



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

February 26-March 4, 2018

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT; UMW SUNDAY**

Sermon by Rev. Kelley Lane:

*“Covenant: Jesus’ Body”*

Notes from sermon on 2/25:

Prayer requests:

**Family Focus Question (before sermon):**

What is your vision for a just and compassionate world?

**3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):**

1. If you think of the church as being both “gathered” and “dispersed” does this change your thoughts about being the church?
2. If the church is Christ’s body here on earth, how does the church take on a prophet role in the world/society/creation?
3. What can UMW circles teach us about leadership, justice, and social change?

**Monday, February 26: Read John 2:13-22**

When we hear the terms “prophets” and “disciples,” are we imagining 2000-year-old men in robes and sandals, or are we picturing the women, men, and children of Reveille UMC in 2018? When we hear the word “church,” do we visualize a beautiful, historic structure or do we think of a vibrant, fluid community of Christ’s followers who both go out into the world and let the world in? On this third week of Lent, we continue our journey to the cross by following Jesus out of our comfort zone and into Christ’s vision for his body. Through both our own mission statement and the challenge of our Bishop Sharma Lewis, our church is called to *make disciples of Christ*. If we are to be true disciples, not only following Christ but growing to be *like* Christ, then we can view passages like today’s account in John of Christ’s cleansing the temple as a challenge to constantly examine our own church practices. Are we brave enough to act and speak *prophetically* (speaking for God) to help us all stay on course toward our mission? Are we personally engaging in the prayer, scripture reading, and other means of grace that enables us to know the will of God?

**Tuesday, February 27: Read I Corinthians 1:18-25**

As was the case with the temple in yesterday's gospel reading, it can be tempting for places of worship to stray from God's ultimate purpose for them. The ancient temple in Jerusalem had become more of a marketplace for selling sacrificial animals for high holy days rather than a sacred place for bringing God's people closer to God and God's commandments. There was nothing inherently wrong with commerce or markets – people had to get their animals from somewhere- it simply wasn't the role of God's temple. In today's passage, the apostle Paul urges the church in Corinth not to pursue earthly wisdom or try to cater to the preferences of non-believers, but to stay true to the cross, "foolish" as it may seem to others. Are we willing to appear "foolish" in the name of the cross? Are all of our ministries, resources, and communications pointing people toward the risen Savior?

**Wednesday, February 28: Read Exodus 20: 1-7**

Rules, rules, rules. That's what many people associate with discipleship ("discipline"), law, and commandments. If we're not careful, we can help propagate this attitude by apologizing for Christ's commandments, creating our own dumbed-down version of them, or using them as a weapon to condemn others. What this does is negate the power and freedom and joy and peace that come from living within the safeguard of God's plan for our lives. This is what we offer to people when we help them become disciples of Christ. As we read God's ancient commandments in our scripture passages today and tomorrow, let's not view descriptions of God's "jealousy" and "punishing" as harsh burdens to be dodged by avoiding God, but tragic natural consequences God is trying to save us from. How many children have suffered when their parents have pursued the false idols of materialism, drugs, or sex (see verse 5)? How many crimes have been committed against humanity through the misuse of God's name (verse 7)? Through love and through example, we can draw others into God's powerful and protective Word.

**Thursday, March 1: Read Exodus 20:8-17**

Can we even imagine a society in which murder was allowed, stealing tolerated, and 7-day required workweeks the norm? They've existed, and still tragically exist for some today. It may be even harder, however, to imagine a world without any covetousness, adultery, or lying. This is what a world full of disciples will look like. We will never achieve this ideal through our own efforts – we humans simply aren't capable. But today's holy scripture shows us the vision God has for our lives, which can be attained through God's grace and the power of the cross. This is why we aim to make disciples for the healing and transformation of the world.

**Friday, March 2: Read Psalm 19**

Everything we do can "tell the glory of God." Through all of our ministries we can enlighten, make wise, make pure, make right...but only through the power of the cross. As we read Psalm 19 today, let us lift up our church to be one with the "heavens" to join in God's plan to draw all Creation back to him. How is our church doing this? Where could we be doing it better? Let us support one another in love as we engage in missions like those of the United Methodist Women that provide opportunities to grow spiritually, empower and equip leaders for Christ, and work for justice through service and advocacy (*see [unitedmethodistwomen.org/ourmission](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/ourmission)*)

**Saturday, March 3: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 19:14**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

**Sunday, March 4: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer for**

**Illumination:** *Gracious God, it is only through the power of your Holy Spirit that your Word can be heard in our words and actions. Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray. Teach us to follow your commandments out of love and compassion so that we may honor you and become the people you created us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*