

Devotions for the Week of January 20, 2019

North East United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Drew M. Christian

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Read John 13: 34-35, I Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:2;

Luke 14: 12-14; Romans 10: 14-15.

Pray for our COMMIT ministries at North East UMC.

- Pray that God will help North East UMC COMMIT to reaching people outside our doors with the love of God and inviting them to church.
- Pray that God will help North East UMC build community and care for one another within “*the body of Christ,*” that we will be COMMITted to one another.
- Pray that North East UMC is COMMITed to welcoming to all who enter its doors.
- Pray that North East UMC will raise their COMMITment to reaching out to those in need in our community and around the world through missions.
- Pray that those who attend and many who visit North East UMC in 2019 will COMMIT their lives to Jesus Christ, becoming more like Jesus.
- Pray for the members of North East UMC who have stepped up and COMMITed to serve on committees and ministry teams, who have COMMITed to teach our children and youth.

- Pray that North East UMC will meet the financial COMMITment necessary to support the many ministries and missions of our church.

Monday, January 21, 2019

Read Matthew 5:39.

On this day that we celebrate, that we remember Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact he had on our society, our world, I thought I would share a devotion written by Sue Monk Kidd and published in the Daily Guideposts in 2016, which focuses on King's vision of love conquering hate.

As I stood inside the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Atlanta waiting to interview Coretta Scott King, I gazed at an exhibit of the travel bag Dr. King had used on his fatal trip to Memphis. Inside the bag were two books. The one on top was entitled *Strength to Love*. It reminded me of his audacious belief that loving one's enemies, not violence, held the power to transform society. *Was he right?* I wondered. *Could simply acting in love in the face of hostility really make a difference?*

Later I asked Mrs. King. "Let me tell you a story," she replied. "One January night in 1956 while Martin was away, I sat home with our baby. Suddenly there was a thunderous blast. A bomb had been tossed onto the front porch. The baby and I were unharmed, but an angry crowd of our friends, wanting revenge, had gathered around the house when Martin got home.

"It was the first test of his theory," she continued. "Martin hushed the crowd and said, 'I want you to go home

and put down your weapons. We must meet violence with nonviolence. We must meet hate with love.”

“What happened?” I asked.

“The anger melted and the crowd faded into the night,” she said with a smile. “You see, the power of love is a mighty force.”

As I left I stopped by the exhibit one more time. I wanted to see the title of the *other* book in Dr. King’s bag. It was *Where Do We Go From Here?* I thought about the hostility in our world, the conflicts between neighbors, even the angry situations in our own houses. The question on the book followed me all the way home.

Lord, on this Martin Luther King’s Birthday—and every day—give me the strength to love even when I am wronged.

As another writer points out, “*What King did on that occasion, [outside his home], isn’t natural – it’s supernatural. The ability to forgive our enemies who have wronged us is often beyond our natural ability, but it is the Spirit of Christ. It is true Christianity. It is a power available to us all. It can and will change the world.*”

As Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, “*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*”

Reflect on your life, your relationships, your work, your community. Ask God to show you where you can bring light to the darkness, where you can bring love to replace hate.

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Read John 15: 1-17; 2 Tim. 3: 16-17; Rom. 12:2; I Peter 2:2; Col. 3:16; Psalm 1: 1-3.

Pray for our GROW ministries at North East UMC.

- Pray that North East UMC will help people GROW closer to God through worship, prayer, and study.
- Pray that North East UMC will help others GROW in their understanding of God's Word.
- Pray that North East UMC will help others GROW, discovering their identity in Christ and His call on their lives.
- Pray specifically for North East UMC's many ministries that will work to help families GROW in their relationship with God. Pray for our Small Groups, Sunday school, and Bible studies. Pray for our Children's Ministry, Vacation Bible School and our Youth Ministry. Pray for the leaders, volunteers, and those who may be impacted by these ministries.

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Read Acts 1:8; Matthew 25: 31-46; Gal. 6:2; Proverbs 21:13; John 13: 34-35;

I John 3: 17-18; Proverbs 28:27.

Pray for our SERVE ministries at North East UMC.

- Pray that North East UMC will reach out beyond our doors to SERVE those in need in our community.
- Pray that North East UMC will care for and SERVE those beyond our community, across our nation and world.
- Pray that North East UMC, as a church family, will care for, will SERVE “*the least of these*” in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Pray specifically for the many ways North East UMC SERVEs the community and the world, including the Operation Christmas Child, Jill’s House, Cecil County FCA, Cecil County Pregnancy Center, and the Rotating Homeless Shelter. Pray for those who our crisis/emergency funds help with electric, food, oil, and temporary housing. Pray for the support groups that meet in our church (*AA, Boys & Girls Club, Scouts, Al-Anon*). Pray for the leaders, volunteers, and those who may be impacted by these ministries.

Thursday - Saturday, January 24-26

Take time this week to pray at least fifteen minutes each night for...

- Your church family
- For the many ministries and missions at North East United Methodist Church and those who are in leadership

- For the many people and communities those ministries and missions impact
- For those you know who do not have a church family, a church to call “home”
- How you might become more supportive and involved in the ministries and missions at North East UMC
- How you might increase your giving in 2019
- That we will be faithful as a church and a people in following God’s direction in 2019

And don’t forget to invite someone to church this Sunday!

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I THINK I NEED TO SET UP A SPAM FILTER
TO CATCH LOTTERY PRAYER REQUESTS