

**Pastor Drollinger's**  
**Daily Devotionals for May 8-15, 2020**

**May 8, 2020 – Day 53**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Our devotion for today comes from our Bishop Jung who has great words and encouragement for us today.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
(Acts 2:42)

Are you tired of physical distancing and staying at home yet? There comes a time when this separation period becomes a true test of our faith. Too much time together, too many days at home, too much proximity to the refrigerator with too little energy to exercise can begin to wear a person down. There is only so much television a person can actually watch. Our brother John Wesley advised "moderation in all things," so too much of anything can become bad. The longer the COVID-19 virus remains, the harder it will be to accept our current reality with grace.

I want to encourage us all to stay strong in our commitment to do what is right for the common good. While many media outlets and politicians' debate if we may safely return to our "normal" duties, many health care professionals are talking in terms of many months before we will safely be able to reengage. To become too impatient and to push too fast to end "stay-at-home" could be devastating and even deadly to many.

So, I will tell you what you might expect to hear from a bishop – attend to your spirit. As we move quickly toward Pentecost and the celebration of the birthday of the church, let us be reminded of the "Acts church," where many gathered to listen to the teachings of the Apostle's and to pray. We may not be able to gather for fellowship in person, but we can gather by phone or computer. We may break bread at home, alone or with others, and we can do all with a devotional heart and mind. God is with us! What a gift we have to spend more time with God in Christ and in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Come Lord Jesus, help us feel your presence. When we lose patience, get anxious, grow bored, and act irritably, break open our hearts and minds and fill us with grace and light and hope and peace. Be with us each and every moment of each and every day and motivate us to share your power in our lives with others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

***Pastor Don***

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"Break open our hearts and minds and fill us  
with grace and light and hope and peace."  
*Bishop Jung*

**May 9, 2020 – Day 54**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

COVID HUMOR: If you needed 144 rolls of toilet paper for a 14 day quarantine, you probably should have been seeing a doctor a long time before the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID SOCIAL DISTANCING: I have not been to worship at church for eight Sundays in a row.

COVID NEWS: At 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., is the COVID-19 virus the only newsworthy item for television? Are there no people dealing with cancer or heart disease? Are there no natural disasters, no wars?

COVID REALITIES: Worldwide over 273,000 deaths – in the United States over 77,000 deaths.

COVID SCIENCE: We are still seeking a cure, we are still seeking a vaccine, we are still learning. Wherever you find yourself in the conversations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, stay vigilant in stopping the spread. These are extremely tough times for so many people in America and in the world. More than ever, we need Christians to be salt and light to help us and others through this time. If you can be generous, if you can be kind, if you can practice patience and understanding, keep sharing those gifts. Our world needs hope, light, and faith.

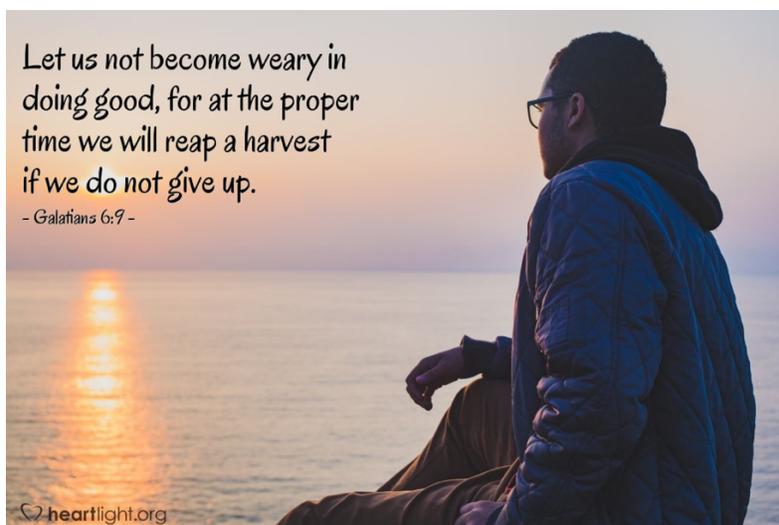
*<sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9*

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**May 10, 2020 – Day 55**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today we continue our series titled, “Amazing May.” Last Sunday was, “Amazing Love,” and today we will consider having an, “Amazing Discipline.” We will discover that following Jesus will require a commitment and discipline in our lives. We will also discover that along with a discipline, as we commit to Jesus we find blessing and joy. As you hear today’s message consider these questions.

#1 Have you made up your mind to follow Jesus and his ways of kindness and healing?

#2 Have you made up your mind to be a part of the solution?

#3 Have I missed the blessing because I lack the discipline?

Link to Pastor’s Don Message: <https://youtu.be/GyUBKGaZyDo>

I hope you enjoy the message for today and be sure to listen to the song, “Walk with Jesus,” composed by Dan Lea and sung by our praise team Acoustic Grace in 2012, by going to the link:  
<https://youtu.be/NF6eGQeaCcw>

Keep shining bright,

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**May 11, 2020 – Day 56**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Well, another Sunday has past and we did not gather as believers in our church spaces of worship. Some people say it is good to be worshipping in different ways and learning how to “gather together” while separate. I suppose there is some truth to that line of thinking. Honestly, though, I miss gathering and praising God in worship together. I look forward to being with you once a month, or twice a month, or three times a month, or however many times a month you come to church. You are missed!

Keep doing the good social distancing. Use a mask and wash your hands. Better days are ahead of us and we will have a greater spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving. Better days are coming. Keep praying for God’s mercies, keep helping your neighbors, and keep finding ways to bless those who suffer. Keep being the faithful body of Christ. Soon and very soon we will be worshipping together, and a greater joy will be shared.

