

A cooperative ministry of

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Pastoral Reflections—October 2020

Dear Churches,

In a recent sermon I talked about the importance of taking time to be silent and listen to the Spirit during our times of prayer. In a devotional I often use, Common Prayer by Shane Claiborne, for September he talks about Contemplative Prayer. Contemplative Prayer as Claiborne says, “is not just about activity and speaking but also about listening and resting in God. Many of us have grown up thinking of prayer as a checklist of requests to God...as one kid said, ‘I’m heading off to pray – does anyone need anything?’”

Like I said, I know it can feel awkward or unproductive to spend time just being silent and listening to God in prayer, but I think it’s a good practice and a good challenge for Christians in this busy, uncertain, and divided world. Shane says, “Prayer is less about trying to get God to do something we want God to do and more about getting ourselves to do what God wants us to do and to become who God wants us to become.” I forget who said it, but in a similar train of thought, I remember the quote, “it’s better to have a heart without words in prayer than words without a heart.”

A good way to enter a time of practicing being silent and listening to God in prayer is to take one verse or story and focus on that, perhaps repeating one word or phrase about God that sticks out to you, and let that repetition wash away other competing worries or ideas in your head until you can be silent and simply be with God. For example, repeat the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. and let that lead you to be silent and rest in God’s presence. I’m not saying God will audibly speak to you—I haven’t experienced that myself—but I believe God does speak to us in different ways if we allow God that time and space. Perhaps God will put a person or situation in your mind where God wants you to be a part of answering someone else’s prayer, or perhaps God will lead you to forgive someone, or perhaps God will simply use that time of silence to teach you how to trust Him and not put so much pressure on yourself.

So this is my encouragement and challenge for us these next few weeks, to find even just a few minutes each day to practice being silent and focusing on God’s presence and anticipating that God will speak to us or move us in some way.

