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WHERE OR HOW HAS GOD SHOWN UP FOR ME THIS WEEK?

HERE'S HOW I WILL RESPOND:

WEEK 4: BEYOND SUNDAY : 24/7

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 "IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER, HAVE THE SAME MINDSET AS CHRIST JESUS: WHO, BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD SOMETHING TO BE USED TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE; RATHER, HE MADE HIMSELF NOTHING BY TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN LIKENESS. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH—EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS! THEREFORE GOD EXALTED HIM TO THE HIGHEST PLACE AND GAVE HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER."

A generous heart beats seven days a week. Christ calls us to a lifestyle that allows us to invest in greater good and higher values.

We often think of generosity in terms of financial giving, but what are some other ways we can be generous in our words, time, and abilities?

Are you aware of greater causes in which you would like to invest your life by giving?

Have you ever adjusted your lifestyle and priorities in order to give to something you strongly believed in?

Do you view your material resources as your opportunity to participate in God's business in the world?

WEEK 4 INTRODUCTION

In our fourth week, we have established times of quiet contemplation where we are open to listening and reflecting on God's movement in our lives. We have tried different prayer forms to help us open and be present to God. We are committed to transforming our lives with God as our Center.

While maybe trying new ways to deepen our faith, we are still grounded in His Living Word. We know that we can learn much from the stories and teachings of Jesus. We also know that we can experience and deepen our relationship with God through the sacred reading of scripture.

This prayer form is called Lectio Divina and was formalized in St. Benedict's Rule centuries ago. Lectio Divina involves a special way of listening, reflecting and speaking through scripture to discern what God has planned for us. This prayer will encourage us to be open to the movements of the Spirit.

WEEK 4 PRAYER

*Jesus, teach me your ways. You are the Living Word of God... I hear your words in church. I may start and end my days reading your words. I want to dig deeper in my understanding of Your plan for me **Beyond Sunday**. Help me open to your transforming love as I practice sacred reading of scripture. You named me even before I was born. You ground me and sustain me through scripture and prayer. My time with You moves me to do Your will. Keep me on this path of silence, listening, opening and changing. All things are possible through You. I humbly give my life to You every time I hear You call. Amen.*

WEEK 4 PRACTICE

Step 1: Read Matthew 25:14-23 slowly several times. Don't focus on the literal meaning of the words and story. Let the words sink into your body as you reread them. Let the words fill your inner sacred space. After awhile, the process of reading becomes listening. Listen for a word or phrase that speaks to you. God is reaching to you. Listen.

Step 2: Focus on your word or phrase. Repeat your word. Let go of the scripture passage. Let the word ruminate in you. God will take it from there. Allow yourself to listen and follow where God will lead you.

Step 3. At some point, you may be moved to speak to God. Wait for the words to come. Choose a few to express yourself. In silence, speak your thought or question to God. Then practice listening for a response. This is the ebb and flow of a conversation between parent and child, between close friends.

Step 4. In every conversation, there comes a time when everything has been said and words are not necessary. Now it is time to just be with God. Open yourself to resting in God's love, to being held in your Creator's loving gaze. God sees you as your true self made in God's image. Express your gratitude as your time together comes to an end.

WEEK 4 PILGRIMAGE POINT

MAIN CAMPUS

The inspiring new structure that is now our Main Campus was designed to have many architectural features reminiscent of our beloved Historic Sanctuary downtown. Many of these are obvious at a glance while some of the other historical treasures are not so visible. We invite you to take some quiet time to acquaint yourself with your amazing new church home. As you do so, remember some of the characteristics of the downtown church. We have attempted in many ways to honor the legacy of those whose sacrifices and loving made it possible for us to so courageously take the risk of trusting God in this bold venture.



OLD BECOMES NEW

E.M. Bounds and the Holiness Tabernacle are central figures in our five-week pilgrimage journey. In 1866, Rev. Edward McKendree Bounds (E.M. Bounds), the former Missouri regimental chaplain during the Battle of Franklin and our pastor at the close of the war,

gathered a group of members on Tuesdays to pray for reconciliation and revival. For over a year they prayed until the Lord answered with a mighty outpouring of his Holy Spirit. This tremendous revival is what ignited a fire that has yet to be fully spent. It's important to tell a bit more about the Holiness Tabernacle since many of its elements are incorporated into our new church. The tabernacle, built as a sister structure to the now-named Ryman Auditorium, was built in response to a second major revival which began here in 1894. This revival was centered in the Methodist Church but spread across the city. The leaders in a number of churches joined to construct the 2,000-seat auditorium at Fourth and Margin Streets. Remember that Franklin only had about 2,000 residents at this time. Some thirty years later after the

revival had died down, the tabernacle was used mostly for political rallies and other meetings. By 1929, the building was in poor repair and ultimately was condemned by the city. Ironically, the materials were sold to a Nashville gambler who built a speakeasy at Moore's Lane and Franklin Road. During WWII this building became a residence that has stayed in the Owen-Maddox families ever since. When the property was sold for development in 2015 the Maddox's offered the wood to the church to be salvaged and again used for sacred purposes. This reclaimed wood was creatively used in the construction of our new facility in many ways. Spend some time exploring the building and discover some unnoticed features of our marvelous new church home.

