



we are **BETTER TOGETHER**

Series Devotional
& Journal



Welcome to “Better Together” Series Devotional & Journal

Dear Friends,

*“This is what it means to be sent. It means bearing fruit. It means recognizing that the kingdom keeps moving and that we are called to move with it, in the footsteps of Jesus, our Apostle and High Priest.” -
Supernatural - Experiencing the Power of God’s Kingdom, Carolyn Moore*

The Discipleship Ministry is excited about our Fall sermon series, “Better Together.” This series devotional & journal has been lovingly prepared for you to enhance your worship experience - providing just one of several tools we offer to dig a little deeper. We will explore ten weeks of Scripture together, focusing on three key topics:

PRESENCE

SERVICE

GIFTS

You will find tools to discover your spiritual gifts and how you can use them to find and fulfill your unique purpose for life and service here at Killlearn UMC. You will also have the privilege to catch a glimpse of the hearts of a few of your brothers in Christ as they share their testimonies on what being present, serving and giving means to them.

Spend time weekly or even daily in solitude, studying Scripture. Meditate upon God’s Word and use this journal to write out your prayers. Reflect upon your responses to the Scripture and provided reflection prompts. Confess what God reveals to you during your time of silence.

We are better together when we walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

In Him,

Sheri Dodge

Director of Discipleship





Table of Contents

AUGUST

A TESTIMONY ON PRESENCE

- 22 “The First Day of Every Week”
29 “Dedicated to Fellowship”

Randy Merchant
Acts 20:7-12
Acts 2:42-47

SEPTEMBER

- 5 “Becoming Disciples Together”

A TESTIMONY ON SERVICE

- 12 “Getting in S.H.A.P.E.”
19 “Building Up the Body of Christ”
26 “Serving the World”

Matthew 28:16-20
Keith Tischler
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Romans 12:3-8
Isaiah 58:1-12

OCTOBER

A TESTIMONY ON GIFTS

- 3 “How to Get Rich”
10 “What Do We Treasure?”
17 “A Cheerful Heart”
24 “Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps”

Dave Elyea
Luke 12:13-21
Matthew 6:19-24
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
1 John 2:1-6

KILLEARNGROUPS

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Killearn UMC Library Resource Sale - Epworth Library
Dorothy Willcox’s 104th Birthday Party - Fellowship Hall
“This Is Us” Family LifeGroups Launch - Fellowship Hall
Ladies’ Craft Night - Fellowship Hall
Scout’s “Remembering 9/11 First Responders” - Wallwood, Quincy
SHP Bunkbed Build & Volunteer Breakfast - Killearn UMC
New Room Conference - Nashville, TN
Be a Good Neighbor Picnic - Killearn UMC Playground
An Afternoon at the Movies - CMX Cinemas Fallschase
2021 Charge Conference - Killearn UMC Sanctuary

August 21 - 28
August 28
August 29
September 1
September 11
September 18
September 22 - 24
September 26
October 9
October 10

PODCASTS

3-Part “Better Together” Podcast
with Pastor Mike Toluba & Sheri Dodge

THE BLOG

“We Are Better Together” Weekly Blog with Pastor Mike Toluba

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

Bible Reading Plan
Seedbed Daily Text
Facebook Groups
Director’s Suggested Small Group Studies
The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way Video Series



A TESTIMONY ON PRESENCE

Randy Merchant

“Meeting God at KUMC”

For me, Sunday worship is time that I join with others to praise God and thank him for all that he has done. I find worshipping with others more inspiring and meaningful than worshipping alone.

First thing every morning, I try to read the Bible, read a devotional, and pray. I use the reading plan for a year in the back of my study Bible. The “Upper Room” is one of my favorite devotionals. I usually pray using the ACTS model: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Sometimes, I just recite the Lord’s Prayer. Tricia and I pray before each meal, thanking God for his provisions and asking for his healing and comfort for those who are sick and hurting.

KUMC has nurtured and encouraged my spiritual journey through the new- members class, Sunday worship, Sunday school studies, mission trips, and service opportunities. KUMC members, staff, and pastors have been there to celebrate and grieve life events.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1) Where do you “meet God?”
- 2) What does the word “presence” bring to mind?
- 3) What spiritual practices or disciplines do you incorporate into your daily life?
- 4) Are you part of a LifeGroup?

PRAYER

God, thank you for sending your son to die for our sins and for all your many blessings. Please give me the wisdom to live a life that honors you.

BIO

Tricia and I have been married 31 years and have two daughters and a son-in-law: Jennie, Laura and Chase. We’ve been KUMC members 22 years. Before retirement I was an environmental scientist with the Florida Department of Health and led a team that studied hazardous waste sites. I was active in the children and youth ministries. Now I deliver for the food bank, build stairs with I-Serve, and drive the church bus. I also enjoy gardening and traveling.



August 22: WEEK 1 “The First Day of Every Week”

Acts 20:7-12

⁷ On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord's Supper. Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight. ⁸ The upstairs room where we met was lighted with many flickering lamps. ⁹ As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below. ¹⁰ Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. "Don't worry," he said, "he's alive!" ¹¹ Then they all went back upstairs, shared in the Lord's Supper, and ate together. Paul continued talking to them until dawn, and then he left. ¹² Meanwhile, the young man was taken home alive and well, and everyone was greatly relieved.

CONSIDER:

The “flickering lamps” were candles in lanterns. The combination of the heat from the candles and the number of people gather in the upstairs room probably made the room very warm. Add to this it being after the first day back to work after the Sabbath. This no doubt helped Eutychus fall asleep, as well as the fact that Paul spoke for a long time. Eutychus, whose name translates to “fortunate,” was probably between the ages of 8 - 14 years old (the age of a “young man”). Something noteworthy about Eutychus, other than he fell asleep and then fell out of a 3-story window, died and came back to life, is that he showed up, desiring to learn and grow. He was present in the moment... until he grew so weary that he fell asleep. Here, we see a tired young man trying to be present and engaged. Despite trying to be strong, his weakness and his circumstances caused him to fall asleep, and in turn fall to his death. But then Paul held him in his arms and proclaimed he was alive. Eutychus chose to be present, even though he struggled and fell, and then a miracle happened - he lived! This reminds us that our weaknesses which cause us to struggle, stumble and fall can also point to God's power as we, too, are lifted up and held and our lives are miraculously made new in Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. What was significant about meeting on Sunday, the first day of the week?
2. Why was the meeting in the evening?
3. Do you prefer attending church in the morning or in the evening after work?
4. Why do you think Paul felt the urgency to speak “on and on”?
5. Can you at all identify with Eutychus?
6. Do sermons put you to sleep? Or are you wide awake spiritually?
7. How can you keep from falling flat?
8. What is the role of miracles in God's purposes today?
9. What are some weaknesses or struggles in your life that you long to have victory over, but you continue to stumble and fall?
10. How has God used your weaknesses to point others to God? Have you ever shared your testimony?

