

THE CRUSADER

Web Site: christchurchhome.com

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OCTOBER, 2020
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The Will of God For You This Fall

This article is inspired by I Thessalonians 5:16-18. In that text, our brother Paul writes this:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

I have lived in Christian culture my entire 30 years of life. And the number one question I have always heard is this: “what is the will of God for my life?”

I think people ask this question because they want the answer to be something massive, such as spiritual

revival that sweeps across the nation. Or something miraculous like walking on water or raising the dead. But alas, what does God say through Paul about the will of God?

Rejoice always

Pray without ceasing

Give thanks in all circumstances

These seem like ordinary activities. Why would God ask for us to do things that are ordinary? Aren't we called to more than this?...

Well, welcome to the season of Fall. The first days of chilly weather have arrived and places like

Starbucks are having their annual pumpkin craze. Fall is a time of transition between the long days and the heat of the summer sun to the cold snowy nights of the winter. In Fall, the leaves change their colors right before they fall off the tree and enter into their winter rest. In short, Fall is a time of change not only for the natural world but also for us as children of God. As a child of God, we are constantly journeying with fellow siblings to the very heart of God. Once again, the life of faith seems ordinary. Partially, the life in Christ is beautifully ordinary and if you know your church calendar the season that we are in is called "Ordinary Time." It is the time of ordaining (or establishing) people to ministry and to deeper intimacy with Christ.

How do we deepen our intimacy with Jesus? We rejoice in the midst of all life circumstances. Recently, I have been around many families affected by the pains of death. Saying goodbye to our loved ones is not an enjoyable time in life, so how do we rejoice in the midst of these difficult times?

We thank God for the beautiful individual that He has allowed us to share our lives with. We remember the wonderful lessons and insights that he or she taught us during their time on Earth. We tell their story to anyone willing to listen.

Then we pray. Sadly, we have a very limited view of what it means to pray. Prayer is not just what we do before a meal or at a church service. Prayer is our entire communi-

cation with God—it's everything we tell God out of the joys and frustrations of our hearts. Not only this, prayer is listening. God yearns to speak to us... are we brave enough to listen? What does the God of the universe want to say to you and me during this time of ordinary time?

Lastly, we give thanks in all circumstances...not just at the Thanksgiving table when we are forced to say something. We are to live lives which reflect the thankfulness of Jesus. If you read the Gospel accounts, you will find Jesus is constantly thanking the Father for everything. We are to be thankful for the little things and the big things. So what are you thankful for this Fall/ Ordinary season?

So what is the Will of God for you this Fall? To rejoice in the midst of all your joys and your pains. To pray, by listening and speaking with Jesus—hearing everything He has for you. And by giving thanks in every season of your life. Remember the Holy Spirit is there with us every step of the way. You and I are not alone. We have our fellow siblings in Christ who are journeying with us towards the very heart of God. So, let us journey together this Fall.

Be encouraged and live in Peace.

THANKS to KAREN ROPPA for trimming around the parsonage and the entire church property with an edger. This helps Scott Matthews as he mows the acreage around those areas.

UMW Rummage Sale made a profit of over \$600 at the September sale. Thanks to all who helped and/or donated items!!! Lea Carls president

To My Children's Children is the title of a book by Bob Greene and D. G. Fulford. The purpose of the book is to give others many ideas to preserve family histories for generations to come. (Greene). I bought the book several years ago, and the information within its covers encouraged me to write booklets about my mom's life (23 pages) and my sister's life (42 pages, including several of her published creative writing articles).

I duplicated the booklets and gave one to each family member in my sister's family. My mom's booklet was completed several years before she died in 2009. My sister had always planned to type the anecdotes about her life, but as her health declined, she did not have the strength to sit at a computer and type. I went to the health care facility where she was living, interviewed her, and took notes. I completed my gathering of the background information just before she died in November, 2018. The booklets were given to all of her children and grandchildren as a Christmas gift from her. We made a list of general topics, and then my mom and sister made notes about memorable things in their lives. I used the notes to develop a chronological biography of each of them. I also scanned photos of my mom from age four to her 90th birthday. My sister's booklet has a cover page photo of all of her children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren during her 80th birthday party.

