**Taking the Initiative Against Daydreaming**

from *My Utmost for His Highest*  
by Oswald Chambers

_Arise, let us go from here._ - John 14:31

Daydreaming about something to do it properly is right but daydreaming about it when we should be doing it is wrong. In this passage, after having said these wonderful things to His disciples, we might have expected our Lord to tell them to go away and meditate over them all. But Jesus never allowed idle daydreaming. When our purpose is to seek God and to discover His will for us, daydreaming is right and acceptable. But when our inclination is to spend time daydreaming over what we have already been told to do, it is unacceptable, and God’s blessing is never on it. God will take the initiative against this kind of daydreaming by prodding us to action. His instructions to us will be along the lines of this: “Don’t sit or stand there, just go!”

If we are quietly waiting before God after He has said to us, “Come aside by yourselves…” then that is meditation before Him to seek His will (Mark 6:31). Beware, however, of giving in to mere daydreaming once God has spoken. Allow Him to be the source of all your dreams, joys, and delights, and be careful to go and obey what He has said. If you are in love with someone, you don’t sit and daydream about that person all the time—you go and do something for them. That is what Jesus Christ expects us to do. Daydreaming after God has spoken is an indication that we do not trust Him.

**Diaper Drive for Branford Diaper Bank**

Our March Mission for the last 2-3 years has been collecting diapers! The Branford Diaper Bank distributes 500-600 diapers each month to families in need within our community. You are encouraged to join in this effort once again as we strive to replenish the supply of diapers in the shed on Harrison Street in Branford. All sizes are needed, but it is helpful to focus on some of the larger sizes (4-6) as these are in shorter supply.

Those attending in-person worship are welcome to bring their donations on Sunday morning. We will also use the green bin to receive your donations at any time. Thank you for your willingness to help our local families in need.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the monthly distribution on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please contact Pastor Kent if you are willing to help with distribution. It’s a wonderful ministry opportunity to be in conversation with local families—and their children!

**We’re Back and Live Starting March 7!**

Everyone is invited to attend LIVE at 9:30AM in the sanctuary. Appropriate COVID-19 policies and protocols will be in effect until further notice.

For those desiring to worship remotely, a live stream of the 9:30 am service may be accessed through the church website or directly on our UMC Branford YouTube channel (look for the account with the **RED** doors.)

If you wish to participate at a later time, a recording of the service will be posted on the church website. An audio-only recording will also be available using the “Dial My Calls” number: (959) 202-4862.

**One Verse (Or, actually, two!)**

I want to invite you to join me in memorizing one verse (actually, 2 verses) of scripture which have the potential to give direction to ministry in the coming year 2021. We will conclude each worship service and many other gatherings with these words: *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to*

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March Events

Wed 3/3, 7pm: Trustees
Fri 3/5, 12pm: World Day of Prayer
Tues 3/9, 4pm: Diaper Distribution with Pastor K.
Wed 3/10, 6:30pm: Learn & Play Advisory Council
Wed 3/17, 6:15pm: Prayer Meeting
Wed 3/17, 7pm: Faithful Stewards
Fri 3/26, 6pm: Community Dinner
Wed 3/31, 7pm: Finance Committee

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS:
9:30am  Worship Livedstream
10:15am  Children’s Moment on WebEx
10:30am  Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom

MONDAYS:
10:10am  Monday Morning Quarterbacking:
Meeting online via conference call during the pandemic. Please call
(425) 436-6385 and use access code 841200#.

TUESDAYS:
7-8:30pm  Pastor’s Bible Study Group:
Meeting online during the pandemic. Please email Pastor Kent for
a Zoom link or telephone number if you would like to join.

THURSDAYS:
10am  Pastor’s Bible Study Group:
Meeting online via conference call during the pandemic. Please call
(425) 436-6385 and use access code 841200#.

SATURDAYS:
7pm  AA meeting

AA Online Meetings

For those in need, links to online and voice meet-
ings can be found at:
https://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php

March Birthdays

1  Ruth Moon
2  Hannah Jackson, Kaylee Roberts, Jean Sunny
3  Gabriel Maggay
8  Helen Werns
9  Judy Loukides
13  Sean Deveau, Joan Gerlach
14  Erin Marszalek
21  June Ann Greeley, Sterwin Maggay, David Simon
25  Madison Ballard
26  Bob Nerkowski
28  Kylie James
30  Ginny Busca, Aubrey Simon

March Anniversaries

26  John & Connie Nickou
29  John & Sue Beatty

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
The 20th of every month - please send articles to
Lori Cartwright at loriahlcart@gmail.com

Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?
You can catch the weekly sermon video at
www.umcbranford.org

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH
WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT UMCB:

www.facebook.com/umcbranford
https://twitter.com/UMCBranford
Also check out:
www.facebook.com/unitedmethodistchurch
www.facebook.com/umcgeneralconference
www.facebook.com/NYACUMC

“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”
do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16 NIV

A Souper Successful Day!