WEEK 1 PRAYER:



August 22: WEEK 1 “The First Day of Every Week”

WEEK 1 JOURNAL: Take a moment and write out your testimony. When and how did you become a follower of Jesus and what has it meant to you? Describe the first time you felt God’s presence and times when you have felt closest to God. Write down any meaningful experiences that stand out in your mind.



August 29: WEEK 2 “Dedicated to Fellowship”

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

CONSIDER:

Recognizing the other believers as brothers and sisters in the family of God, the Christians in Jerusalem shared all they had so that all could benefit from God's gifts. It's tempting, especially if we have material wealth, to cut ourselves off from one another, concerning ourselves with only our interests and enjoying our own little piece of the world. But as part of God's spiritual family, it is our responsibility to help one another in every way possible. God's family works best when its members work together. A healthy Christian community attracts people to Christ. The Jerusalem church's zeal for worship and brotherly love was contagious. A healthy, loving church will grow in numbers. As a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the fellowship of believers described in this passage had grown by about 3,000. This story shows the importance of fellowship.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Why do you think these people got together?
2. What word best describes the atmosphere in this passage?
3. What made the early church so appealing to others?
4. If you had been invited to be a part of this community, what would have been your reaction?
5. What did these 3,000 converts end up doing? How is God with them?
6. What do you devote yourself to daily?
7. What is the closest you've come to experiencing the kind of close fellowship described here in Acts?
8. What keeps the church from experiencing this kind of fellowship now?
9. What aspect of life in the early church do you most desire for Killearn UMC?
10. How is Killearn UMC's fellowship like and unlike the fellowship here?
11. What are you doing to make your church the kind of place that will attract others to Christ?
12. How will this example affect how you get involved here at Killearn UMC?

WEEK 2 PRAYER:



August 29: WEEK 2 “Dedicated to Fellowship”

WEEK 2 JOURNAL: Think of ways you can support fellowship opportunities at Killearn UMC. List people you would like to invite to worship service and other Killearn UMC events. We have several upcoming Fall events!



September 5: WEEK 3 “Becoming Disciples Together”

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

CONSIDER:

While some of the disciples struggled with doubt, they did not let that stop them from worshiping. God gave Jesus authority over heaven and earth. On the basis of that authority, Jesus told His disciples to make more disciples as they preached, baptized, and taught. Jesus is Lord of the earth, and He died for the sins of people from all nations. The disciples were to baptize people because baptism unites believers with Jesus Christ in their death to sin and their resurrection to new life. Baptism symbolizes submission to Christ, a willingness to live God’s way, and identification with God’s covenant people. Jesus was with the disciples physically until He ascended into heaven and then spiritually through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be Jesus’ presence that would never leave them. Jesus continues to be with us today through His Spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Some of the disciples doubted... but they were still present. Do you ever let negative feelings or emotions justify not participating in worship?
2. What does it mean for Jesus to have all authority?
3. How should Jesus having all authority impact your life?
4. What is the significance of baptism?
5. Why is it important to recognize God as three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
6. Do you think making disciples is just limited to pastors or church staff?
7. In what ways can you fulfill the “Great Commission” in the context of your family? Work? Community?
8. How does it impact our hope knowing Jesus will be with us every moment of every day?
9. How do you need to experience Jesus’ living presence in the coming week?
10. As you think about Jesus’ “Great Commission,” what holds you back from actively passing on the Good News of Christ? Pray for God to remove those obstacles and reveal opportunities for you to share the Gospel.

WEEK 3 PRAYER:



September 5: WEEK 3 “Becoming Disciples Together”

WEEK 3 JOURNAL: What would a plan to make disciples as you live your daily life look like? Leading a LifeGroup? Mentoring students? Serving missionally? Draw out your MAP - **M**inistry **A**ction **P**lan!

2021 FALL CAMPOREE



**Saturday, September 11
1 - 6 PM**

**Wallwood BSA Camporee Field
23 Wallwood BSA Dr., Quincy, FL**

NEVER FORGET



SEPTEMBER 11TH

REMEMBERING 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS

Firefighters Military Police Paramedics EMTs

The Suwannee River Area Council Boy Scouts of America and Killearn United Methodist Church invites you to join us for a fun afternoon of outdoor games and camp food, followed by a special ceremony as Scouts honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a focus on the brave firefighters, military, police, paramedics & EMTs.

Contact Greg Dodge at 850-980-3966 for more information



A TESTIMONY ON SERVICE

Keith Tischler

“Journey to Serve”

In the late 80's, when Donna and I began attending (attending being the operative word for me) Killearn, Donna came to me with an idea. She suggested we accompany our teenage daughter on a week-long mission trip to Tennessee with the youth group. I immediately thought she had lost her mind. Give up a week of my hard-earned vacation and spend it with a bunch of teenagers working outdoors in the summertime? You've got to be kidding me. But, I consented and went, kicking and screaming (figuratively, mostly). When we arrived and I saw the state of the cabins we were sleeping in and noted the showers and bathrooms were 50 yards away, I very much wondered what she had gotten me into. When, on the first day, the van I was driving had a flat tire, I was convinced this was a major mistake; it's going to be a long week. How wrong could I be? Very. For that week proved to be the first steps in my walk with the Lord and experiencing the unique form of growth, joy and fellowship that can only be found in serving others. But for that journey to serve, I might still be as lost as I was when Donna first “dragged” me to Tennessee.

I would like to say that since that time my commitment to service has been unwavering. However, the reality is, like everyone else (I assume), there are times when I have found myself drifting away, caught up in my own needs and desires. What is truly amazing is how in those times God has drawn me back to the circumstances where I first came to know Him: serving others. Returning me to a familiar place to reconnect just as He did with the disciples in the last chapter of John, leading me to serve in Nicaragua, Tennessee, Guatemala and most recently in our local community and state via iServe, where I serve with another band of faithful disciples who volunteer with me. Serving is when I feel closest to the Lord and where I feel a sense of joy unparalleled in any other circumstances.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1) Have you ever been part of a mission trip or volunteered to serve others at an event?
- 2) What does the word “service” bring to mind?
- 3) When have you felt closest to the Lord?
- 4) Are you aware of the variety of service opportunities at Killearn UMC?

PRAYER

Lord, each day help me to be open to your calling, to serve, not out of obligation to You, but as an act of Love. To take the love You revealed to me in the Gospel into the world, to live that love so that the world may come to know You and believe.

