



Send us your prayer requests:  
 shelbyumc@gmail.com  
 mearsumc@gmail.com

### Prayer List from Mears

Kent Dykema      Clair & Mary Sloan  
 Ralph Beggs      Cathy Robbins  
 Marcia Walsworth      Etta Proeber  
 Phyllis Beggs Arnold      Dolores Bauer  
 Larry Snider      Ed Reitsma  
 Melissa Hayden      Jean Weeks  
 Bonita Whelpley      Kevin Dawson

### Prayer List from Shelby

George Kuntz JR      Kay Aebig  
 Greg Vandyke      Wendy Reid  
 Jennifer Joneson      Karen Manley  
 Leota Klapp      Camille Freed  
 Bob & Lillian Kirk      Patsy Woller  
 Kent Dykema      Ruth Tobin

### Missions & Ministries

Way of Faith UMC, Romania  
 Crystal Valley Care Fund  
 Grace Pediatric Hospital, Haiti  
 Ganta UM Hospital, Liberia  
 Maxine's Closet  
 The Ladder  
 Love INC  
 Mrs. Edy's Orphanage  
 Muskegon Rescue Mission  
 Reach the Forgotten Ministries  
 Hungry for Christ  
 Our Missions in Honduras  
 The Lost and the Lonely

### Our Service Men & Women



Brendan Sawyer  
 Dylan Carrico  
 Cody Vandyke  
 Hunter Danes  
 MaKennah Burillo

*“Repent, then,  
 and turn to  
 God, so that  
 your sins may  
 be wiped out,  
 that times of  
 refreshing may  
 come from the  
 Lord.”*

*Acts 3:19*

#### CHURCH SCHEDULE

##### Mears Service

1990 N. 56th Ave,  
Mears 49436

9:15am

WWEE100.5FM

Boxcast.net

##### Shelby Service

68 E. 3rd St. Shelby,  
49455

11:00am

Pastor Bev Williams

269-438-1552

bvwllm526@gmail.com

September 2023



MEARS & SHELBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Hear the Good News

Back to School?

I have no idea where this summer went. Well, actually I know exactly where it went. It didn't go to the beach, or the trails at the State Park, or even to Unity Fest this year. I was in summer

school 😞. When I signed up for this intensive Bachelors Degree program at Indiana Wesleyan University online, somehow I thought that ....well...that I'd still have some free time. Although, yes, Harry and I did get to golf most Fridays. We have to have some fun!

I literally just finished my class on the Acts of the Apostles Monday morning and started my new class today - Tuesday on the Gospel of Mark. It may sound somewhat backwards, but that's just how my schedule worked out.

Acts of the Apostles is such a rich and diverse book of the Bible, and I just love it even more now than I did before. I had heard that pastor and author Eugene Peterson preached in Acts for a whole year. At the time, he really didn't even have a church yet because they were meeting in his basement on Sunday mornings until they couldn't squeeze any more people in there. As I've been re-watching the series *The Chosen*, and think of how Jesus empowered all of his disciples by way of the Holy Spirit - even Saul - it really makes me appreciate all that we have. Can't you just imagine how conflicted the apostles Peter, James & John and all the rest were when Barnabas brought Saul to them and said, "He's changed! He's good! Jesus changed him!"

Wow, now that could bring up some trust issues for even the most devoted Christian. I think that my favorite verse in the gospel was when Peter, after seeing his vision that nothing God calls clean should we call unclean; "So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life." (New International Version, 1997, Acts 11:17-18). If even Saul could repent of his sins against Jesus and against the church, doesn't that just make us sit back and think a moment? The unlikeliest person that we know can be made clean through Jesus, made brand new. Can we all learn something from that this month, as we start a new school year? Can we let situations, personality conflicts, something carried over from last year just go - given to Jesus so that we can learn a little bit more of what doing this life together looks like? I think we can.

Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!

## Mark Your Calendars

Shelby Church:

### September 14

Conference forms due

### September 17

The Chosen Bible Study after fellowship

\*Reminder: No Ministry Team Mtg in September.

## The Chosen Bible Study

We will begin our bible study this month. Starting Wed. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a Watch Party at the Shelby UMC at 7pm and every Wednesday after that. For Mears we will start on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 3pm. For Shelby we will start on Sunday, Sept. 17 after fellowship.  
The Chosen bible study workbooks will be provided for you.

## Fun with Hymns

Which is your favorite hymn:  
*Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus #462 vs.*  
*Change My Heart O God #2152 vs.*  
*My Hope is Built #368*

Submit your answers to:

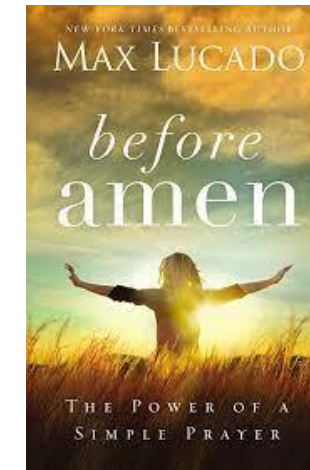
[mearsumc@gmail.com](mailto:mearsumc@gmail.com)

[shelbyumc@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyumc@gmail.com)

**August's winning Hymn:**

***Standing on the Promises***

## FROM OUR LIBRARY



We aren't the first to struggle with prayer. The first followers of Jesus needed prayer guidance too. In fact, prayer is the only tutorial they ever requested. In *Before Amen*, Max Lucado helps readers discover the very heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubters and confidence for both prayer beginners and experts.