It was a chilly day, but our volunteers layered up and braved the below-freezing temps to collect 400+ cans of soup for our local food pantries. Over 50 chili dinners were also distributed.

We flip-flopped the actual Super Bowl results, with the Chiefs edging out the Buccaneers by just $19, for a total cash donation collection of nearly $300.

Big thanks to our chefs and event crew members!

Sermon Series

I have begun to preach through the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during 2021! Both Biblical texts come from the same author, and studying them straight through will give us a clear picture of how the ministry of the 1st century church flows out of Jesus' life on earth. In February, we will be reflecting upon Luke chapters 6 to 9. If all goes well, we will finish Luke in the middle of June and then begin Acts.

Digital Ministry Team

I am looking for volunteers to be a part of our new Digital Ministry initiative. It is time to take the next step and be proactive with our efforts to reach beyond the walls of our church building with the message of the Gospel.

We have done well adding a livestream option to our Sunday Service - but there is more we can do. Please let me know if you would like to help plan for the future by enhancing our physical church ministry through means of social media and other digital platforms.

Ministries of Prayer & Care

As we continue to navigate through the changes in ministry in light of the pandemic, I am constantly looking for new ways that we can "be the church." In the coming weeks, I would like to establish Ministries of Prayer and Care.

Would you be interested in attending a virtual Prayer Meeting? Please contact Pastor Kent by text message or phone call at 845-522-1233 or by email at umcbbpastor@gmail.com. We will schedule a time (or multiple times) to gather virtually for sharing joys and concerns and praying for the needs of our church, community & the world.

It is essential during this time that we engage in new ways of keeping in touch with one another. If you would be willing to make phone calls as part of a Care Ministry, please contact Pastor Kent by phone or email. Each volunteer will be assigned 3 to 4 families to keep in touch with on a monthly basis. Volunteers will also share with Pastor Kent any joys or concerns they become aware of.

Please know that you are always welcome to contact Pastor Kent directly if you have any needs or information you would like to share.

Blessings,

Pastor Kent
MINISTRY WHILE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

PASTORAL CARE: Please know that Pastor Kent is available for Pastoral Care “visits” either by telephone or individual Zoom meetings. If you would like to be in conversation to help process an issue you are dealing with or just to “catch up,” please text or email Pastor Kent to arrange a meeting.

MEETINGS: Our committee meetings will be meeting via Zoom. Please go to www.zoom.us and click “Sign Up. It’s Free” to create your account. All committee members will automatically be sent an invitation to their meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please contact Pastor Kent ahead of time so you can receive the log-in information.

FINANCES: Your weekly offerings may be placed in the Offering Box at the entrance to the sanctuary or mailed to the church office if you are not attending in-person worship. Please consider using our online giving platform by clicking the “Give Now” button on the church website at www.UMCBranford.org

COMMUNICATION: The church office is open from 9am-2pm Tuesday through Thursday. In the interest of social distancing, we are asking that you DO NOT visit the church office during those hours. If you must be in the office, please be sure to be wearing a mask. You are welcome to call the church office during these times if there is church information that Brenda can help you with.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
“Build a Strong Foundation” by the Country of Vanuatu • Friday, March 5 at noon

Please join us for a World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5, 2021 at noon. This event will be virtual on YouTube and can be reached through the St. George Church website: www.stgeorgeguilford.org. World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice on the first Friday of March. The women participating in the program this year are from St. Stephen’s AME Zion Church in Branford, United Methodist Church in Branford, St. Pio of Pietrelcina Catholic Church in East Haven, St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Branford, the Bahai Community of Old Saybrook, Deep River Baptist Church, and St. George Catholic Church in Guilford.

Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of prayer worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context and lifting up issues of mission, justice and peace that are important to them. This year, the women of Vanuatu call us to worship with the words, “Build on a strong foundation,” inspired by Matthew 7:24-27. We are invited to learn about Vanuatu’s history and culture through music, stories, traditions, and experiences of God’s profound love.

Offerings are collected each year to share with women and children around the world. Where the offering goes is determined by the WDP (World Day of Prayer) national committee. We welcome all donations. Your donation can be made out to WDP USA or St. George Church and sent to St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St., Guilford CT 06437 to the attention of Sr. Kathleen Lynch. All the money collected will be sent to the committee. Thank you, and God bless you!

MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKING

An opportunity to dig deeper into the Sunday Sermon! Pastor Kent shares additional insight into the scriptures and the participants are encouraged to ask questions and share reflections on the material which was preached. Please consider attending on a weekly basis or occasionally as the Spirit moves. During the quarantine, we will be meeting by Conference Call at 10:10 am. Please dial in at 425-436-6385 using access code 841200#.
Help stock our classrooms through Amazon Wish List!

Here’s a simple way to contribute to the success of our L&P ministry the next time you’re ordering on Amazon. Director Venera Manuli has set up Amazon Wish Lists for each classroom, listed below. It’s an easy click to add an item to your shopping cart and enrich our little ones’ experience!