BIO

Donna and I have attended and been members of KUMC since the late 1980's. We have served in a variety of roles at Killearn, presently leading a LifeGroup. Additionally, I serve as the Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference for KUMC, am a member of Church Council, Trustees and Staff-Parish Relations committees, lead the iServe ministry, deliver food via the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels, and assist from time to time with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. ² You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. ³ So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

CONSIDER:

The spiritual gifts given to each person by the Holy Spirit are special abilities that are to be used to minister to the needs of the body of believers, the church. Instead of building up and unifying the Corinthian church, the issue of spiritual gifts was splitting it. Spiritual gifts had become symbols of spiritual power, causing rivalries. Some people thought they were more “spiritual” than others because of their gifts. This was a terrible misuse of spiritual gifts because their purpose is always to help the church function more effectively, not to divide it. We can be divisive if we insist on using our gifts our own way without being sensitive to others. We must never use our gifts as a means of manipulating others or serving our own self interests, but instead use them to better glorify the Lord and reach the world for Him. No matter what gifts a person has, each gift is given by the Holy Spirit. We are responsible to use and sharpen our gifts, but we can take no credit for what God has freely given us.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Why did Paul write to the Corinthian church about spiritual gifts?
2. What was the most fulfilling job or task you ever had?
3. When have you felt that you were part of a unit where all the parts worked together for a common goal?
4. Who has been given spiritual gifts?
5. Who are spiritual gifts from and for what purposes are they given?
6. Verses 4 - 6 indicate that some Corinthians felt certain spiritual gifts were better than others. Have you ever encountered that attitude among Christians? In yourself?
7. How is the diversity of the gifts related to the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
8. If you already know your strongest spiritual gift, what is it and how are you using it?
9. Why is it important for us to learn to recognize our spiritual gifts?
10. How is a spiritual gift different from a personality trait, a talent, or a characteristic?

WEEK 4 PRAYER



September 12: WEEK 4 “Getting in S.H.A.P.E.”

S.H.A.P.E. Overview - “Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This custom combination of capabilities is called your S.H.A.P.E.” - Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

Each of the five letters in the word **S.H.A.P.E.** represents a specific characteristic of your life:

- **S** Spiritual Gifts “What am I gifted to do?”
- **H** Heart “What passions do I have?”
- **A** Abilities “What do I naturally do better than others?”
- **P** Personality “How has God wired me to navigate life?”
- **E** Experiences “Where have I been?” and “What have I learned?”

Interested in discovering the unique purpose God has for your life? Contact Sheri Dodge, our Director of Discipleship, at the Church Office at 850-893-1116, to register for our next 6-week S.H.A.P.E. ExploreGroup study by Erik Rees.

WEEK 4 JOURNAL: Consider your answers to the above questions. Focus on **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**. Review the list below and circle the gifts you believe are active in your life.

- **ADMINISTRATION** - effectively organizing resources and people in order to efficiently reach ministry goals.
- **APOSTLESHIP** - launching and leading new ministry ventures that advance God’s purposes and expand His kingdom.
- **DISCERNMENT** - recognizing truth or error within a message, person, or event.
- **ENCOURAGEMENT** - helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling, and empowerment.
- **EVANGELISM** - sharing the love of Christ with others in a way that draws them to respond by accepting God’s free gift of eternal life.
- **FAITH** - stepping out in faith in order to see God’s purposes accomplished, trusting Him to handle any and all obstacles along the way.
- **GIVING** - joyfully supporting and funding various kingdom initiatives through material contributions beyond the tithe.
- **HEALING** - healing and restoring to health, beyond traditional and natural means, those who are sick, hurting, and suffering.
- **HELPING** - offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ. This aptitude is sometimes referred to as the gift of “helps” or “service.”
- **HOSPITALITY** - providing others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship.
- **INTERPRETATION** - understanding, at a specific time, God’s message when spoken by another using a special language unknown to the others in attendance.
- **KNOWLEDGE** - communicating God’s truth to others in a way that promotes justice, honesty, and understanding.
- **LEADERSHIP** - casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies, and achieving success where God’s purposes are concerned.
- **MERCY** - ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally.
- **MIRACLES** - supernatural acts that bring validity to God and His power.
- **PASTORING** - taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives. “Shepherding” is another word used for this particular gift.
- **PROPHECY** - offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth.
- **TEACHING** - teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education.
- **TONGUES** - communicating God’s message in a special language unknown to the speaker.
- **WISDOM** - making wise decisions and counseling others with sound advice, all in accordance with God’s will.



September 19: WEEK 5 “Building Up the Body of Christ”

Romans 12:3-8

³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

CONSIDER:

Healthy self-esteem is important because some of us think too little of ourselves; on the other hand, some of us overestimate ourselves. The key to an honest and accurate self-evaluation is knowing the basis of our self-worth - our identity in Christ. Apart from Him, we are not capable of very much by eternal standards. In Him, we are valuable and capable of worthy service. Evaluating yourself by the worldly standards of success and achievement can cause you to think too much about your worth in the eyes of others and thus miss your true value in God's eyes.

Paul uses the concept of the human body to teach how Christians should live and work together. Just as the parts of the body function under the direction of the brain, so Christians are to work together under the command and authority of Jesus Christ. God gives us gifts so we can build up His church. To use them effectively, we must 1) Realize that all gifts and abilities come from God; 2) Understand that not everyone has the same gifts; 3) Know who we are and what we do best; 4) Dedicate our gifts to God's service and not to our personal success; 5) Be willing to utilize our gifts wholeheartedly, not holding back anything from God's service.

God's gifts differ in nature, power, and effectiveness according to His wisdom and graciousness, not according to our faith. God will give spiritual power necessary and appropriate to carry out each responsibility. We cannot, by our own effort or willpower, drum up more ability and thus be more effective teachers or servants. These are God's gifts to His church, and He gives faith and power as He wills. Our role is to be faithful and to seek ways to serve others with what Christ has given us. Be thankful for people whose gifts are completely different from yours. Let your strengths balance their weaknesses, and be grateful that their abilities make up for your deficiencies. Together you can build Christ's church.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. How healthy is your own self-esteem?
2. In thinking about gifts, what are we told not to do?
3. Why does Paul use the image of a body to describe a Christian community?
4. How many spiritual gifts are there? Is this an exhaustive list? (See 1 Corinthians 12)
5. Where do you see these spiritual gifts in action?
6. Are you using your gifts in a way that is holy and pleasing to God? If so, how?
7. What holds you back from using your gifts more fully?

WEEK 5 PRAYER:



September 19: WEEK 5 “Building Up the Body of Christ”

Take a free online S.H.A.P.E. Test at www.FreeSHAPETest.com. Provide your email address as well as sdodge@kumconline.org as Church Leader so that we may go over your S.H.A.P.E. Profile Results together.

WEEK 5 JOURNAL: Where is your **HEART**? Listed below are a number of words which can be associated with various ministries. Assuming you have no restrictions of time or money, circle all those which reflect your passion or desire to make a difference.

ADULTS	SINGLES	DISABLED/SHUT-IN	MUSIC/ART
CHILDREN	SINGLE PARENTS	HOSPITALIZED	ATHLETICS
TEENS	MEN'S GROUPS	OUTREACH	MAINTENANCE
INFANTS	WOMEN'S GROUPS	EMOTIONALLY HURTING	COMMUNICATIONS
OLDER ADULTS	VISITORS	PARENTS	NEW BELIEVERS
PRAYER	TEACHING	OTHER	

What do your selections reveal to you?

