

ANNOUNCEMENTS: February 26, 1978

GREETING I would take this moment to express a word of greeting... words of warm welcome...to the visitors in the congregation this morning. We are delighted to have you with us, and we hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way....before you depart...either at the door, or perhaps downstairs in the Community Room where following this service a buffet lunch will be served.

I like to say that "there are no strangers here...only friends who have not yet met". So, if you are a visitor...first time through our doors...we ask that you be free in the sharing of your name, sign one of our guest books...leave with us your city address and perhaps a phone number...and accept the invitation to join us on other Sundays in worship and in fellowship.

CONCERNS Members of the Adult Fellowship are reminded of the Winter weekend retreat scheduled for next weekend at the Warick Estates. For further details regarding time and transportation and general information...please speak to Dick Donovan today at the coffee hour...or to Doreen Surber, Coordinator of Adult Fellowship programs.

The concern of world hunger is on our hearts...and again this Lent before us in terms of our church's specific involvement and commitment to a particular project. I've asked Glenn Weeks, Chairman of our World Hunger Task Force if he would take a few moments in the service to remind you of our concern.

CHARGE CONFERENCE Today is the day of our Charge Conference / Annual Church Meeting. And present to "charge us up" for another year is our dear friend and DS, Dr. H. Burham Kirkland. Not only is he an able administrator of the District, but also a fine preacher of the "Word". He will preach as well as preside over our concerns and it is a genuine pleasure to welcome him again to our pulpit.

The Charge Conference will get under way around 12:50. All members are invited to share in it; it's "where the action is". A time of review. A time for setting goals and looking ahead. Thanks to Helen Wilkinson and a number of our ladies, a buffet lunch will be served...not a sit-down affair, but more of a stand-up brunch. It should provide us with ample nourishment for the concerns of the charge conference. ~~I hope we have at least 75 of you who "care" enough about the decision of your church...to spend 90 (1:00 to 2:30) minutes at the meeting.~~

Also, may I remind you that today is the last Sunday for a gift to the Human Relations Day emphasis of the UM Church. Envelopes are in the pews, and if you have not yet responded over the previous three Sundays, we hope you will want to place a gift in one of the envelopes today and drop it in the collection plate.

JESUS SAID: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit...

TWO COMMUNITY CONCERNS: Copies of the Senior Summary for our "seniors" are available / narthex..clothing bin...also the flyer "Career Counseling Conference / sponsored by the YCC...flyer in narthex.

(2/26/78)

INTRODUCTION

The week of toil has ended. The day of rest is at hand!

May the rest and the quiet of this hour of worship refresh our inner life. May it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding Presence. In silence, let each pray as the heart may prompt.

MEDITATION

We rest our hearts in the Promise of Jesus who said:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

"Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. And as many as touched Him were made whole".

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

O Thou, who hearest prayers, hear our prayers - for others, as well as for ourselves.

Touch with healing whom we mention in our prayers this day:

Ruth Frame

Meriel West

Rusty Hames

Nola Ferrington

Francis McGinnis

John Benson

beloved members and friends of this congregation. Comfort the bereaved and broken-hearted among us. Abide among us as a healing presence, a loving benediction.

Answer the unspoken prayers offered to thee on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the name and spirit of Jesus, who taught us to say when we pray:

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen"

PASTORAL PRAYER: February 26, 1978

Eternal God - Our Father - help us in these moments of prayer to forget the style of our dress, our plans for later today, the lust or the loneliness of a Saturday night in this city - and any momentary affliction that would make us more conscious of self than You - to the end that we may pray with singleness of mind and from the very depths of our being.

Lord, we thank You, for all that keeps us believing that our years on earth have meaning -

That a knowing, caring, guiding hand is at the helm.  
That the resounding fury of the nations is not the final sound.

That love endures...even when tongues have ceased,  
and prophecies have failed.

For ages past and for ages still to come, we thank You.

For the wisdom of Scripture, the means of Grace,  
the bonds of fellowship within this Church.

For the faith in which we stand.

For the hope that springs eternal from the heart  
of the universe and fills us with courage,  
with hope, with patience, with power.

We thank You, Lord!

Our names and our needs are known to You, O Lord, even before we wait on You in worship. Behind our Sunday clothes and manners lie some unruly kingdoms of fierce ambition, shameful pride, lusty passion, hurtful prejudice that we hope and pray will never see the light of day.

Some of us are low and we need that lifting word;  
Some of us are high and need to be deflated;  
Some of us are angry with the world, the nation, the city;  
Some of us are not angry enough.  
Some of us are certain about too much;  
Some certain about too little.

Give to each of us, Lord, an eye for beauty and kindness, an ear for truth, a heart sensitive to those who hurt. And let that mind be in us which was in our Lord Jesus - that relationships may matter more to us than our possessions, and Your kingdom count for more than loyalty to the kingdoms of this world.

Move in our hearts this day, the third Sunday in Lent, 1978. Disturb us as well as comfort us. Cleanse us. Forgive us. Confirm within us the feelings and convictions of this hour. Send us out with that "right spirit within us". For we offer our prayers in deep faith, total trust, aware that You are just, loving and merciful in all Your ways. In the name and spirit of Christ, we pray.