



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

September 2-8, 2019

Kickoff Sunday

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester

Sermon Title: "Invited- The Hospitality of God: So Loved"

<p>Notes from sermon on 9/1:</p>	<p>Prayer requests:</p>
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Why do you come to Reveille? Who first invited you? Why did you come back?

What is your story of receiving God's welcome in your own life, and what would it mean for each of us to extend that same life-changing welcome to others?

Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

Remember the story of your first visits to Reveille. With whom did you first connect?

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

1. Martin Luther called John 3:16 "the gospel in miniature."
Why do you think he said this?
2. Why do we feel a need to earn God's grace?
3. How do we make God's love for the world known?

Monday, September 2: Read John 3:13-17

United Methodist pastor Jason Micheli writes, 'I've been a pastor for almost 20 years. You know how many atheists I've encountered who've told me 'Oh Christianity, it's just too merciful for me, too gracious?' Goose egg. You know how many I've met who've written us off because we're the opposite? Too many to count.'

As we prepare for Reveille's "Kickoff Sunday," when our regular Sunday school classes, children and youth ministries, and adult studies resume for the school year, we will read scriptures that will challenge us to ask ourselves, "Are we a church of radical hospitality, fully receiving and offering God's grace as the foundation of our faith?"

Tuesday, September 3: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

It can be tempting to get into a “back to school” or “back to business” mode this time of year, even with our faith. This week we will be challenged to resist that urge, and focus on what God has already done for us through Christ, rather than what we feel compelled to do for ourselves. What makes our church and our faith great is not our beautiful building, talented people, or incredible programs...it’s the God who died for all of us sinners and offers us all acceptance, forgiveness, and grace. Let us pause today in front of the cross and pray for guidance in how we can be more fully used to help others see God’s amazing grace.

Wednesday, September 4: Read Genesis 18:1-15

Our final three readings of the week are stories of radical welcome. But first, what does that phrase even mean? Stephanie Sellers, in her book *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation* writes, “A radically welcoming community seeks to welcome the voices, presence and power of many groups—especially those who have been defined as The Other, pushed to the margins, cast out, silenced and closeted—in order to help to shape the congregation’s common life and mission.” Being a radically welcoming community takes effort, patience, and faith. It takes vulnerability. In Abraham and Sarah’s culture, it was expected that one invited strangers into one’s home, providing food, shelter, and company. Do any of us do that today? What kinds of blessings might Abraham and Sarah missed out on if they had not shown this radical hospitality? What kinds of blessings might we be missing right now when we don’t?

Thursday, September 5: Read Luke 19:1-10

It’s amazing to read how many times in the gospels Jesus allows himself to be interrupted. No matter how busy Christ is, he always notices the marginalized and hurting, stops, and invites them in. He doesn’t worry about what others will think, how the newcomers will fit into his current ministry, or how far behind in his schedule he will be if he gives this person his time. In today’s gospel reading, Jesus gives Zacchaeus, the hated tax collector, the highest honor of staying in his home, and the results were transformational. What lives could we be helping transform if we gave this amount of time, respect, and grace to people used to being excluded and judged? How would this also transform us?

Friday, September 6: Read Acts 8:26-40

“How can I [understand what I’m reading] unless someone guides me?” The Ethiopian eunuch had bravely travelled to Jerusalem to worship, but left empty and confused. His religious experience could easily been one of disappointment and disillusionment had it not been for Philip, who, in answering God’s call, opened up the joy and inclusion of God’s grace through Christ to him. How many people will timidly come through Reveille’s door this year who are in need of a “Philip” to welcome them, include them, and serve as their friend and guide? Today’s scripture challenges us to define hospitality as more than a friendly face and passing of the peace – it calls us out of our comfort zone and tight schedule in order to share God’s grace with all who are put in our path.

Saturday, September 7: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 3:17

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Sunday, September 8: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon, your sanction of the way we live. We turn away from neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met. Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose. In the name of Jesus our crucified redeemer we pray.*