Isaiah 58:1-12

"Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast.
Shout aloud! Don't be timid.
Tell my people Israel of their sins!
² Yet they act so pious!
They come to the Temple every day
and seem delighted to learn all about me.
They act like a righteous nation
that would never abandon the laws of its God.
They ask me to take action on their behalf,
pretending they want to be near me.
³ 'We have fasted before you!' they say.
'Why aren't you impressed?
We have been very hard on ourselves,
and you don't even notice it!'

"I will tell you why!" I respond.
"It's because you are fasting to please yourselves.
Even while you fast,
you keep oppressing your workers.
⁴ What good is fasting
when you keep on fighting and quarreling?
This kind of fasting
will never get you anywhere with me.
⁵ You humble yourselves
by going through the motions of penance,
bowing your heads
like reeds bending in the wind.
You dress in burlap
and cover yourselves with ashes.
Is this what you call fasting?
Do you really think this will please the LORD?

⁶ "No, this is the kind of fasting I want:
Free those who are wrongly imprisoned;
lighten the burden of those who work for you.
Let the oppressed go free,
and remove the chains that bind people.
⁷ Share your food with the hungry,
and give shelter to the homeless.
Give clothes to those who need them,
and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

⁸ "Then your salvation will come like the dawn,
and your wounds will quickly heal.
Your godliness will lead you forward,
and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.
⁹ Then when you call, the LORD will answer.
'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply.

"Remove the heavy yoke of oppression.
Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors!
¹⁰ Feed the hungry,
and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,
and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually,
giving you water when you are dry
and restoring your strength.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like an ever-flowing spring.
¹² Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.
Then you will be known as a builder of walls
and a restorer of homes.

CONSIDER:

True worship was more than religious ritual, going to the Temple every day, fasting, and listening to Scripture readings. These people missed the point of a living, vital relationship with God. He doesn't want us to act pious when we have unforgiven sin in our heart and continue our sinful lifestyle. More important even than correct worship and doctrine is genuine compassion for the oppressed, the poor, and the helpless.

We cannot be saved without faith in Christ, but our faith lacks sincerity if it doesn't reach out to others. Fasting can be beneficial spiritually and physically, but at its best fasting helps only the person doing it. God says He wants our fasting to go beyond our own personal growth to acts of kindness, charity, justice, and generosity. This truly is pleasing to God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. In what ways did God's people seem to do the right thing? How did they spoil it?
2. How did their view of fasting differ from God's? If their fasting was sincere, what would be different about their relationships with others?
3. What is the connection between religious exercises like this and a concern for justice? How is personal spiritual renewal related to seeking justice for the poor?
4. In which religious activities do you find yourself just going through the motions?
5. How should these activities impact us individually and as a community? How are they affecting you now?

WEEK 6 PRAYER & JOURNAL: Pray for God to guide you as you reflect upon your life and ask Him to reveal His will for how you may serve others. Think about your **ABILITIES**, **PERSONALITY**, and **EXPERIENCES**. Look at the "Experience Inventory" below and circle the experiences pertaining to you. Answer some of the "Abilities" questions and indicate on the "Personality" scale where you see yourself.

ABILITIES	PERSONALITY
My current vocation is:	(strong) (neutral) (strong)
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> INTROVERTED 1 2 3 4 5 EXTROVERTED </div>
Other jobs or skills in which I have experience:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> SELF-CONTROLLED 1 2 3 4 5 SELF-EXPRESSIVE </div>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> ROUTINE 1 2 3 4 5 VARIETY </div>
I feel I have these specialized abilities:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> COOPERATIVE 1 2 3 4 5 COMPETITIVE </div>
I have taught a class or seminar on:	
I feel my most valuable personal asset is:	

EXPERIENCE INVENTORY

- **ENTERTAINING** - perform, act, sing, speak
- **RECRUITING** - enlist and motivate people to get involved
- **INTERVIEWING** - discover what others are really like
- **RESEARCHING** - read, collect information or data
- **ARTISTIC** - conceptualize, draw, paint, photograph
- **GRAPHICS** - lay out, design, create visual displays
- **EVALUATING** - analyze data and draw conclusions
- **PLANNING** - strategize, design and organize programs and events
- **MANAGING** - supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
- **COUNSELING** - listen, encourage, and guide with sensitivity
- **TEACHING** - explain, train, demonstrate, and tutor
- **WRITING** - write articles, letters, books, blogs, posts
- **EDITING** - proofread or rewrite
- **PROMOTING** - advertise or promote events and activities
- **REPAIRING** - fix, restore, maintain
- **FEEDING** - create meals for large or small groups
- **RECALL** - remember or recall names and faces
- **MECHANICAL** - operate equipment, tools, or machinery
- **RESOURCEFUL** - search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
- **COUNTING** - work with number, data, or money
- **CLASSIFYING** - systemize and file books, data, records, and materials so they can be easily retrieved
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS** - handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
- **WELCOMING** - convey warmth, making others feel comfortable
- **COMPOSING** - write music or lyrics
- **LANDSCAPING** - gardening or working with plants
- **DECORATING** - beautify a setting for a special event

What kinds of trials have I experienced that could provide encouragement to others?



A TESTIMONY ON GIFTS

Dave Elyea

"Why I Give"

During my faith walk, it became clear to me God had created and endowed me with certain talents and abilities. By his creation then, my income and possessions belong to him, and I am therefore his steward. Matthew 25: 20-28 states,

"The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ 'His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²² 'The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ 'His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²⁴ 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ 'His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸ 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.'"

A faithful steward, Scripture tells us, is expected to be faithful in using what God gave and to return a portion to His work.

It was also clear that God asked for a return of a tenth of my income to further His Kingdom on earth. Initially, although convinced, I could not see a way to return a tenth but resolved to increase giving every year. Finally, after a few years of gradually increasing giving, I reached a full tithe and continue today.

As I have matured further in my faith walk, I have found real joy and contentment. I do not give or serve in expectation of a return but find fulfillment and satisfaction at every turn. I have taken to heart the promise contained in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and found it to be fulfilled in my life.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1) Consider the three servants in the above story. With which servant do you most identify?
- 2) What does the word "tithe" bring to mind?
- 3) Are you willing to return a portion of your income to further God's Kingdom?
- 4) What does a commitment of financial giving look like to your current budget? Your future budget?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I know that by your Creation I am incredibly blessed. Even so, sometimes I am selfishly protective of the possessions that you have given me charge over and of the talents that you have created in me. Forgive me Father where I have failed to be a faithful steward and guide me to more fully embrace your plan for my life. In Jesus Holy name I pray.

BIO

Lifelong Methodist, member of Killlearn 1981-86 and 2011 to date. I serve as the Chairperson of Stewardship, on the Finance Committee, and the Church Council.

"I Still Believe"



Killearn UMC Women's Ministry is partnering with Children's Ministry to host an afternoon at the movies. Join us for a fun afternoon out!

This event is \$10 per person for...

