipt of our application and of their unanimous approval; Beulah Church, Inc is now a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church.

I, too, applied for recognition of ordination and was unanimously approved; I am now recognized as an ordained elder in the Global Methodist Church. Much more information will be forthcoming including our gathering to both remember our past, celebrate the present and envision the future.

I invite you to join me in praising and thanking God for HIS faithfulness and offer ourselves again as God's servants to reach a broken world with the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, and may we faithfully endeavor for His Kingdom in partnership with the Global Methodist Church now and in all our days to come.





Okay, most of us have heard the phrase "To make God laugh, tell Him your plans." Before last week I certainly had no thought or intention of moving in this direction. Valentine's had me in the ER with a whole bunch of abdominal pain and no real idea what it was from. A day-plus and three hallways later I was finally placed in a room and began to get some real answers.

The gut (ongoing for now) seems to be "non-obstructive diverticulitis". Sitting up straight can be difficult at best, with the most comfortable position as somewhat flat on my back. Try eating like this, or drinking. I lost almost twenty pounds in less than a week. This did not necessarily help what kept me in the hospital. And now we get to the heart of the matter.

Because of going to the ER, blood cultures were drawn that revealed a staph infection, unrelated to the diverticulitis. Something I didn't know was that staph can attach itself to heart valves. If unchecked, it can and will cause major problems. The hospital started antibiotics, which will continue at home through a "pick-line" for two weeks.

Philippians 4:4 tells us "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice." It's kind-of hard to rejoice in what I was feeling in my abdomen, but when they found something and began treating early that which could potentially kill you, you become very grateful for the pain. You rejoice. You give thanks.

It is my understanding that one of the reasons God chose the Hebrews was that they are a people of thanksgiving. The Hebrew word for rejoice is "simkhah" (seem kah). The word for thanksgiving is "hodayah". The word for thanks is "todah" Shalom.

## EASTER EGG HUNT MEETING

There is a short Easter Egg Hunt Meeting on **Wednesday, March 13**, after the Worship Meal. Anyone who would like to help with the hunt is expected to attend.

## EASTER EGGS AND CANDY COLLECTIONS

Our Easter Egg Hunt is approaching! As we are preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt, your help is needed. We are seeking donations of candy\* and Easter eggs. All donations can be brought to the containers in the Narthex. Collections will be held until **March 17!** \*Please, only peanut free candy.

## EASTER EGG HUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are signup sheets at the Information Center for anyone who would like to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. We will need people to stuff eggs, help set up, help tear down, greet people, and assist our guests during the event. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Don.



# EASTER CALENDAR

### MARCH 23

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

### MARCH 24

Palm Sunday Services, 8:30 & 11:00 am

### MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday Dinner, 6:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm

### MARCH 29

Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

### MARCH 31

Sunrise Easter Service, 6:30 am  
Easter Service, 11:00 am





# United Women in Faith

## UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guide is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God’s call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

### Scripture for the Month

*Though the fig tree doesn’t bloom, and there’s no produce on the vine though the olive crop withers, and the fields don’t provide food...I will rejoice in the Lord. I will rejoice in the God of my deliverance.*

- Habakkuk 3:17-18

### Witness

At Cunningham Children’s Home, we often see God work in ways we don’t expect. In 2020, when we started our Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program, we experienced one of those God moments. RHY provides emergency and temporary shelter for individuals facing homelessness. When we were setting up a transitional living house for RHY participants, Angie, our associate director of Community Services, envisioned a safe refuge that would also provide peace and comfort. With help from her team, everything came together. The ranch-style home has four bedrooms, a comfortable living room and a bright kitchen. A fresh coat of paint with warm colors added to the welcoming environment for those enduring chaos and uncertainty. The house also had a wheelchair ramp from the driveway to the front door. “A wheelchair ramp?” Angie questioned. “Well, we don’t really have a need for that but maybe it will be nice to have.” On the very day RHY started offering services, we received a referral for Jamona and her son, who were about to lose their home with nowhere to go. Jamona, paralyzed from the waist down, requires a wheelchair! God certainly knew what we needed before we did.

- Marlin Livingston, President/CEO, Cunningham Children’s Home, Urbana, Ill.

### Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Colombia, Cote D’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Dominican Republic, and our United States missionaries serving in District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, and Hawaii.

## WEDNESDAY WORSHIP MEALS CALANDER

Each week a different group in the church hosts the Wednesday Worship Meal. Please sign up at the Information Center if you plan to attend.

