



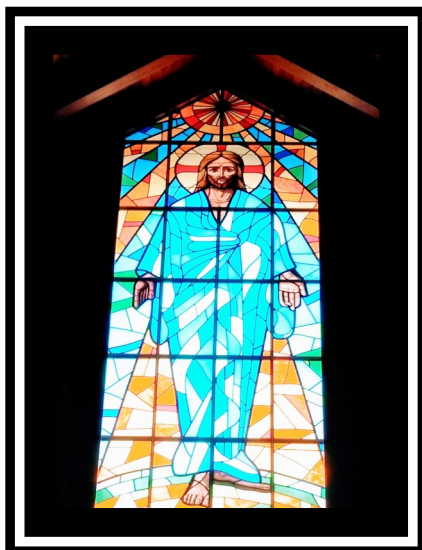
St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

Why Pray? By Lucas

June 2026

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Yes, why pray?

If God is omniscient, doesn't he know everything we need? And if he is both omnipotent and good, won't he provide it whether we pray or not? So goes a common line of reasoning about prayer which influences many of us, to our own impoverishment and the detriment of Christ's kingdom.

This reasoning has a certain logic and seems to have some biblical plausibility. Scripture clearly tells us that God is all-knowing: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account" (Heb. 4:13), and that he is all-powerful and "...does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'" (Da. 4:35), and that "...the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Ps. 100:5).

However, to infer from these truths that prayer is unnecessary is to overlook the broader teaching of Scripture. The Bible does indeed teach that everything we need for life and godliness is found in God, who is willing and able to give it and knows our need before we ask. But it does not teach that he bestows these riches upon us

automatically, as a matter of right. Jesus says:

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Mt. 7:7)

Have faith in God.... whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mk. 11:22, 24)

This kind can come out only by prayer. (Mk. 9:29)

Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. (Lk. 22:46)

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (Mt. 21:22).

John Calvin places great stress on the importance of prayer, saying: "Words fail to explain how necessary prayer is ... (Institutes III, 20, 2). He held that it is, "...by the benefit of prayer that we reach those riches which are laid up for us with the Heavenly Father" and that...

...after we have been instructed by faith to recognize that whatever we need and whatever we lack is in God... it remains for us to seek in him, and in prayers to ask of him, what we have learned to be in him. (Institutes III, 20, 1)

He saw no conflict between prayer and providence but, ra-

Devotion (cont.)

ther, taught that in prayer "...we invoke the presence both of his providence ... and of his power..." (Institutes III, 20, 2).

Prayer and providence then, far from being antithetical, are actually reciprocal. Providence inspires prayer and prayer invokes providence. Here divine sovereignty and human responsibility mysteriously converge in a way we cannot fully explain but which is nonetheless real.

By failing to pray, can we forfeit personal blessings which God would otherwise bestow? It does appear that in his sovereignty God has ordained believing prayer as a necessary means for our receiving many of his promises. Therefore, James can say "You do not have because you do not ask" (4:2). And, Calvin says

...to us nothing is promised to be expected from the Lord, which we are not also bidden to ask of him in prayers... and he is inactive, as if forgetting us, when he sees us idle and mute (Institutes III, 20, 2-3).

And so, while some measure of blessing comes to everyone because God "causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good," it is only through prayer that we lay hold of many of the riches he promises.

By failing to pray, can we hinder the work of God's kingdom? Scripture is clear that ultimately God's kingdom will prevail over the kingdoms of this world and that his purposes will be fulfilled. Yet, Scripture also teaches that believing prayer is somehow a significant part of that process. Jesus teaches us to pray "...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven" (Mt. 6-10); and to "ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt. 9:38). And he promises, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me anything in my name and I will do it" (Jn. 14:13-14). In Paul's ministry prayer is consistently a vital element for open doors and effective ministry (Ep. 6:19f; Col. 4:3-4; 2 Th. 3:1-2), and a key to his deliverance from prison (Php. 1:19). The Apostles devoted themselves "...to prayer and the

ministry of the word" (Ac. 6:4). And, James exhorts us to imitate the faith and prayer of Elijah, saying, "the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (5:16- 18). The inescapable conclusion from these and many similar passages is that the Sovereign God has ordered his creation in such a way as to allow prayer to play a vital part in the outworking of his purposes.