- Couples
- Singles
- Children over 12 (Childcare for 11 and under is provided at the Killearn UMC campus)

FREE childcare with advance reservation by Noon on Wednesday, October 6, to Amanda Blanton at 850-294-2413. **Drop off between 12:15 - 12:30 and pick up by 4 PM.**

ARRIVE EARLY AT CMX CINEMAS FALLSCHASE TO CHECK-IN

1 - 1:20 PM Check-In

Pick up Wristbands
Purchase Snacks
Find your Seats

1:30 - 3:30 PM Movie

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” ¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

CONSIDER:

This parable shows us the effects of greed. Jesus calls us to share our resources with others for the sake of God’s kingdom. Problems like this were often brought to rabbis for them to settle. Jesus’ response, though not directed to the topic, is not a change of subject. Rather, Jesus is pointing to a higher issue—a correct attitude toward the accumulation of wealth. Life is more than material goods; far more important is our relationship with God. Jesus put His finger on this questioner’s heart. When we bring problems to God in prayer, He often responds in the same way, showing us how we need to change and grow in our attitude toward the problem. This answer is often not the one we were seeking, but it is more effective in helping us trace God’s hand in our life.

Jesus says that the good life has nothing to do with being wealthy, so be on guard against greed (desire for what we don’t have). This is the exact opposite of what society usually says. Advertisers spend millions of dollars to entice us to think that if we buy more and more of their products, we will be happier, more fulfilled, more comfortable. Learn to tune out expensive enticements and concentrate instead on truly fulfilled life—living in a relationship with God and doing His work.

The rich man in Jesus’ story died before he could begin to use what was stored in his big barns. Planning for retirement—preparing for life before death—is wise, but neglecting life after death is disastrous. If you accumulate wealth only to enrich yourself, with no concern for helping others, you will enter eternity empty-handed. Jesus challenges us to think beyond earthbound goals and to use what we have been given for God’s kingdom. Faith, service, and obedience are the way to become rich toward God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Why do you save money? Are you saving for retirement? To buy more expensive cars or toys? To be secure?
2. What was Jesus warning against in verse 15 when He said, “Watch out!”?
3. What problem did the man in this parable face? What was his solution?
4. Why was God’s reaction to the rich man so severe?
5. What is Jesus saying in this story?
6. What is your reaction to “a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”?
7. What was your ambition in life when you were 18 years old? What is your greatest ambition now?
8. How would you like to be remembered?
9. How pervasive is the attitude, “Take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry” in our society? How can this attitude affect your relationship with God?
10. In what way can you be “rich toward God?”

WEEK 7 PRAYER:



October 3: WEEK 7 “How to Get Rich”

WEEK 7 JOURNAL: What is the lesson for you from this parable?



October 10: WEEK 8 “What Do We Treasure?”

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

CONSIDER:

Storing treasures in heaven is not limited to tithing but is accomplished by all acts of obedience to God. There is a sense in which giving our money to God’s work is like investing in heaven. But we should seek to please God not only in our giving but also in fulfilling God’s purposes in all we do.

Spiritual vision is our capacity to see clearly what God wants us to do and to see the world from His point of view. But this spiritual insight can be easily clouded. Self-serving desires, interests, and goals block that vision. Serving God is the best way to restore it. A “pure” eye is one that is fixed on God.

Jesus says we can have only one master. We live in a materialistic society where many people serve money. They spend all their lives collecting and storing it, only to die and leave it behind. Their desire for money and what it can buy far outweighs their commitment to God and spiritual matters. Whatever you store up, you will spend much of your time and energy thinking about. Don’t fall into the materialistic trap because “the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. In our society, how is success generally measured?
2. From what sources do you feel pressured to meet this standard?
3. What alternatives does Jesus propose with respect to treasures, desires, and masters?
4. If Jesus were to analyze your life, what would He say your “treasure” is?
5. What is the connection between eye and body? What does it mean to have good eyes? Bad eyes?
6. According to Jesus, what are we to seek in place of food and clothes?
7. What are the results from seeking this?
8. What is one thing you can do in the coming week to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness”?
9. Considering this past week, is your “bank” on earth or in heaven? What do you need to do to change accounts? Who has been your master lately?

WEEK 8 PRAYER : Pray for God to reveal to you where your priorities lie.



October 10: WEEK 8 “What Do We Treasure?”

WEEK 8 JOURNAL: Can you honestly say that God, and not money, is your master? One test is to ask yourself which one occupies more of your thoughts, time, and efforts. Take a few moments and write down what God is revealing to you right now.



October 17: WEEK 9 “A Cheerful Heart”

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹ As the Scriptures say,

“They share freely and give generously to the poor.

Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

¹³ As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴ And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵ Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

CONSIDER:

People may hesitate to give generously to God because they worry about having enough money left over to meet their own needs. Paul assured the Corinthians that God was able to meet their needs. The person who gives only a little will receive only a little in return. Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving cheerfully and generously. Our attitude is more important than the amount we give. We don't have to be embarrassed if we can give only a small gift. God is concerned about how we give from the resources we have (see Mark 12:41-44). According to that standard, the giving of the Macedonian churches would be difficult to match.

God gives us resources to use and invest for Him. Paul uses the illustration of seed to explain that the resources God gives us are not to be hidden, foolishly devoured, or thrown away. Instead, they should be cultivated in order to produce more crops. When we invest what God has given us in His work, He will provide us with even more to give in His service.

Paul emphasizes the spiritual rewards for those who give generously to God's work. We should not expect to become wealthy through giving. Those who receive your gifts will be helped, will praise God, and will pray for you. As you bless others, you will be blessed.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. By “sowing and reaping” imagery, is Paul saying that if you give \$100 you will get \$1,000? Why or why not?
2. What do you make of the three “alls” in verse 8?
3. For what purpose will God materially bless these people?
4. How does generosity effect righteousness, and the ever-widening circles of people giving thanks to God?
5. How is giving contagious? How does it reflect God's grace?
6. Why is being able to receive also important?
7. What have you reaped by being generous to others?
8. How can God's promise in verse 8 enable you to be more generous? To persevere in your work?
9. How do generosity and financial planning and responsibility fit together?

WEEK 9 PRAYER:

--



October 17: WEEK 9 “A Cheerful Heart”

WEEK 9 JOURNAL: How do you and your family handle financial planning in relation to giving? Do you have a plan? Take a few moments to write out a plan for responsible giving if you do not already have one.



October 24: WEEK 10 “Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps”

1 John 2:1-6

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

CONSIDER:

John uses “dear children” in a warm, fatherly way. He is not talking down to his readers but is showing affection for them. At this writing, John was a very old man. He had spent almost all his life in ministry, and many of his readers were indeed his spiritual children.

To people who are feeling guilty and condemned, John offers reassurance. They know they have sinned, and Satan is demanding the death penalty. When you feel this way, don’t give up hope—the best defense attorney in the universe is pleading your case. Jesus Christ, your advocate, your defender, is the Judge’s Son. He has already suffered your penalty in your place. You can’t be tried for a case that is no longer on the docket. United with Christ, you are as safe as He is. Don’t be afraid to ask Christ to plead your case—he has already done it. Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He can stand before God as our mediator because His death satisfied the wrath of God against sin and paid the death penalty for our sin. Thus, Christ both satisfies God’s requirement and removes our sin. In Him we are forgiven and purified.