Each of the booklets is quite a keepsake,

and my inspiration for writing this article was from Rev. Bobby Davis' online sermon, "How Do You Want to Be Remembered?", as well as the song, "Legacy", by Nichole Nordeman.

Rev. Bobby Davis is the pastor of Three Rivers Parish in the Vermilion River District which consists of Pleasant Grove, Ellsworth, and Colfax United Methodist Churches in Illinois.

Rev. Davis has given me permission to include quotes and ideas from his message in my article about our legacy. He said, "Our legacy will last for all eternity." That is a deep concept, but it is really true. However, if we do not write our stories, then our children, grandchildren, and future generations will not know very much about our childhood, school days, daily lives, jobs, and our beliefs. Rev. Davis asked people to think about what we want our families to inherit and to cherish. These are not really material things, but they include having hearts for Christ and hearts for people. Rev. Davis asked this question: "Who are we as Christians?" Will our families know about the relationship we had with God? We can share this in our life story, and this will influence and encourage family mem-

bers to have a personal relationship with our Savior. More lyrics from “Legacy” emphasize this theme. “Did I choose to love? Did I point to You enough to make a mark on things?” Nordeman’s song sums it up with this: “ Just want to hear ‘Well done, good and faithful one.”

Over the years of typing the Crusader, the newsletter for Christ UMC, I have interviewed members of our congregation and then I wrote their stories for others to enjoy in a page I called “Family Feature”. I learned a lot about their lives, hobbies, and favorite travel spots; I believe that everyone who read the articles liked the information written as a narrative article and not as an obituary. We may think that an incident from our lives may not be exciting, but they really brought smiles to me.

Now, we come to the bottom line for this article. I want to encourage everyone to write things about your life in a journal. You don’t need to write complete sentences in your notes, and the things you remember will not necessarily be in chronological order. As I said earlier, we made lists of topics, such as place of birth, significant memories of early childhood, teen age years, high school including sports teams, clubs, memorable teachers, and best friends. Another phase of the memories include how you met your spouse, your wedding and the cere-

mony. (I remember that my bridesmaid stepped on my very long netting on the head dress and nearly pulled me down as we were exiting the sanctuary.) There is usually a lot to remember about married life, your first apartment or home, and stories about your children. The topics are endless, and the more you talk about them with other family members, then the more the circle of the stories develop into more and more things to remember.

This written legacy of your life does take time, and you probably do not have enough hours to complete it before the holidays. It takes several weeks or months to get your ideas written or typed. I know that many people would rather save these memories on a computer, but the paper copy is something that will never crash. Some people may prefer to make videos instead of typing and duplicating the stories on paper. Whichever method you choose, I really hope that you will leave these memories for your children and future generations.

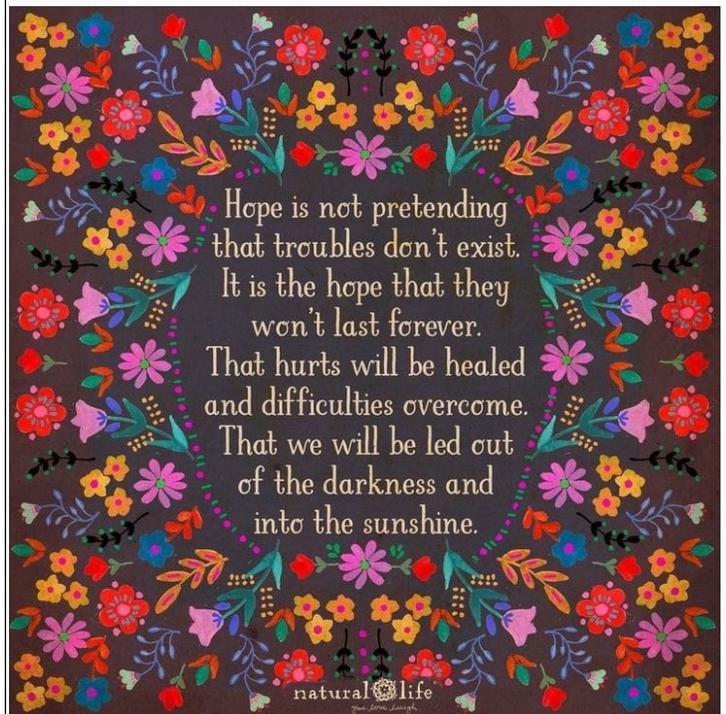
After you have written some anecdotes, then you can begin to flesh them out into paragraphs. You will enjoy going back and re-reading your notes, and this will probably lead to more stories that you had not thought about for a long time.