If it is true then, that the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, doesn't the kingdom suffer loss from missed opportunity when we neglect earnest prayer? What would have happened if Moses had not interceded for Israel on Sinai (Ex. 32:1-14), or if Elijah had neglected to pray on Mt. Carmel (1 Ki. 18:36- 39), or if the Jerusalem church had not made earnest prayer for Peter as he awaited execution (Ac. 12:1-5)?

Why pray? Because the Sovereign God, who is indeed omniscient, omnipotent, and good, has established prayer as the means by which we receive what he has promised and help fulfill what he has ordained. One can only wonder what blessings we are missing today both in our personal lives and in our churches because of our failure to earnestly pray. And, one can only wonder what might yet happen if we would follow the examples of Luther, Calvin, Edwards, Whitefield, Spurgeon, and many others, who devoted themselves to prayer. Perhaps it is time for us as individuals and congregations to devote ourselves to prayer and to cry out with the Apostles,

Lord, teach us to pray.

Why I Pray: My Perspective

Prayer is my lifeline and my connection to God. It is my direct line of communication with Him, allowing me to find peace, gain clarity, and connect to what truly matters.

Prayer is a major theme throughout the Bible, which tells me it must be very important to God. There are many verses about prayer that many of us can quote, at least in part. For example:

Devotion (cont.)

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Pray without ceasing.”
- Colossians 4:2 tells us to “Devote yourselves to prayer.”
- Romans 12:12 encourages us to be “continuing steadfastly in prayer.”

If you are like me, you may find that you spend the most time in prayer when you or someone you love is facing difficulties. In those moments, we want God to fix the problem. But I believe we should also pray when things are going well. Prayer should come from the heart, expressing our deepest desires, concerns, and gratitude.

Over the last several months, I discovered that when I was the busiest, my prayer life suffered the most. By the time I went to bed or got up in the morning, I was either too tired or too rushed to stop for quiet time with God. Looking back, I realize that was one reason my life felt so chaotic. As I read the devotion I selected for this month, I reflected on why we should pray—or rather, why I should pray—not simply because the Bible commands it.

Here are some reasons I came up with:

Prayer is how we tell God our needs and desires.

Philippians 4:6 says, “Let your requests be made known to God.” Even though God knows our needs and wants before we ask, I believe He still expects us to bring them to Him. While He has a plan for our lives, He also gives us free will. He wants us to take the initiative to seek Him, ask Him, and participate in what He has planned. Through prayer, we can bring our needs and desires before Him and trust Him with the answers.

Prayer helps us grow in faith and trust in God.

When we talk to God about our concerns and challenges, He becomes more real to us—especially when we see His hand at work in our lives. Faith is the foundation of our Christian walk, and trust is faith put into action. I believe prayer is one of the ways our faith grows. We all know God does not always answer prayers in our timing or in the way we expect, but I believe He hears every prayer and works according to His perfect timing. I have seen too many things work together for good not to have faith in the power of prayer.

Prayer is a way to offer God praise and thanksgiving.

Thanking God for what we have shifts our focus away from what we lack. Every day, I have countless blessings to be grateful for, and prayers of thanksgiving remind me of them. God sent His Son so that I may have everlasting life. His love, mercy, and grace are gifts beyond measure. Those blessings alone are worth celebrating every day.

Prayer allows us to intercede for the needs of others.

James 5:16 tells us to “pray for one another, that you may be healed.” The Apostle Paul often asked the churches he wrote to for prayer—for himself, his ministry, and others. He prayed that believers would have spiritual and physical strength, protection, guidance, and wisdom. When we pray for others, we demonstrate love and compassion. I believe those prayers are especially pleasing to God.

All of this is to say that a strong prayer life helps build a strong relationship with God.

And who doesn’t want that?

CHOIR NOTES

June! I love summer!