Sometimes it is difficult to forgive those who wrong us. Imagine how hard it would be to forgive everyone, no matter what they had done! This is what God has done in Jesus. No one, no matter what he or she has done, is beyond forgiveness. All a person has to do is turn from all known sin, receive Christ’s forgiveness, and commit his or her life to Him.

To live as Jesus lived doesn’t mean choosing 12 disciples, performing great miracles, and being crucified. We cannot merely copy Christ’s life, much of what Jesus had to do with his identity as God’s Son, the fulfillment of His special role in dying for sin, and the cultural context of the 1st-century Roman world. To walk today as Christ did, we must obey His teachings and follow His example of complete obedience to God and loving service to people.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. How can you be sure that you belong to Christ? What are two proofs that we know Jesus and that we abide in Him?
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus speaks to God “in our defense” (verse 2:1)?
3. What is the relationship between God’s love and our obedience?
4. Is there someone you need to forgive?
5. Is there an area in your life where you are struggling with sin?
6. Can you name God’s commandments?

WEEK 9 PRAYER :

--



October 24: WEEK 10 “Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps”

WEEK 10 JOURNAL: How have you been inspired by this sermon series?

killearnGROUPS

PRESENT // GROW // SEND

We were made for community. We believe that being known by other people makes life more meaningful. Every person needs and deserves a place of belonging - a safe place to be known and grow in relationship with God and others. Our groups are diverse in style, age and subject, and we invite you to explore them and discover your place in our community.

exploreGROUPS

check it out.

Not sure where to start? ExploreGroups are for people who are just exploring Killearn UMC or the Christian faith. These groups are safe spaces where you can get connected in the church, learn about faith, and ask questions.

empowerGROUPS

digging deeper.

We want to help you go deeper in your faith. EmpowerGroups go beyond the basics, focus on a specific issue, or simply work to empower you in the areas where you struggle. These groups are diverse in subject and style.

lifeGROUPS

doing life together.

We believe life wasn't meant to be done alone. Everyone needs a place where they can grow in faith, relationship and service. Quite simply, LifeGroups are groups of people committed to each other getting together on a regular basis to do exactly that.

Interested in starting or joining a group?

Email groups@kumconline.org

or

Call Sheri Dodge at 850-893-1116



Upcoming Fall Events

KILLEARN UMC LIBRARY RESOURCE SALE // August 21 – 27 // Epworth Library // The Discipleship Ministry's Library Committee is clearing out some of our inventory to make room for new resources and we want to give YOU the opportunity to select books and DVDs to enhance your home library. All books and DVDs remaining on shelves are available for you to choose from (boxed books are clearly marked and not included in sale). We are accepting cash donations, with a suggested amount of 50 cents per resource, which can be left in the "Donation Box" or dropped off at the Church Office. The Library will be available Saturday through Friday the following hours:

8/21 – 9 AM to Noon
8/22 – 10:30 AM to 4 PM
8/23 – 9 AM to 4 PM
8/24 – 10:30 AM to 4 PM
8/25 – 1:30 PM to 4 PM
8/26 – 10:30 AM to 4 PM
8/27 – 9 AM to 4 PM

DOROTHY WILLCOX'S 104TH BIRTHDAY PARTY // August 28 // Fellowship Hall // 2:30 - 4 PM // Our precious Sister in Christ, Dorothy Wilcox, is turning 104 years old on August 30. This is cause for celebration! When asked, Dorothy said, "I want a PARTY!" So, how about it, Killearn Family youngsters? Bring a Birthday Card that she'll appreciate into her **NEXT** century, and let's love on Dorothy! **ALSO:** *We ask that ALL guests that come to the party be Vaccinated.* Dorothy wants a 105th party next year too!

FAMILY LIFEGROUP LAUNCH // Sunday, August 29 // 5 - 7 PM // Fellowship Hall // The Discipleship Ministry invites parents of children ages infant to 18-years-old to our "This Is Us" LifeGroup dinner and time of fellowship. We will serve a FREE family-friendly meal of pizza and salad so parents may eat dinner with their children before sending them to Nursery (Babies through Elementary) or SNL (Middle & High Schoolers). After dinner, we will share small group opportunities for families interested in connecting with other parents.

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT // Wednesday, September 1 // 6:30 – 9 PM // Fellowship Hall // Crafty or not? Join us for a night of fellowship and fun for a Ladies Craft Night! Crafty Chicks of Tallahassee will be there to help with your chosen craft and there are so many shapes to choose from! To register:

Step 1: Choose an 18' cutout and any vinyl lettering you would like by scanning this QR Code:



Step 2: Once you have made your selection, register and pay by scanning this QR Code:



For questions or if you would like help with selections or registration, please call Courtney Benedix at 850-445-4635, or email craftychickstally@gmail.com. Desserts and refreshments will be served. Childcare for children 6 weeks- 5th grade is available with RSVP to Amanda Blanton, Director of Childcare & Nursery at 850-294-2413 (Text preferred). Seating is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Registration cutoff is August 23.



Upcoming Fall Events

SCOUT'S CAMPOREE "REMEMBERING 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS" // Saturday, September 11 // 1–6 PM // Wallwood BSA Camporee Field, Quincy, FL // The Suwannee River Area Council BSA and Killearn UMC invite you to join us for a fun afternoon of outdoor games and camp food, followed by a special ceremony as Scouts honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a focus on the brave firefighters, police, military, paramedics, and EMTs. Bring your own chairs and water. This is an OUTDOOR event. For more information, contact Camporee Chairperson, Greg Dodge, at 850-980-3966.

SHP BUNKBED BUILD & VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST // Saturday, September 18 // Registration 8:30–9 AM, 8–9 AM Breakfast // Join us for our second Bunk Bed Build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace! SHP is a nation-wide charitable organization that brings communities together to build bunk beds for families in need. Thanks to the funds raised through the Shamrock Scurry, Killearn will be sponsoring a build of 20 bunk bed sets! Join us for a day of hard work, fun, fellowship, and learn some new skills along the way. No construction experience is required, and all the tools you need will be provided. Register for the Bunk Bed Build by scanning the QR Code.



Killearn will be serving coffee and breakfast from 8 - 9 AM, and SHP Volunteer Registration will be from 8:30 - 9 AM. All volunteers must register during this time, but breakfast is optional. Please plan to arrive no later than 8:45 AM.

The build will take place in Killearn's paved parking lot, so please park in the grass lot on the other side of the Sanctuary. You must be 12 years old or older to register, and minors ages 12 - 17 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. If you have any questions, or if your student wants to log the Bunk Bed Build for school service hours, please contact Hannah Prasse at hprasse@kumconline.org



We will need volunteers to help both build and deliver the beds. If you are specifically interested in volunteering as a driver, and have a capable vehicle, please sign up by September 10, by scanning on this QR Code.