- March 06 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle  
Pork Tenderloin, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert
- March 13 Mary Farmer Circle of Love  
Lasagna, salad, and dessert
- March 20 Wesleyan Stratton Circle  
Country style Meatloaf, Baby butter beans, Mashed potatoes, Gravy, Corn bread, Desserts
- March 28 (Maundy Thursday Meal)  
Methodist Men  
Fish dinner



### NEW VISITOR CENTER

Introductory meeting is on Wednesday, March 06 after the worship meal.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering as a greeter or as a worship buddy is encouraged to attend.

## VISITOR CENTER

There is new opportunity to serve on Sunday mornings. We need people to man the Visitor center on Sunday mornings by greeting first time visitors/guests. We are also looking for people to be a “worship buddy” so no one has to sit and be alone during worship. There is an introductory meeting on **Wednesday, March 06**, after the Worship Meal. If you would like more information, please see Pastor Don Gibson.

## BEULAH’S BEST

Beulah’s Best will meet **Tuesday, March 19**, at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Our music program will be presented by Louise McDougale and Billy Kulynych (cousins of Deborah Wenrich). Come and enjoy their music and singing. Hope to see you there, everyone is invited.

## CALENDAR

### March

- 01 Mariners Dinner
- 06 Visitor Center Meeting
- 08 Historical Society
- 09 Hearing Loss Association
- 11 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 12 Mary Farmer Circle of Love  
Finance Committee  
Rebekah Fellowship
- 13 Easter Egg Hunt Meeting
- 19 Beulah's Best  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Methodist Men
- 20 Wesleyan Stratton
- 21 UWF Mission meeting
- 22 Historical Society
- 23 Easter Egg Hunt
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 26 Springdale Bible Study
- 28 Maundy Thursday Dinner  
Maundy Thursday Service
- 29 Good Friday Service
- 31 6:30 am Sunrise Service  
11:00 am Easter Service

### REOCCURRING WEEKLY

#### Sunday

- 8:30 Worship
- Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- Youth Group

#### Monday

- Card Ministry
- Men's Bible study
- Women's Chorus rehearsal
- Bells of Praise Rehearsal
- Scouts

#### Tuesday

- Cub Scouts

#### Wednesday

- Children and Youth Bells
- Wednesday Worship Meal

#### Thursday

- Beulah Land Quartet Rehearsal
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

- |    |                   |    |                 |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| 01 | Jennifer Smith    | 21 | Linda Taylor    |
| 02 | Amanda Foster     | 22 | Susan Iglehart  |
|    | Carol Quigley     | 23 | Abby White      |
|    | Rosanna Strauss   | 24 | Valerie Glazier |
| 03 | Dale Childrey     |    | Frieda Hartman  |
|    | Backy Taylor, III | 25 | Gene Coward     |
| 05 | Bobby Glick       |    | Al Harris       |
|    | Carole Morris     | 26 | Enos Slaughter  |
| 06 | Ken Foster        | 28 | Susan Nowell    |
|    | Ronnie Mann       | 29 | Terry Hart      |
| 07 | Joan Garton       | 31 | Chuck Snow, Jr. |
| 10 | Sandy Goodwin     |    | Riley Turner    |
| 12 | Becky Brooks      |    |                 |
| 15 | Norvell Jenkins   |    |                 |
| 16 | Glynn Soyars      |    |                 |
| 17 | Gail Conner       |    |                 |
| 19 | Doris Gilmore     |    |                 |
| 20 | Debby Bates       |    |                 |
|    | Brad Conner       |    |                 |

### APRIL

- |    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 02 | Hilda Taylor |
| 05 | David Dudley |
| 07 | John Koenig  |
|    | Jerry Lane   |

## THANK YOU

*TO: Beulah Family*

*FROM: Anne Christopher*

Thank you, Beulah family, for your prayers and support during Ed's brief illness and passing. The family and I greatly appreciate the Bereavement Committee's lovely luncheon, the quartet singing his favorite hymn, the many cards sent, and the Christian love shown through words and hugs. Thank you, Pastor Don, for the encouraging words spoken during the service and your many prayers for Ed and our family. I am so blessed to be a member of a wonderful church family.

*TO: Beulah*

*FROM: Shirley Pfeil*

I just want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, rides, calls, etc. during my time of need when I broke my foot. You guys are a blessing. God is Good.



**HONOR A  
LOVED ONE  
WITH AN  
EASTER LILY**

The Lilies will decorate  
the Sanctuary on  
Easter Sunday, March 31.

Forms are located at the Information Center

### EASTER LILIES

This Easter, you can honor the memory of your loved ones by purchasing an Easter Lily. The lilies will decorate the Sanctuary Easter Sunday and the names of those being honored will be listed in the

bulletin that day. Each lily is \$20. The forms to order a lily can be found at the Information Center. Please return your form (with payment) by **Palm Sunday, March 24.**