Cookouts, swimming pools, suntan lotion, vacations, watermelon, and fresh vegetables... I know, I know. But with all that come mosquitos, humidity, lawn mowing, and maybe sunburns. Still, I love summer! I've always loved it. I love going barefoot. I don't mind being hot. It reminds me of running around outside at my grandmother's and swinging at my grandmother's while granddaddy mowed. I swam on the swim team too, so I was at the pool many days. My summers were really good. We'd shuck corn in the field for lunch and cut a watermelon on the big stone under a huge shade tree to eat in the afternoon. Doesn't get much better than that! I don't remember ever sitting still or in front of a TV. Kids today really don't know what they're missing, and I feel kind of sorry for them.

Choir is slowing down for June. No practice on the 8th or 15th. Sharon will be in Texas and will

let you know about the 22nd. We've got some special music planned with Sebastian for Father's Day, and I think there will be special music on the 14th too.

We're still looking for a choir director, so if you know anyone interested, have them call Sharon, Pastor Chris, or Marty. Apparently, there aren't many out there anymore. We want to thank Stephen Duncan for filling in and leading songs!

If you've been thinking about singing with us and joining in, you still can! Even though we're taking it a little easy this month, come on up and sing with us. You won't regret it. It's a great time to try us out and get your feet wet—literally, since in the summer, the water's much warmer. Ha-ha!

Blessings,
Sondra

ST Benedict's and Help Office News

The Help Office continues to serve the homeless and hungry in the city of Owensboro. The need is great. I work in the food bank each Monday. Any food or hygiene products can be brought to church and I can deliver to the Help Office. Monetary donations and grocery gift cards are needed. Immediate needs are crackers, hearty soups, canned fruit, dish soap and laundry pods.

Thank you for your continued support of St Benedict's homeless shelter for men. We feed 50-60 men for about \$125. In the month of April, the Methodist Men made a donation to the Help office and St. Benedict's and it was much appreciated. Serving starts at 7:45

pm on the first Monday night of each month. Come join us. You will be blessed. Vicki Hast

The dates we serve at St. Benedict's are:

June 1	July 6	Aug. 3	Sept. 7
Oct. 5	Nov. 2	Dec. 7	

Not sure about the dates, check out the calendar feature on our website,

stjohnnum.org .



RECIPES

Strawberry Angel Food Cake

Ingredients:

1 angel food cake (baked or store bought)

1 container of strawberry glaze

1 large tub of cool whip (thawed)

8 oz of cream cheese (softened)

1/2 cup of sugar

1 container of strawberries, sliced (fresh works best but frozen, thawed will work)

Directions:

1. Tear apart the cake and place it in the bottom of a 9 by 13 pan.

2. In a bowl, mix together the softened cream cheese, sugar and 1/2 the cool whip. Spread this on top of the cake.

3. Place sliced strawberries on top.

4. Pour glaze on next and spread evenly.

5. Spread the rest of the Cool Whip on top and refrigerate.

MASS MEDIA COMMITTEE

The Mass Media Committee has been hard at work the last several months. The committee is working to update and revamp the mediums we use to reach the public and make people aware of our name, St. John UMC.

You may have noticed a difference in our sign and Facebook page. More changes are coming soon to our website with an update to it, as well.

If you have any ideas, please let Marty Shively or Pastor Chris know.



Food & Fellowship

Come join us for Supper Club. We meet once a month for dinner at a local restaurant. Food and fellowship is had by those who attend! Here are the dates and locations for this year. You will also find the restaurant choices in our bulletins and on the calendar on our web-site stjohnnum.org.

See you soon!!

Make sure to get these on your calendar and be ready to have some FUN! All times are 5:00 pm.

June 23 O'Charley's

July 28 New China

Aug. 25 Briarpatch

Sept. 22 Old Hickory

Oct. 27 Cracker Barrel

Nov. 24

Moonlite

No meeting in December

SupperClub
FOOD & FRIENDS

Pictures





FAMILY LIFE NOTES

Summer is upon us! And what says summer better than a picnic? Join together after church on Sunday, June 14th for our PASTOR PICNIC to celebrate Pastor Chris' return to St. John for another year (and to celebrate his birthday). The church is providing hamburgers and hot dogs. Just bring a side or something yummy to shar. And of course, invite others to fellowship with us. As well as food, games for both adults and children (and adults who act like children) are being set up. Whether you participate or spectate it should be a fun time!