Don't be bogged down by crafting elegant words or apologizing for incoherent sentences. Today is the day to let the conversation begin.

Check at Shelby UMC for a copy to check out.

## Church Conference Forms Due

Please have your Church Conference forms filled out and given to Kelsey by Sept. 13 for Mears and Sept. 14 for Shelby if you want it retyped. Final date to turn forms in is Sep. 27 and the forms will go in as is.

## Mark Your Calendars

Mears Church:

### September 4

Pancake Breakfast

### September 13

Conference forms due

### September 19

The Chosen Bible Study at 3pm

### September 27

Ministry Team Mtg at 10am

UMW Meeting at 11:30am

# The Beatitudes

## *“The Chosen” Bible Study*

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matthew 5:3-10**

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "but no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed.

Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"

## Daily Bible Reading Plan

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Old Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Psalms</i></b>	<b><i>New Testament</i></b>	<b><i>Proverbs</i></b>
1-Sep	Job 40:1-42:27	45:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	22:14
2-Sep	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22	46:1-11	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	22:15
3-Sep	Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12	47:1-9	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7	22:16
4-Sep	Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18	48:1-14	2 Corinthians 7:8-16	22:17-19
5-Sep	Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14	49:1-20	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	22:20-21
6-Sep	Song of Songs 1:1-4:16	50:1-23	2 Corinthians 8:16-24	22:22-23
7-Sep	Song of Songs 5:1-8:14	51:1-19	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	22:24-25
8-Sep	Isaiah 1:1-2:22	52:1-9	2 Corinthians 10:1-18	22:26-27
9-Sep	Isaiah 3:1-5:30	53:1-6	2 Corinthians 11:1-15	22:28-29
10-Sep	Isaiah 6:1-7:25	54:1-7	2 Corinthians 11:16-33	23:1-3
11-Sep	Isaiah 8:1-9:21	55:1-23	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	23:4-5
12-Sep	Isaiah 10:1-11:16	56:1-13	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	23:6-8
13-Sep	Isaiah 12:1-14:32	57:1-11	2 Corinthians 13:1-13	23:9-11
14-Sep	Isaiah 15:1-18:7	58:1-11	Galatians 1:1-24	23:12
15-Sep	Isaiah 19:1-21:17	59:1-17	Galatians 2:1-16	23:13-14
16-Sep	Isaiah 22:1-24:23	60:1-12	Galatians 2:17-3:9	23:15-16
17-Sep	Isaiah 25:1-28:13	61:1-8	Galatians 3:10-22	23:17-18
18-Sep	Isaiah 28:14-30:11	62:1-12	Galatians 3:23-4:31	23:19-21
19-Sep	Isaiah 30:12-33:9	63:1-11	Galatians 5:1-12	23:22
20-Sep	Isaiah 33:10-36:22	64:1-10	Galatians 5:13-26	23:23
21-Sep	Isaiah 37:1-38:22	65:1-13	Galatians 6:1-18	23:24
22-Sep	Isaiah 39:1-41:16	66:1-20	Ephesians 1:1-23	23:25-28
23-Sep	Isaiah 41:17-43:13	67:1-7	Ephesians 2:1-22	23:29-35
24-Sep	Isaiah 43:14-45:10	68:1-18	Ephesians 3:1-21	24:1-2
25-Sep	Isaiah 45:11-48:11	68:19-35	Ephesians 4:1-16	24:3-4
26-Sep	Isaiah 48:12-50:11	69:1-18	Ephesians 4:17-32	24:5-6
27-Sep	Isaiah 51:1-53:12	69:19-36	Ephesians 5:1-33	0:07
28-Sep	Isaiah 54:1-57:14	70:1-5	Ephesians 6:1-24	0:08
29-Sep	Isaiah 57:15-59:21	71:1-24	Philippians 1:1-26	24:9-10
30-Sep	Isaiah 60:1-62:5	72:1-20	Philippians 1:27-2:18	24:11-12

Thank you to all who donated to the Maxine's Closet project this year! We had the largest number of participants ever, with nearly 800 local children served at our Back-to-School kickoff on August 11th, held at Shelby High School. Backpacks, new packages of socks and underwear, and school supplies were given to those who attended the event. Some local agencies were on hand to connect families to various community resources. In addition, families were able to get a food box with a week's worth of meals for each child through Shelby Public Schools food service program. We were again able to partner with Shelby Volleyball to package socks and undies, and with local police and fire to assist with traffic. Many 4-H kids helped with handing out items. Bill and Maxine (who the project was named after) Martin's daughter Colleen, and son-in-law, Dr. Dave, traveled from Grand Ledge to help out. MaryAnn Carey represented Shelby UMC by helping to distribute school supplies. Best of all, we got everyone through in under two hours, just before a downpour of rain. We are blessed!

We appreciate the ongoing support from both the Mears and Shelby United Methodist churches. We love to help kids get the resources they need to get back to school on the right foot. It truly does take a village.

Thank you all so much!