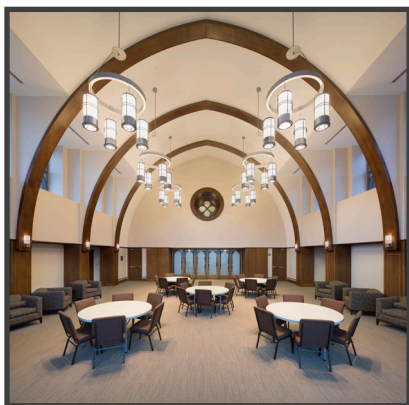


E.M. BOUNDS PRAYER ROOM. This room is prominently located off the central narthex and signals that prayer is vitally important to our lives as believers. The room is named for Edward McKendree Bounds (E.M. Bounds) who, in the decades following his pastorate here, became a distinguished author of books on prayer. Few (if any) authors have such strong legacy of continual popularity. In the one hundred years since his death his numerous books on prayer have been republished in countless editions by a number of prominent publishers. The prayer room has the rough hewn wood flooring that was salvaged from the tabernacle. A replica section of the Historic Sanctuary's communion rail is at the center of the room. Two pews that once were used in the downtown church face each other and create an intimate seating arrangement. Additional marble top tables and Victorian chairs were once in use in the church downtown as well.



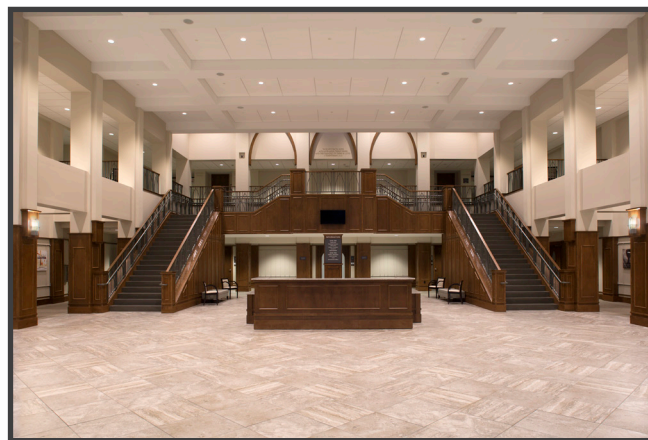
WESLEY HALL. Named for Methodism's founder John Wesley, this large room is designed for worship as well as social gatherings. The wood-trimmed gothic arches lining the hall and imbedded in the windows are similar to the arched windows downtown. The dual aisles remind us of that beloved and familiar place that served our family for nearly 150 years.

CHANCEL STAGE. Proceed on up to the platform and see the five-foot circle of wood imbedded in the center of the stage. In a similar way the new Grand Ole Opry inset a circular portion of the Ryman stage in their new location, we used the tabernacle flooring in the same manner. The beautifully finished flooring wood is also incorporated on the top of the altar, the pulpit, and the lectern.



ASBURY HALL. Named for the pioneer Methodist Bishop, Francis Asbury, this room is the most architecturally prominent feature of the new building when viewed from the front. Its enormous window with three interconnected arches represents the Trinity of Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit. Its soaring barrel ceiling makes a statement of architectural detail and stunning beauty. The circular window with carved wood rosette design is inspired by the rosette symbols imbedded in our Historic Sanctuary.



FRIENDSHIP COMMONS NARTHEX. This impressive hall with its dual staircases creates an inviting first impression to persons entering the church. Notice the repeated use of the gothic arches including the three at the second level, also represent the Trinity. The wood carved rosette is even more beautiful when viewed from this room. Please take the time to read all the historical displays and examine the photos. They tell the story of the powerful spiritual movement that is Methodism as well as distinct details of Franklin First's 217 year history.

The gracious symmetry of the building with its central courtyard and spacious second level deck creates an inviting environment to worship God and form friendships. By intention, the exterior of the building bears remarkable resemblance to the architectural character of the Historic Sanctuary. You can identify many of those design features as you explore the inside and outside of the majestic structure.