Looking forward—VBS, Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 20-24. Can you help make this year's class the best yet? To introduce Jesus to young minds is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways—can you:

Read the Bible? Sing? Dance? Paint Scenery? Decorate? Storytell? Make Snacks? Usher? Do a science experiment? Build backdrops? Do crafts? There are so many ways you can help make it a success. If you are interested in learning more please contact me. The first organizational meeting is Wednesday, June 4th at 5 pm. Oh, I almost forgot—the theme this year is Snowball Mountain Challenge; Find Your Strength in God.

See you on June 4th,

Dorothy

270-401-8702



Methodist Men's News

Although attendance was down just a bit, we enjoyed a good morning of fellowship and great food with 20 regulars and visitors at our May meeting. Our next meeting will be June 20 at 8:30 am. Everyone wel-



come. Hope to see you there! Blessings.

Jim

. **Remember the men cook but all are welcome!!

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The United Women in Faith will meet on Tues, June 2 @ 4:00. We are starting a book campaign for Mary Kendall Home. If you would like to donate a book or money to purchase

one, we are looking for books with diverse characters & possibly Spanish speaking text. The boys @ MKH are between the ages of 13-18.

VBS 2026
JULY 22-24
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

ST. JOHN SINGLES

St. John Singles will meet in May at Shiloh's Lounge on Triplett where 8 Ball Restaurant used to be. Join us on June 17 th at 11:30 am

for some good fun and good food! See you there!

Memorial Day Word Search

Q A O T V O O B W R K B A C E M E T E R Y D M I
 A S F F M S I T O I R T A P F P Y R A T I L I M
 N W I N F A N T R Y J W O R L D W A R I I H B M
 A G F E D B G R F P N O I T I D A R T L V P X F
 S G N I H C R A M P W O R L D W A R I M N N O Q
 L U K S O L D I E R S B Y L F T C S O V K S G L
 K D J M Z O M Y C A R C O M E D T M I A Y X Y E
 E C R O F R I A D T G Q Y J G Y R O L G D L O S
 U S P O R V H I G Y G E C I V R E S H G B H T M
 C E E F G I Q P G V T F R T V M U E N T H Z M A
 M T Q A K D X B U A S A C R I F I C E C T T N Y
 E A A R M Y V M I N Z L R Z S S E X D E A V Q F
 I T P U N N P E R A D K F S R H K O W P E F H B
 R S X K F P D D S G E I I W U C G H G S R R V Y
 O D K T E U I A I F C G C U F F Z F O E W E K Q
 N E W I N R G L C V O M U F G G J W R R A E V T
 O T G A I P N O Y L R M O T O B S E R V E D A N
 H I N N L L I F V Z A A Y R O K T B O A M O W V
 A N M A P E T H U R T R W S A Q S W I G K M K R
 O U P J I H Y O Z C E I I S K U B J J I D O P E
 S Z E R C E Y N V E N N X X S W X I X Z B S Y F
 W Z X Q S A E O O Q B E J V I E T N A M Y C U X
 S I O Q I R R R V M Q S J D Y O F N O J I U T R
 T L U N D T E S E P I R T S D N A S R A T S C M

starsandstripes	medalofhonor	UnitedStates	PurpleHeart	discipline
patriotism	WorldWarII	Democracy	Sacrifice	tradition
WorldWarI	AirForce	cemetery	decorate	infantry
marching	Military	OldGlory	soldiers	dignity
Freedom	Marines	observe	respect	service
Vietnam	wreath	Honor	Army	Navy



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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June 2, Serving @ St. Benedict's @ 7:45 pm

June 3, UWF @ 4 pm

June 4, VBS Mtg @ 5 pm

June 10, Mega Media @ 5 pm

June 14, Pastor Picnic @ 11 am

June 16, Family Life @ 5 pm

June 17, Singles @ 11:30 am @ Shiloh's Lounge

VBS Mtg @ 5 pm

June 20, Meth. Men @ 8:30 am

June 22, Choir Practice

June 23, Supper Club @ 5 pm @ O'Charley's

June 28, Choir Practice @ 5 pm

Happy Father's Day

Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

PROVERBS 22:6