Click for Big Room Wish List
amazon.com
https://amzn.to/3knkSAg

Click for Infant Room Wish List
amazon.com
https://amzn.to/2NsLIAL

Click for Waddler Room Wish List
amazon.com
https://amzn.to/37MVMFH

Click for Toddler Room Wish List
amazon.com
https://amzn.to/2ZNjOMr

Click for Pre-K Room Wish List
amazon.com
https://amzn.to/301cCMZ

Are you following Learn & Play on Facebook? It’s a great way to see what our young students are up to! "Like" their page at (or just search their name):
https://www.facebook.com/Learn-Play-Christian-Early-Learning-Center-864205240297632

Small Study Groups

Our Tuesday 7pm and Thursday 10:10am Study Groups continue to meet online. Please email Pastor Kent for a Zoom link or telephone number if you would like to join the Tuesday evening study. The Thursday morning group is meeting via conference call. Please call 425-436-6385 and use access code 841200#

7 Men and 7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness by Eric Metaxas

Meet 14 heroic individuals who changed the course of history! Combining his two popular books into one volume, Metaxas explores the qualities that make a person great. Discover the captivating stories of Mother Teresa, martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, abolitionist William Wilberforce, Corrie ten Boom, athlete Jackie Robinson, civil rights figure Rosa Parks, and many others.

After discussing the introductions to both books, we will alternate our readings by studying one of the men, then one of the women, etc.

Food Pantry Needs

We continue to collect food to deliver to the local Food Pantry. Non-perishable items like tuna fish, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, soup, macaroni, and sauce are very much needed, as are personal care items like diaper wipes, soap, and toothpaste.

Donations can be left in the green bin located at the entrance to the church.
**Blessing Bags**

Thanks once again to a generous response from our congregation, we were able to put together 18 Blessing Bags to give to those less fortunate.

One way of getting these Blessing Bags to you is through the drive through Community Dinner on Friday, March 26 pm. Please think about taking one of these bags to give to some in need. At the same time, come to the drive-through to pick up a delicious meal for you - or possibly bring to someone else. Win-Win!!

May the Lord Bless you and give you His peace.

**UMC Scholarships**

One of the major obstacles to students who are preparing for their calling at a college or university is a lack of financial resources. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry administers numerous low-interest loans and scholarships for United Methodist students in the US.

Explore the GBHEM scholarships page to find more information on eligibility, available scholarships, application process, grants and fellowships, and other FAQs.

https://www.gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/

*Scholarship Application Deadline: March 24*

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**Community Dinner**

*Friday, March 26, 6pm*

Please pull into the church parking lot and into one of the spaces for curbside pickup. A volunteer will bring out dinner(s) to you wrapped up and ready for travel.

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**Ephesians 2:10**

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**GOD’S WORK**

**OUR HANDS**

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**DON’T GIVE UP ON THIS YEAR. KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD. KEEP SHOWING UP. KEEP LOVING. KEEP GIVING BACK. KEEP BEING KIND. KEEP BEING BRAVE. KEEP CARING. KEEP TRYING NEW THINGS. KEEP SHOWING GRACE. KEEP ON. THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD.**
**Women's Monthly Luncheon**

Ladies, I’m sorry to say that due to Church regulations regarding Covid 19, no monthly luncheons until further notice. Please note that I am thinking of each of you every month and miss our time together. Stay safe until we meet again.

Questions? Please call me (Rosemary) at (203) 589-1620.

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**Sewing For God**

There’s nothing new to report about our Artis quilting at this time. Tops are still being worked on, but at a slower than normal pace. When we’re able to set a time to get together to layer the tops, we’ll go ahead with preparing them for our friends at Artis.

Rosemary

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**KEEP SAVING YOUR SODA CAN TABS!**

Next Delivery Date: April 1

Please continue to collect your tabs and place them in the green bin outside of church. Every tab makes a difference, just like you do!

As always, we thank you for your support in this great cause.

Rosemary & Tony

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**Hello, Secret Pals!**

Wow, spring is just around the corner! Shamrocks and April flowers. Thinking of my Secret Pal today!

Keep the faith that one day soon we will get together as a group and share hugs and love again.

Rosemary

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Do you or someone you know ever have trouble hearing or understanding on the phone? Many seniors, veterans, and others experience difficulty hearing on the phone. CaptionCall provides a no-cost solution with a home phone and mobile CaptionCall app for iPhone.

With the current “safe at home” orders, it is important for anyone with hearing loss to stay in contact with family and friends, and have reliable access to emergency services. CaptionCall ensures accurate communication and the ability to save important captioned calls (i.e. doctor appointments, lab results, names, phone numbers, addresses).

There is no cost for the installation of the phone or the ongoing captioning service. The program is made possible by the American with Disabilities Act and is 100% funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

To learn more about CaptionCall or to request your own no-cost captioning phone, call/text/email David Wells at (203) 871-7393 or gdavid3@yahoo.com.