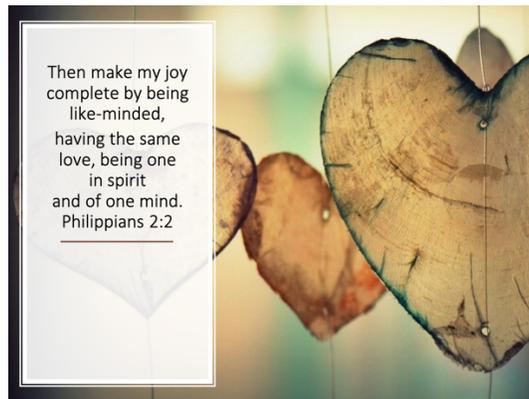
*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:1-4*

Keep shining bright,

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**May 12, 2020 – Day 57**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

For our devotion today, I want to bring to mind and to prayer topics that relate to our shared faith and families.

1. Please continue in faithful prayer and practice as, together, we prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
2. Thank you for your tithes and offerings being sent to our local churches here at Hallie and Zion. We are blessed!
3. When able, please be generous in monies given to our May missions. When giving to missions please designate on your check. We are supporting the following four missions this May.
  - a) Community Closet
  - b) Mobile Food Pantry
  - c) Salvation Army
  - d) Open Door Clinic
4. We are planning and hoping to have worship in our church buildings on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (depending on Safety recommendations).
5. Whenever we actually do resume worship services, let us be aware that many things will be different as we work towards safety and good health. However, we will fully worship as we praise, learn and encourage one another in the faith.

*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 1:1-6*

Keep shining bright,

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**May 13, 2020 – Day 58**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Following is a portion of the letter that Paul wrote to the early church in the city of Thessalonica. In this letter, he was offering words of thanksgiving and continued faithfulness to neighbors and friends. God chose them to be a people of good news that, in spite of suffering, they shared hope in the spirit of joy.

*4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1: 4-6*

In these difficult times of COVID-19, may we reflect and continue the purpose of the chosen people of God. Tell the good news of God's love both in word and in conviction, to sharing and caring with those who suffer. Scripture tells us in Nehemiah 8:10 *"for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

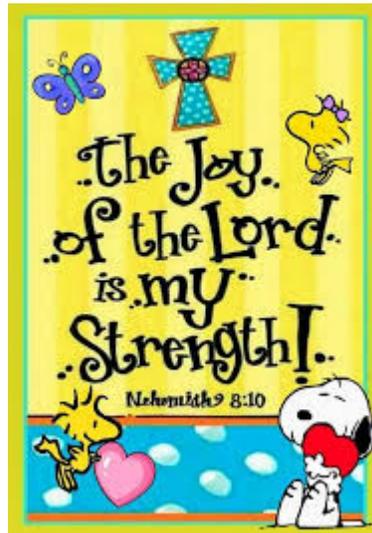
Keep sharing hope. Keep sharing in joy. We need its strength.

Keep shining bright,

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**May 14, 2020 – Day 59**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

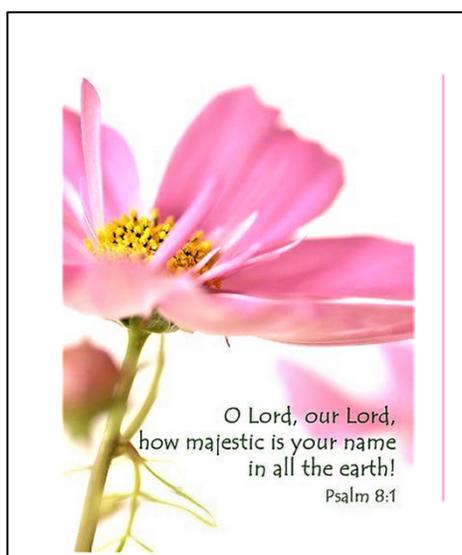
During this time of uncertainty and illness, we can find ourselves in a place of despair and even depression. No one would blame you, because these really are difficult times. Let me encourage you, do not stay in those places very long. God has something better for us. Think about it, the Lord who created the earth and the heavens, the moon and the stars, has you in mind. Hold tight to God's promises. Do not let COVID-19 keep you from joining David when he said, "Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Keep shining bright,

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**May 15, 2020 – Day 60**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

The following devotion is written by a friend of our churches, Rev. Forrest Wells.

**The Joy and Pain of Newness**

*And the One who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:5*

As a child, I was filled with excitement when receiving new things as gifts. I loved new toys, a new bicycle, an HO car racetrack. Ok, I still love new things that I can enjoy! But there was another type of newness that I came to dread. I moved nine times before I was in high school. In 4th grade, my parents informed me we would be moving to a new city for my 7th move. I was distraught. Did I have to leave my friends again?! When my parents put up the for-sale sign at 1020 Lincolnshire Boulevard, I was so angry that I found a clothesline rope in the garage and proceeded to beat the sign! Of course, my tantrum did not influence my parents’ decision and I learned my lesson when the clothesline whipped back and cut my hand. I carry the physical scars from that cut to this day, and perhaps emotional scars, too.

Newness isn’t easy. The process of creating something new can be painful, as women who have given birth can attest. In the midst of the pain of the COVID-19 Pandemic, what newness might be birthed in us individually and within the Church of Jesus Christ? I pray for those who are experiencing loss; the loss of health, life, job, income and the basic necessities of food, shelter and health care; may God open new doors of opportunity and hope for them. I pray for congregations and leaders as you navigate through a time of uncertainty and chaos; may a refreshed vision of what it means to be the community of faith be birthed. Praise be to God. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

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