*God bless,
Pastor Eric*

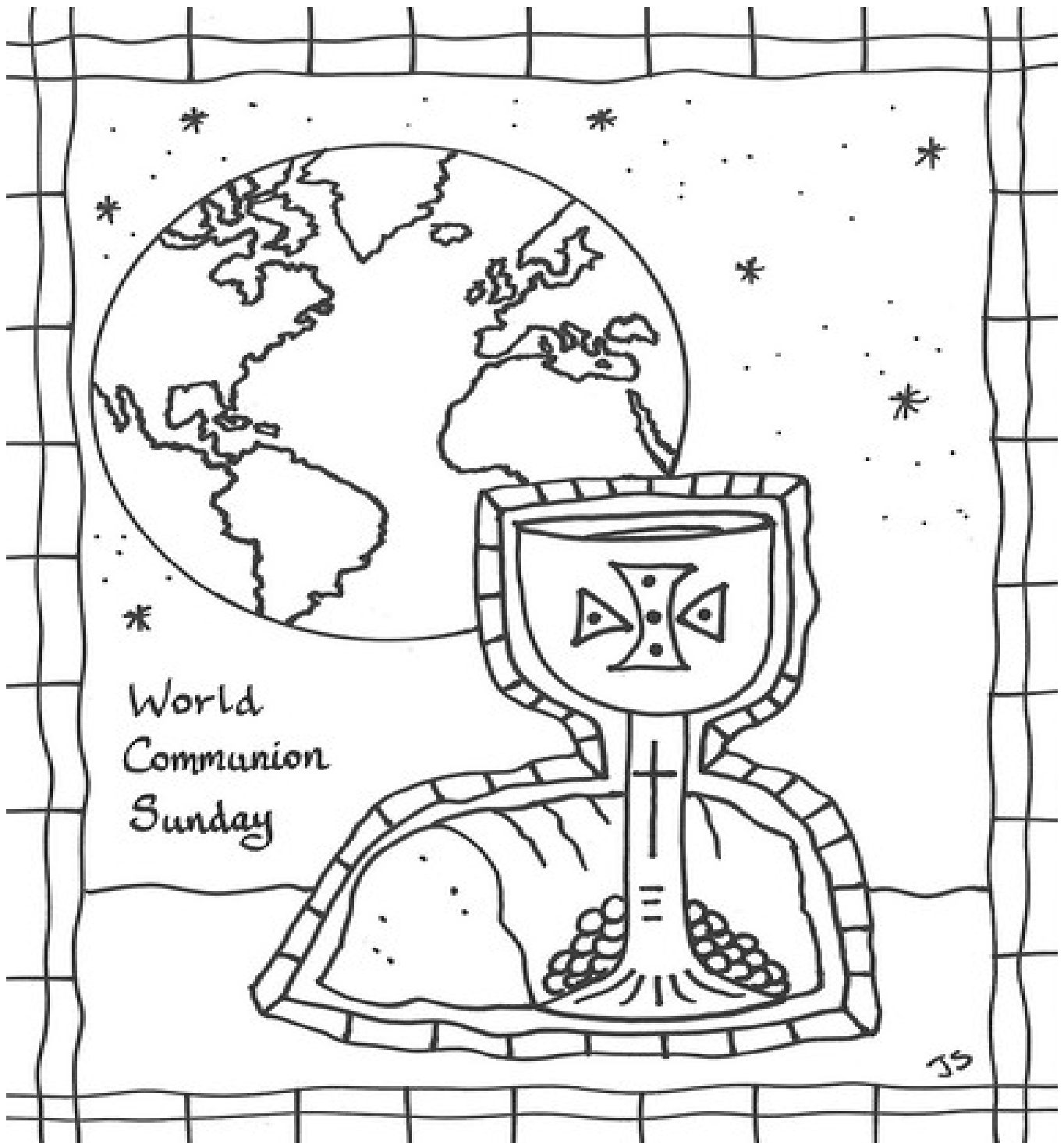




PLEASE BRING KIDNEY BEANS, DICED TOMATOES OR TOMATO SAUCE FOR THE FOOD BANK

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | 1 Chris Cooney | 2 Corey Cooney Zach Foltz Steve & Pat-sy Koeneke | 3 Sandy Rose Mary Alyce Woodrick Irene Johnson |
| 4 World Com-munion Sun-day Skip & Debi Laird 1980 Lesley Bailes Christopher St John Leroy & Christine | 5 Cara Nelson Marion Smith Nancy Bur-nett | 6 Trustees 6 Council 6:30 | 7 Gerry Houser Bible Study 6:30 @ CUMC | 8 Marlene Smith Matthew Nelson | 9 | 10 Lori Rose Leora Bailey Milo St John |
| 11 Tammie Smith Karen Stand-ley Maya Wright Dale & Terry Migliaccio | 12 William Dorn Phillip Sew-ell Jr Council 6:30 pm | 13 Shaun St John | 14 Dick Weagraff Bible Study 6:30 @ CUMC Food Dist 10 | 15 | 16 | 17 Triston Whaley |
| 18 Reed Fuller Dale Mig-gliaccio | 19 Milt & Shirley Smithers 1963 Scott John-son | 20 PPR 6:30 @ RUMC | 21 Bob Allen Kayelyn Mur-ray Addyson Mur-ray Jeff & Marie Howard 1989 Bible Study 6:30 @ CUMC | 22 Megan Bowes | 23 Emily Clark Calvin & Tam-mey Bloss | 24 Isabelle Whaley Terry & Leora Weilacher 1998 |
| 25 Dajeh Waldinger Eric St John Barry & Con-nie Lou Wey-ant 1970 | 26 | 27 | 28 Patricia Baker Bible Study 6:30 @ CUMC | 29 Jim Murray | 30 Calvin Bloss Terry Bowes | 31 Bobbie Evans Garrett Rose |



14 Oct Food Distribution at Centerville United Methodist Church 10 am
 Volunteers park at the Baptist Church
 Clients meet at the Free Methodist Church

Meetings
 6 Oct PSUMC Trustees 6:00 Council 6:30
 12 Oct CUMC Council 6:30
 Wednesdays: 6:30 Bible Study @ CUMC



Call One Now:
 Pastor Eric:
 725.674.3744

Charge PPRC Meeting
 There will be a Charge Pastor Parish Relations meeting at Riverville at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 20 Oct

The Mystery of Khavah

The Book of Mysteries—Jonathan Cahn

It was the middle of the afternoon. The teacher and I were sitting inside one of the school's gardens that possessed an especially wide variety of fruit trees.

"In *Genesis*, it is written that God said it was not good for man to be alone and that He would make a helper suitable for him. So he caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, God opened up his side and removed a rib. From the rib He created woman."

"Eve," I said.

"Yes, but her real name was Khavah. She was created to be Adam's helpmate, to help him in the work of the garden and to be his companion. But Adam fell... and Messiah came to undo his fall, to bring redemption. To do so, He had to come in Adam's likeness...as a second Adam. So a question: If Messiah is the second Adam, then where is the second Eve?