NEW ROOM CONFERENCE // September 22 - 24 // Nashville, TN // New Room Conference is a gathering for Christians and leaders to sow for a great awakening! After the Holy Spirit moved powerfully in our one-night virtual event in 2020, we're so excited to join together in-person, September 22–24, to dive into The Second Half of the Gospel. Confirmed speakers include Jo Saxton, J.D. Walt, Rich Villodas, and more! If you're seeking deep fellowship with real people, join us. If you desire to see God move powerfully in your heart, home, church, and city, join us. If you long to be a part of a great awakening movement of God in our time, join us. Don't miss this opportunity to unite the whole Church around the extravagant, transformational Gospel. Scan the QR Code to register.



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR: PICNIC & MOVIE NIGHT // Sunday, September 26 // 6 - 9 PM // KUMC Playground // Good neighbors make good neighbors. Begin today - Introduce yourself and get acquainted with a neighbor you haven't spoken with before. Be neighborly! We want our community to feel welcome and come to our picnic!

In 1978, President Carter issued Proclamation 4601: "As our Nation struggles to build friendship among the peoples of this world, we are mindful that the noblest human concern is concern for others. Understanding, love, and respect build cohesive families and communities. The same bonds cement our Nation and the nations of the world. For most of us, this sense of community is nurtured and expressed in our neighborhoods where we give each other an opportunity to share and feel part of a larger family... I call upon the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."



Upcoming Fall Events

AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES // Saturday, October 9 // 1 - 1:20 PM Check-in, 1:30 - 3:30 PM Movie // CMX Cinemas Fallschase, 147 Vermillion Blvd. // Killearn UMC Women's Ministry is partnering with Children's Ministry to host an afternoon at the movies. Join us for a fun afternoon out as we enjoy the movie "I Still Believe." Plan to pick up your wristband and purchase your snacks between 1 - 1:20 PM. Movie begins at 1:30 PM. This event is \$10 per person for couples, singles, and children over 12. Register by scanning the QR Code.



Childcare for 11 and under is provided FREE at the Killearn UMC campus. Advance reservation for childcare is required by Noon on Wednesday, October 6, to Amanda Blanton at 850-294-2413 (TEXT preferred). Drop off between 12:15 - 12:30 and pick up by 4 PM.

2021 CHARGE CONFERENCE // Sunday, October 10 // Time TBD // Killearn UMC Sanctuary // Charge conference is a meeting of the local church that includes every member of the church's governing body as well as clergy appointed to serve that church. It meets at least once per year to review goals and objectives, elect new church leaders, set clergy salaries, and recommend and continue persons for candidacy.



3 - Part "Better Together" Podcast

Hosted by Pastor Mike Toluba and Director of Discipleship, Sheri Dodge



Check out our newest podcast, "Better Together," and join Mike and Sheri as they have a conversation with some very special guests from our Church Family on the main topics of our current sermon series:

Part 1: PRESENCE

Featuring Bill and Mary Lee Kelly

Part 2: SERVICE

Featuring Parke and Mary Stafford

Part 3: GIFTS

Featuring Rob and Connie Clarke

You can download our podcasts from our Killlearn UMC App.

Get The App

Stay connected and get the latest content.





The Blog

Weekly Blog by Pastor Mike Toluba



Welcome to our **Better Together** blog! During this worship series, we are inviting you to share in this online conversation together. My hope is that digital dialogue will help us grow closer together, especially considering the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

Join us on this journey as we give laser focus to three key marks of discipleship: **presence, service, and gifts.**

Presence is about the value of being in community together. God did not create us to live in isolation. We

were created for relationship with God and others. Many people experience close relationships with people in your family. That is a great thing! Followers of Jesus understand family in a more wholistic way than the stereotypical American family. We are adopted as heirs of the Almighty God, and we are sisters and brothers in Christ. We are bound and bonded together in a way that far exceeds our biology or our residence. God redefines family to include everyone in our community.

Service is about refocusing our lives on the needs of others rather than be solely focused on our own needs. Before I had a clue about Jesus, I was a very self-centered person. I always did things that were in my own self interest. I was only interested in people who could do something that served me. However, Jesus actually made a big deal about coming to serve and not to be served. Jesus models leadership as serving others. We will live this idea out together with Sleep in Heavenly Peace on September 18. I hope you will be there to serve on that Saturday morning!

Gifts are about a spirit of generosity. We are generous with our community - the people we love the most. If someone in my family needs something, I will give all the resources that I have to meet that need. We are generous when we give our time and energy away in the service of other people. We are generous every time we give sacrificially. I have discovered the longer I have walked with Jesus, the gift of generosity has continually increased in my life.

COMMUNITY - SERVICE - GENEROSITY are some of the things that our world needs the most right now. These pillars are absolutely critical for the kingdom of God to be more clearly revealed across the Earth and around Tallahassee.

I hope that you will make a dedicated commitment to be Better Together for the next TEN SUNDAYS either in person or online for worship. That might sound like a huge commitment. It actually might be a total of 20 hours over the next 10 weeks. Did you realize that there are 1,680 hours during this 10 week span of your life. Will you dedicate 2.4% of time to be Better Together?

You can keep up with Pastor Mike's blog on our Killlearn UMC website or our app.

Get The App

Stay connected and get the latest content

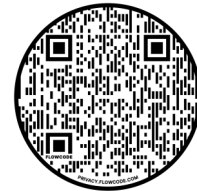




**CLICK LINK FOR
BACK TO THE WORD**

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/805694736463130](https://www.facebook.com/groups/805694736463130)

OR SCAN QR CODE



Join us on a journey through the Bible together. This is a three-year Bible reading plan because we wanted to make reading the Bible simple and approachable for readers of all kinds. In this plan, we will only be reading one or two chapters at a time.

During this Fall, we will be exploring **Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and 2 Thessalonians**. If you want to read along with us, find today's date and start there! If you choose to sign up for the daily emails, you will receive a welcome email right away. Starting the next morning, you will begin receiving Scripture from that date forward. Of course, you can always go back and read what you've missed, but we're confident no matter where you start, God will speak to you.

Want daily emails? Sign up to receive daily readings through email by subscribing on our website, **KillearnUMC.org**. Do you like using social media? Join our **Facebook Group** and you'll receive daily Scripture notifications to which you are welcome to "like" or comment. Have a favorite app you are already using? That's great! The point is to engage in the Word every day as a community.

Also, we encourage you to consider using the **SOAP** study method. This is a simple practice for reading the Bible in a more engaging way. It stands for:

Scripture, Observation, Application & Prayer.

By reading the *Scripture*, *making simple observations*, *finding ways to apply it to our lives*, and *talking to God about what we've learned by praying*, we believe all readers will be able to interact with God's Word in a meaningful way.



Seedbed

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."
- Isaiah 40:8

Scripture reading is a discipline leading to spiritual growth and personal transformation. The Discipleship Ministry encourages our Church Family to spend time in God's Word - adopting it into your daily practice. Seedbed offers a wonderful tool to do just that! We invite you to subscribe to Seedbed's Daily Text.