Here is one story that I plan to include in my anecdotes. When I was driving back and forth to Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL, in my final quarter (not semesters in the late 1960's), I had a 1960 Ford Fairlane without air conditioning. It used a lot of oil, and I had never put in additional oil myself. My dad had fallen and was unable to do this for me like he usually did, so Miss Independence (me) decided to do it by myself. I took the dipstick out and started trying to pour oil in that tiny opening. Most of the oil was getting all over the engine, etc. My brother-in-law came over to my car and nearly started rolling on the ground laughing. He showed me where to pour the oil, and from that moment on, I was slightly above a novice in auto maintenance. This is just one example of an incident that I had not thought about for YEARS.

Another example comes from my years of teaching GED. One of the young men in the class said he missed class because he could not leave the house. He said the "box" kept going off. I thought he meant the VCR, and I could not imagine what that had to do with leaving the house. Of course, I pretended that I knew what he meant. Later, I found out that he was referring to his ankle monitor because he was on probation. He could not leave the house because something had activated it, and he would have been arrested for breaking the rules of his house confinement.

In your work life, you probably have lots of stories that will pop up in your mind as you begin to keep a journal or notes on your computer.

As I am encouraging all of you to write your life story, I need to start on mine! I have remembered many things I want to include, but these thoughts come to me while I am driving. I guess I need to carry my voice activated tape recorder. Good luck on your endeavors!



Jenny Garver found this on the internet, and it seemed appropriate with the articles in this issue. It was written by Natural Life.

More on this topic and dealing with anxiety in the November Crusader.

This is the second part of the list of items purchased for Christ UMC over the years. The first part was in the August, 2020 Crusader. The list was compiled by Fern Aderman for the 40th anniversary booklet of the history of our church.

Item	In memory or honor of	Given by
Flower vases	In memory of our mothers	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Overton, Mrs. Jessie Webb, Mrs. Helen Armstrong
Piano	No designation	Robert Jones family
Sanctuary carpet	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lauerman's 50th anniversary	Mr. & Mrs. Murray Preston
Choir robes	In memory of Luther & Jewell Hughes	None specified
Communion chalice	In memory of Chlonda Hill	Mr. & Mrs. Stan Hill
Liturgical robe stoles	In memory of David Hudson	None specified
Parlor air conditioning	In memory of Dudley Buckley	Ruth Buckley KInser
Office air conditioning	None specified	United Methodist Women
Sanctuary ceiling fans and part payment of former tractor mower	In memory of C. O. Taylor	Several family memorials
Overhead projector, screen, table, maps for projector, part payment of Memorial book	In memory of Violet Peters	Several family memorials
Stained glass window over front door	In memory of Pearl Bowman	Mary & Jerry Rutger
Redecoration of the parlor	None specified	United Methodist Women

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5	TIFFANY MORSE
8	AUDREY MAURICE
9	HARRIETT WALL
15	LYNN DIXON
26	LUKE PARKS



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

PRAY DAILY FOR: Lois Murrell (brother passed last week); also the Halcomb and Albert family. Scott and Bonnie Matthews (Scott's mother passed last week); also the Sisson family. Sharon Coleman and the Carr family. Loraine Osborne, Barbara Boyd, Virginia Humphrey, Don & Harriett Wall, Malvia Sherwood, Joanne Austin, Leroy & Norma Willmirth, Shane Halcomb, our church, Rev. Braden, Michelle, and Luke Parks

10	DON AND HARRIETT WALL
25	JON & SHERRI GILMOUR

BELATED HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO MONTE AND LINDA THORNTON! 9/15

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY WAS NOT LISTED DURING 2020, PLEASE GIVE THE INFO TO KAREN RIVERA. WE DON'T WANT TO MISS THOSE IMPORTANT DATES!

"The Patterson family would sincerely like to thank all members of the congregation for your loving support offered during the loss of Marilyn. Whether it was by words, cards or contributions, your kind, thoughtful gestures remain forever in our hearts. We are all very grateful for the outpouring of love, comfort and care. It is great being a part of the Christ United Methodist family!"