Where, in the redemption, is Khavah?"

"I do not know of any Khavah in the New Testament account." I said.

"God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam. In the Scriptures, sleep is a symbol of death. So God caused the second Adam to fall into a deep sleep as well...a sleep of death. And in the death of Messiah, in the sleep of the second Adam, one is born. Who is born in the sleep of the second Adam, the death of Messiah?

"We are," I said. "Through His death we are born again."

"And how was Khavah born?"

"Through the opening of Adam's side."

"And so too in Messiah's death. His side was opened, His heart was pierced through His ribs....And so, as with Khavah, so too the church was born through His side. And what is the church? The bride of Messiah...His Khavah. And therein lies the mystery. You were born again to be Khavah, the helpmate of God, to assist Him in accomplishing His work and purposes on the earth."

"And what does the name *Khavah* mean?"

"It comes from the Hebrew word for life. It means the life giver, the one who brings life. It was Khavah who bore Adam's children, his life, into the world. So, it is to be through the second Khavah that God's life, the love of God, the salvation of God, is now born into the world. It is the mystery of us...For we are His Khavah."

Live today as the helpmate of God to accomplish His purposes on earth.

October Prayer Calendar for
Centerville—Riceville—Parade Street

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always In every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy...."

Philippians 1:3,4

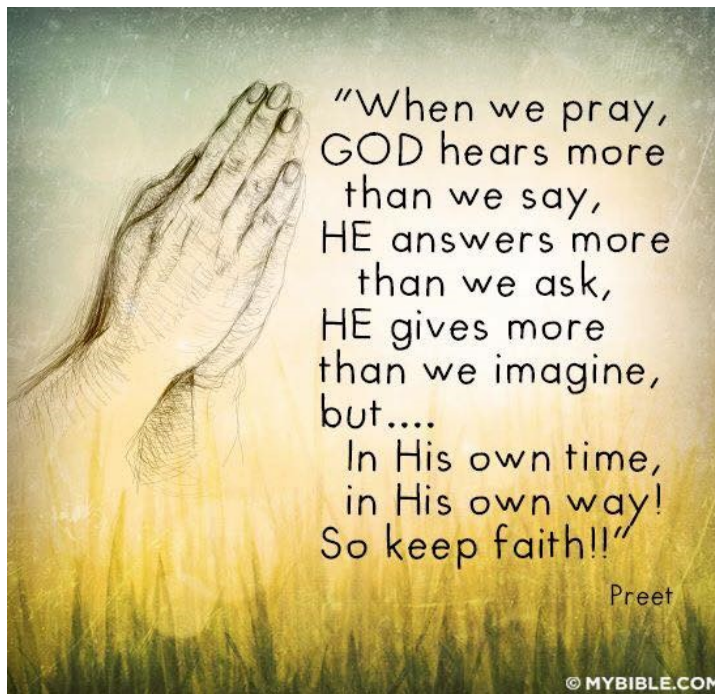


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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|---|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 Ronald & Marion Chesley | 2 Jon & Colleen Holmwood | 3 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services |
| 4 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver | 5 Marv & Cathy Miller | 6 Joseph & Diane David | 7 Gavin & Alissa Fuller [Kale & Reed] | 8 Jamie Miller | 9 John Dragar | 10 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services |
| 11 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver | 12 Jeff & Marie Howard | 13 Harm & Barb Miller | 14 James & Beth Edwards | 15 Kaitlynn Howard | 16 Nancy Most | 17 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services |
| 18 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver | 19 Annette Elison [Joselyn, Jordan, Marlee] | 20 Chris & Toni Hull [Robbie, Rory, Violet] | 21 Ed & Tanya Smith [Grayson] | 22 Chris & Danielle Evans | 23 Robert & Bonnie Hull | 24 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services |
| 25 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Pastor Eric Oliver | 26 Ed Smith II | 27 Robin Gerdy | 28 Kevin & Adri Hunt | 29 Chad & Heather Van Tassel [Jadyn] | 30 Verta Hammond | 31 DS Dennis & Deborah Swineford Sunday Services |

Our Military family

Kaitlyn Russell—Navy, Groton, CT * Lee Foltz—Navy, deployed Middle East * Michael Smithers—Rangers, Fort Bragg * Frank Pikutis—Navy, CA * Shane Reynolds—Air Force, deployed Korea * Jayde Hoban—Navy, FL * soldiers in Afghanistan * Ian Eldred—Navy



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Riceville United Methodist Church [RUMC]

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October