

The New Year is a great time for reflections, prayers, and getting together with families, friends, and loved ones. Here is a prayer to help us focus on our faith and to make us mindful of God's place in our lives.



God of the ages, you have blessed us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls

From: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/downloadable-prayers-for-your-home>.



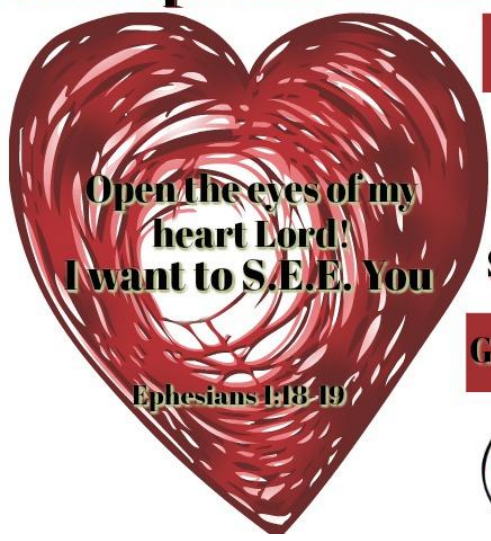
Thank you to each person who took the opportunity to "Surrender All to Our Blessed Savior" and turn in your pledge form for 2018! Your support to our church and our ministries is greatly appreciated!

If you would still like to make your commitment to uphold our church and ministries with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, pledge forms are available in the narthex of the sanctuary. Your completed form can be placed in the offering plate, dropped by or mailed to the church office, or given to Linda Pickett or Susan Speicher. We would be grateful for your prompt assistance.



UMW

S.E.E. Spiritual Enrichment Experience 18



Save The Date!

March 9-11, 2018

**Epworth by the Sea
Saint Simon Island, Ga.**

Guest Speaker: Pamela Hall



The staff of Faith United Methodist Church THANK YOU for your very generous Love Offering this year! It is our privilege to work for the church and your generosity is an added bonus! We love you and look forward to working with you in the coming year!

Sincerely,
Rev. Barry Andrews, Pastor Rigo Felico,
Linda Pickett, and Donna Thouin



City Rescue Mission

Thanks for your generosity! We collected 151 pairs of socks! They will be much appreciated during this cold, wet weather!

World Relief

We have formed a Good Neighbor Team to engage in Refugee Ministry. We are partnered with a family – parents and 4 children - assisting World Relief in resettlement tasks as well as befriending and connecting them into our community. They arrived in the US on December 13th, after living for 14 years in a refugee camp. They are a sweet, friendly family that has a lot to learn. We have enjoyed getting to know them. They came to the Christmas meal on Dec 17th and the Christmas Eve service. We have assisted with food and warm clothing – the average low for their homeland is 68°! Donations to help cover expenses are welcome. Please contact Donna Glasner (904-504-2942) if interested in joining our team.

Cuba

Please remember our Sister Church, Martin Perez Methodist Church, and Pastor Juan Luis Perez in your prayers. We will be sending monies to them in January. Cards, letters, photos, etc. can be sent as well – provide to Donna Glasner.

- ❖ Advance # 110030 provides matching funds to purchase house churches in Cuba.
- ❖ Advance # 100070 supports Methodists United in Prayer (formerly Cuba/Florida Covenant) by covering travel costs for Cuban Christians visiting Florida and ministries related to the Covenant.
- ❖ Advance # 100135 supports the Cuba Methodist Seminary.
- ❖ Advance # 100140 provides support for retired pastors of the Methodist Church in Cuba.

Missionaries

Delbert and Sandy Groves are our missionaries in Zambia. They run the New Life Center, which includes PETs (Personal Energy Transportation), tutoring, and a printing ministry among others.

PETs:



Their website is: www.newlifezambia.com.

Their closed Facebook group is *New Life Center Zambia*.

The Advance number for PET Zambia is 15057A.

Hart Felt Ministries

Hart Felt Ministries vision is a community where frail seniors no longer fear where and how they age. Using a network of community volunteers, Hart Felt provides the following services: friendly visits, grocery shopping, transportation to appointments, light housekeeping and laundry, telephone reassurance, respite care, yard work, minor home repairs, and wheelchair ramps.

If you are interested in learning more, call Donna Glasner (504-2942) or contact Hart Felt directly at: 904-861-2799 or info@hartfelt.org Website: <https://hartfelt.org/>

UCOM

UCOM (United Community Outreach Ministry) provides Emergency Services, Meals on Wheels, and CNA Scholarship programs on the Southside and touches many lives. Canned and boxed goods are collected in the Narthex weekly. Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers are needed.

Their website is: <http://www.ucomjax.org>

Like their Facebook page: UCOM Jax

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)

Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster—with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development. Learn more at www.UMCOR.org and follow on social media: facebook.com/UMCOR and twitter.com/UMC_UMCOR.

UMCOR has recently responded to:

- Mudslide in Sierra Leone
- Hurricane Harvey
- Hurricane Irma
- Hurricane Jose
- Hurricane Maria
- Mexican earthquakes

When you do make a financial donation, you can be assured that every dollar will go to the program you specify. UMCOR can guarantee this because all of the administrative costs are covered by the [UMCOR Sunday](#) offering and other undesignated gifts. [Volunteering](#) or [sending relief supplies](#) to one of their supply depots are two more ways you can be a sign of hope for others. Your prayer support is vital to all that UMCOR does.

Advance Number to request your donation to go to US Relief: 901670

Advance Number to request your donation to go to International Relief: 982450



Thank you to Evalyn Campbell for sharing the moving story below.

A Minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, decided to pause by the altar to see who come to pray. Just then the back door opened, and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man. He hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was torn and shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt down and bowed his head, then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed at precisely noon, the preacher saw this chap. Each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap. Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear.

He decided to stop and ask the man, 'What are you doing here?'

The old man said he was a factory worker and lunch was half an hour.

Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power.

I stay only a moment because the factory's far away;

As I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.
DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

The minister feeling foolish, told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to pray there anytime. 'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said as he hurried to the door. Then the minister knelt there at the altar, which he'd never done before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, as he met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed down his cheeks, he repeated old Ben's prayer:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.
DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

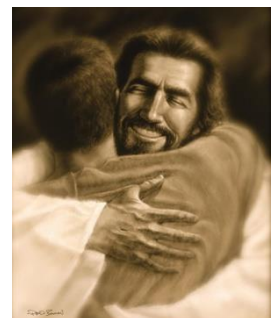
Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them, brought changes in the ward. His smiles and joy contagious --- changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Ben could be so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends had come to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn. Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up and with a winsome smile;

'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, He's been here all the while.' Every day at noon He comes here, a dear friend of mine, you see. He sits right down and takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

'I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, BEN, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN .
I THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS AND I LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY.'



BibleWise

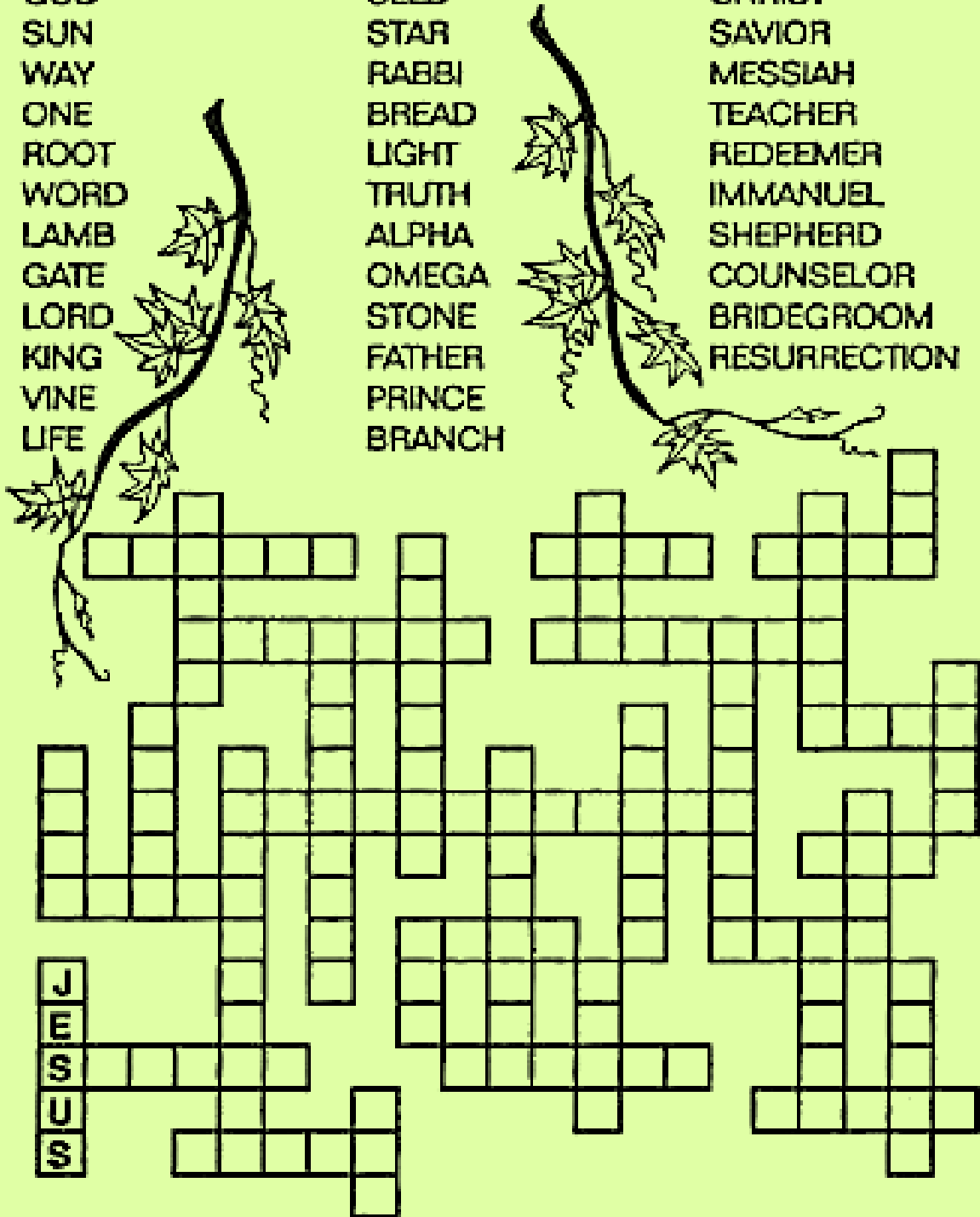
And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)

GOD
SUN
WAY
ONE
ROOT
WORD
LAMB
GATE
LORD
KING
VINE
LIFE

SEED
STAR
RABBI
BREAD
LIGHT
TRUTH
ALPHA
OMEGA
STONE
FATHER
PRINCE
BRANCH

CHRIST
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
TEACHER
REDEEMER
IMMANUEL
SHEPHERD
COUNSELOR
BRIDEGROOM
RESURRECTION



Nell de Vries and Mary Currier. More Bible Activities You Can Do. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.