The Seedbed Daily Text offers:

Daily Bible passage and devotional commentary by J.D. Walt

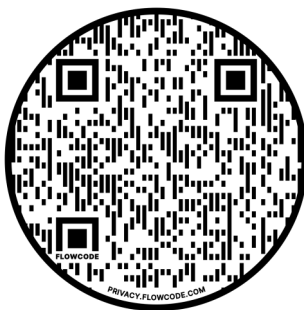
Daily prayer and reflection questions

Accompanying print book, if desired

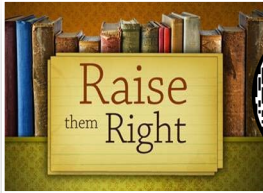
A Facebook community for ongoing conversation

Online, in your inbox (with subscription), or in the Discipleship Bands app

To subscribe to The Daily Text, visit www.Seedbed.com or scan the QR Code below:

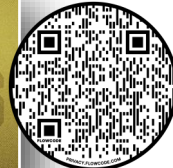


In an effort to continue to grow community while physically distanced, the Discipleship Ministry created **Facebook Groups**! Join a group in your area of interest, connect with other online friends and stay current with the latest Bible study offerings and KilllearnGroup events.



Killlearn UMC Parents Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/226529802052983](https://www.facebook.com/groups/226529802052983)



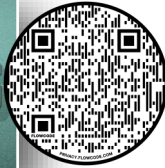
Killlearn UMC Singles Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/320517642476755](https://www.facebook.com/groups/320517642476755)



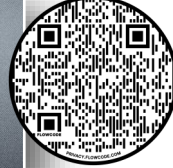
Killlearn UMC Married Couples Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/299118264530035](https://www.facebook.com/groups/299118264530035)



Killlearn UMC Women's Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/298949894525491](https://www.facebook.com/groups/298949894525491)



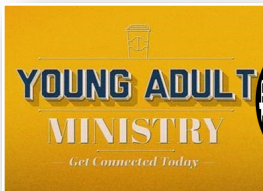
Killlearn UMC Men's Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1607241026123569](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1607241026123569)



Killlearn UMC Prayer Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/739736773546505](https://www.facebook.com/groups/739736773546505)



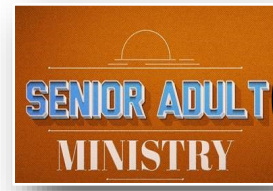
Killlearn UMC Young Adult Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1184241081911952](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1184241081911952)



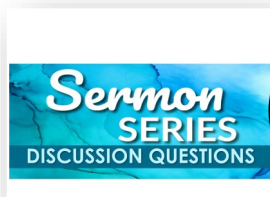
Killlearn UMC Adult Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/753744358802190](https://www.facebook.com/groups/753744358802190)



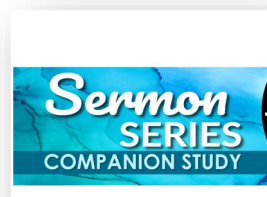
Killlearn UMC Senior Adult Ministry

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/338069314028614](https://www.facebook.com/groups/338069314028614)



Killlearn UMC Sermon Discussion Questions

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688918071980706>



Killlearn UMC Sermon Series Companion Study

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/332222851237680>



Discipleship Resources - Suggested Small Group Studies

Is your small group looking for a new study? Come check out the curriculum shelves in the Discipleship Ministry office! We have several studies to choose from along with DVDs as well as digital streaming options. Call Sheri Dodge at the Church Office to schedule a consultation.

Here are a few Director's suggestions:

The Awakened Life

J.D. Walt

For The Body

Timothy Tennent

The Unseen Real

Stephen Seamands

The Domino Effect (Colossians)

J.D. Walt

24/6

Matthew Sleeth

First Word, Last Word (Bible)

J.D. Walt

Holy Roar

Chris Tomlin & Darren Whitehead

People Who Say Such Things (Faith)

J.D. Walt

Everybody Always

Bob Goff

This Is How We Know (1 John)

J.D. Walt

(UN)PUZZLED (Ephesians)

J.D. Walt

The First Real Christian (James)

J.D. Walt

SPECIAL DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE ADDITION:

We now have the 17-volume "***Old Testament for Everyone***" series.

"Internationally respected Old Testament scholar John Goldingay addresses Scripture from Genesis to Malachi in such a way that even the most challenging passages are explained simply and concisely. The series is perfect for daily devotions, group study, or personal visits with the Bible."

Are you interested in learning more about John Wesley, the founder of Methodism? *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way* is a great overview broken up into three main units containing a total of twelve lessons:

UNIT 1: Who Was John Wesley?

Lesson 1: What Was the Young Wesley Like?

Lesson 2: What Happened at Aldersgate?

Lesson 3: What Was Wesley Like after Aldersgate?

Lesson 4: What Did John Wesley Do?

UNIT 2: What Did Wesley Teach?

Lesson 5: What is the Goal of the Christian Life?

Lesson 6: What is Repentance?

Lesson 7: What is Justification and New Birth?

Lesson 8: What is Sanctification?

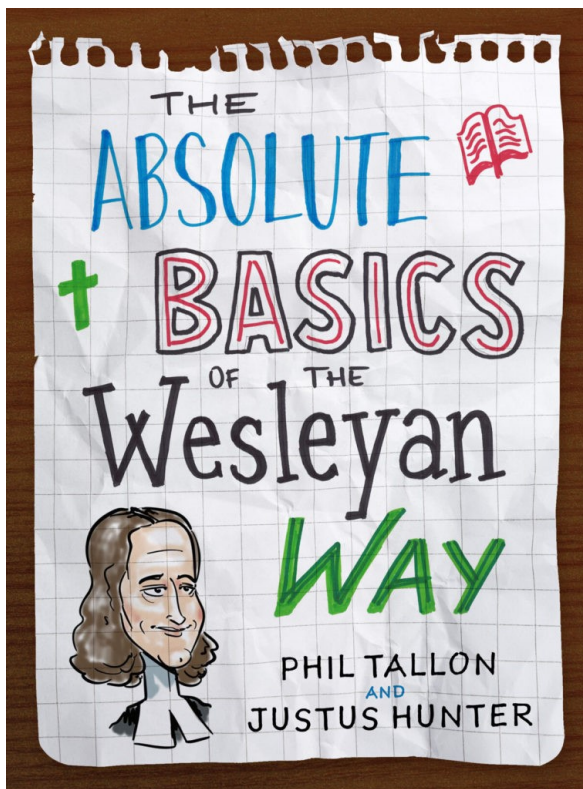
Lesson 9: What is Entire Sanctification?

UNIT 3: What Do Wesleyans Do?

Lesson 10: What are Sacraments?

Lesson 11: What are Classes and Bands?

Lesson 12: What Happened after Wesley?



Contact Sheri Dodge for the PDF of *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way* as well as links to the fun weekly Lesson videos.

sdodge@kumconline.org
850-893-1116



**2800 Shamrock Street, South
Tallahassee, Florida 32309**

Visit our website: KillearnUMC.org

Contact us at: 850-893-1116



@KillearnUMC