



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

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September 3-9, 2018

## REVEILLE DAY

**Sermon by Doug Forrester: *God Unbound: "You are All One in Christ Jesus"***

Notes from sermon on 9/3:

Prayer requests:

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

How can Reveille United Methodist Church offer an antidote to the division which is so prevalent in our world today?

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

1. Why is unity in the church so important for Paul?
2. Why is unity in the church so important for us?
3. What is the Holy Spirit of God calling us to unite around this Reveille Day?

**Monday, September 3: Read Galatians 3:27-29**

In today's modern political and social-media-dominated climate, two things are very clear: our country is very divided, and many of us are increasingly surrounded only by those who think, look, act, and vote like we do. If we do not like a certain channel's spin on the news, we can watch something else. Same goes with radio and newspapers. On social media, we can hide anyone's opinions if we find them to be not to our taste. In an age when there is more media than at any time in human history, it is easier than ever to live in an echo-chamber of our own construction.

However, as we read prepare for Reveille Day and read this week's scriptures, we see that there is one place where this is the exception: at our church. At church we will listen to both the perspectives with which we agree and the ones with which we do not agree. We will read things that we find distasteful. We will consider concepts far outside my comfort zone. We will even work shoulder to shoulder with people who could not be more different than me, people who think, act, speak, and even vote differently than we do. At Reveille, we are taught to love one another without division, seeing the good and the God in others, knowing that the Christ that unites us is greater than that which divides us.

**Tuesday, September 4: Read John 10:14-18**

When we focus on our shepherd, we remember that we are one flock. Some of us are the black sheep, often feeling marginalized and a bit different. Some are spotted. All of us are imperfect, vulnerable, and lost in our own way. We are also all beloved and bought with a price. As we read our Good Shepherd's words today from the gospel of John, we can be unified in the one ultimately important thing: the voice to which we listen. We may each hear in our own way, and have different ideas as to how to carry out Christ's instructions, but when we are in agreement as to whom we belong, we can be unified under Christ's love and our common goal to follow Christ's direction for our church.

**Wednesday, September 5: Read Matthew 18:15-20**

So what happens when we disagree? What happens when one of us is being difficult or even sinful? In our society today, we can "unfriend" someone, avoid them, and shut out the voices that make us uncomfortable or even angry. But not within Christ's body. In today's gospel, Jesus gives us instructions on how to keep our church body healthy, approaching one another directly, with love and grace. If a member at fault refuses to listen, Jesus tells us to treat them as a gentile or tax collector – a commandment that seems like a great "out" for us until we remember that Jesus welcomed tax collectors, prostitutes, Samaritans, adulterers, and all kinds of sinners and gentiles into his life. How can we use today's scripture to mend a relationship within our current active membership? How can we use today's scripture to extend understanding, acceptance, and hospitality with someone who has left Reveille?

**Thursday, September 6: Read Luke 14: 15-23**

Jesus's Parable of the Great Dinner teaches us that there is no set "guest list" in God's kingdom, nor is there for our church. Church is a come-as-you-are open house in which God calls the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. When we look around this Sunday morning, let us all recognize one another for what we are: a motley crew of poor, crippled, blind, and lame people who said "yes" to Christ's invitation. Let us continue to issue that invitation to others, going past our regular comfort zones of relationships to ensure no one feels off the guest list, and everyone has the opportunity to attend the feast.

**Friday, September 7: Read Psalm 133**

We know what it looks and feels like to be divided. It looks like our evening news, our segregated lunchrooms, and our dysfunctional homes. When we experience true unity, however, we feel love, power, inclusion, peace, purpose, and holiness. Unity is not uniformity or homogeneity, it is a phenomenon when we work together for one common vision and can trust one another to communicate with, love, and include us. What more "good and pleasant" thing could we offer our world today? What could be more appealing to today's lost sheep than a place where they can find love, acceptance, grace, and purpose? As we prepare to celebrate our church this Sunday, let us celebrate the incredible phenomenon of having found a place where we can find unity among diversity, grace among weakness, and love among imperfection.

**Saturday, September 8: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Galatians 3:28**

**"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."**

**Sunday, September 9: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Almighty and all-loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled the world to yourself. Help us now to be reconciled with one another, that again we might dwell in the warmth of your love. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to put aside the cloak of pride and put on Christ, that we might forgive and be forgiven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*