



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

April 23-29, 2018 YOUTH SUNDAY

Notes from sermon on 4/22:

Prayer requests:

Family Focus Question (before sermon):

What is your deepest desire? Jesus says that “whatever you wish ... it will be done for you” (John 15: 7). Spend time in the next days asking yourself at evermore profound levels what you most devoutly wish for in this life and the next. Then ask for it.

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

1. In Acts 8:26-40, Phillip ministers to a eunuch, someone who was an outcast in his day. Who are the people the religious community excludes today who God is calling us to welcome?
2. In John 15, Jesus says “Abide in me as I abide in you.” How do we abide in God?
3. How is Jesus calling Reveille to “bear fruit?” What is your part in this?

Monday, April 23: Read John 15:1-8

It’s that wonderful time of year again- Youth Sunday. On this day, our church gets to see the fruits of its labor. Our young people, many of whom were baptized into this congregation, will show what can happen when they are connected to Christ, his body, and each other. Many of us will recognize juniors and seniors in high school whom we remember teaching in Vacation Bible School, watching sing in Cherub Choir, or misbehaving during the Children’s Message. Now those children are leading our worship and soon going off to college. Will they stay connected to Reveille? To Christ? What will help them? What helps us?

In today’s gospel, Christ teaches that being *connected* is the key everything. As branches on a vine, when we are connected to Christ’s love, teachings, and body (his church), we can bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (see Galatians 5:22). How can we remain connected in Christ, and help our young people...and everyone...do the same?

Tuesday, April 24: Read Acts 8:26-31

Our reading today tells of an Ethiopian eunuch leaving Jerusalem, having tried to worship God and understand the scriptures, but feeling lost. As a eunuch, a gentile, and a foreigner, he would not have been able to enter the temple in Jerusalem. We do not know what kind of experience he had in Jerusalem, but can imagine it was less than satisfactory. "How can I [understand what I am reading] unless someone guides me?" he asks. We can all think of times when we felt lost, alienated, and confused. Some of us can think of a time when we entered a different congregation, or denomination, and felt self-conscious and alone. Did anyone reach out and help us? Now, have we noticed those visitors, young people, or members returning from long absences at Reveille who may be feeling disconnected or lost, too? How can we help them attach to the vine?

Wednesday, April 25: Read Acts 8:32-40

We can be pretty sure Philip had other plans for the day than being interrupted by a foreigner and traveling with him, teaching him, and baptizing him. But notice in yesterday's reading, verse 29, that Philip followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit to approach the Ethiopian eunuch, thereby opening up an entire conversation that could very well have helped lead to the founding of the Coptic church in Ethiopia, a thriving and vital part of the Christian community to this day. When have we felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to talk to someone? Are we letting our daily plans, Sunday afternoon lunch reservations, or to-do lists be interrupted so that we can help bring someone into the body of Christ?

Thursday, April 26: Read 1 John 4:7-21

It all comes down to love. When we feel loved, we cannot help but want to abide in that place. When our young people feel love and acceptance at church, they come back. When the stranger is welcomed with love, that is what they will remember. When we show the face of Christ as love to the world, the world will take notice, and realize it needs more. We don't have to have all the answers, know all the rules, and find all the right words. We just need to love. Let us make a vow to find a way to love each and every person who enters the doors of Reveille, and then find ways to spread this love into the community.

Friday, April 27: Read Psalm 22:25-31

"The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord." What better words can we find to guide us today to a vision of what we hope everyone will find when they enter our doors or cross our paths. All of us are poor in some way: in spirit, in confidence, in material resources, or in connection. All of us, at any age and any stage in our lives, should find our fill when we come into the body of Christ at Reveille. When we help others "eat" and be satisfied, it also results in God's praise. On Sunday, let us rejoice in seeing young people and old praising God, connected together, finding their place on the vine. Let us continue to find ways to stay connected ourselves to Christ, to others, and to our church. Amen.

Saturday, April 28: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Sunday, April 29: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in prayer our Prayer of

Common Confession: *God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. John 15: 5 We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*