



United Methodist Church of the Pines

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January 17 - 23, 2021

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20

A bad attitude is like a flat tire:

If you don't change it, you will never go anywhere! — Anonymous

Let's talk about thermometers and thermostats.

I bring this up because this morning I tried to adjust the temperature on the thermostat. We have a thermostat that looks like a panel from the Space Center Houston. The buttons and digital figures are confusing - not at all like the simple thermostats we had when I was a kid.

Anyway, think first about the thermometer. This is a very handy device that lets us know if we have a temperature. The device is controlled by its environment. It responds to the heat or the cold of its surroundings. It goes up and down in accordance with the temperature around it.

Some Christians are like that. They get hot and bothered when certain things happen, and cold and uncaring at other times. You might say they're "thermometer" Christians. Their actions and attitudes are totally dictated by their surroundings.

A thermostat, however, is different. The thermostat dictates the temperature. It sets the tone. The context, surroundings and atmosphere all respond and obey the directives, orders and plans that the thermostat demands. If the thermostat says, "We're going up to 72 degrees today," then the atmosphere adjusts accordingly. No ifs, buts, and ands about it!

Perhaps we should be more like "thermostat" Christians than "thermometer" Christians. Let's control the temperatures of our emotions, the atmosphere of our home or wherever we are living. Let's make it warm and comfortable for those around us!

There's one more interesting difference in this little analogy between the two devices: The thermometer works on its own; the thermostat works only with electrical current.

I like to think that this is an image of our need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Without this connection, we cannot be effective "thermostat" Christians. The Holy Spirit empowers us with all that we need to produce the warmth of love, gentleness and patience.

So which will we be today, a thermometer or a thermostat?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious Holy Spirit, pour yourself into my life today, enabling me to set the temperature - to provide the warmth that I need and others as well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Matthew 8-11

Monday: Matthew 12-15

Tuesday: Matthew 16-19

Wednesday: Matthew 20-22

Thursday: Matthew 23-25

Friday: Matthew 26-28

Verse to Remember

*“The Lord has heard my supplication;
the Lord accepts my prayer.” - Psalm 6:9*

DIRECTIONS: The purpose of this exercise is to discover the identity of a well-known biblical person. To do so, you must assign a number value to each letter of the alphabet, assuming that M equals 1, N equals 2, O equals 3, etc. A letter and number chart for you to fill in has been provided for your convenience. Use the numbers in the clues to spell out each word in the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												1	2	3											

First Clue: 15-7 15 13-3-9-2-21 1-15-2 22-19 25-23-26-26-19-18 7-3-1-19-3-2-19.

Second Clue: 22-19 11-15-7 8-19-2-18-23-2-21 7-22-19-19-4 23-2 8-22-19
18-19-7-19-6-8 11-22-19-2 21-3-18 17-15-26-26-19-18 22-23-1.

Third Clue: 15-7 15 16-15-16-13 22-19 11-15-7 20-3-9-2-18 20-26-3-15-8-23-2-21
23-2 15 16-15-7-25-19-8 23-2 8-22-19 2-23-26-19 6-23-10-19-6.

WHO IS THIS PERSON?



Answer
(spelled
backwards):
SESOM.

Community Connections

As we begin the new year, we find ourselves still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and we still need to commit to wearing face masks, practice social distancing, washing our hands and refraining from being in groups of people. It's been challenging for everyone! Staying connected with you is very important to our Church of the Pines' congregation.

And, one of the ways to do this is through our "Community Connections." There are scripture readings, prayers, devotionals, and activities, which can be mailed or emailed. It's easy to subscribe and it's FREE! If you know of someone who would like to subscribe to Community Connections, have them call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Worship with us from HOME

If you haven't attended Church of the Pines' worship services on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. **YOU ARE INVITED!**

If you have a Facebook page on the internet, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/> just prior to 10:00 a.m.

If you don't have Facebook, you can watch a video after the service ends by going to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and clicking on "Worship Service Videos" and then click on date of the service.

Pastor Mark Gilbert also leads a Prayer Service on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. You can participate by going to the same sites as listed above for Sunday worship.

You can also listen to Church of the Pines Sunday sermons by using your phone. It's simple....just use your telephone and call 1-715-203-1990 and listen to the most recent sermon. It's easy...and you can listen any time and at your convenience.

Call 1-715-203-1990
to hear our latest sermon



If you have a need and would like to be lifted in prayer, please call Church of the Pines at 715-356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org. and we will pray for you.

Need Prayer?

If you are alone or you know someone who is isolated and could use a friend, let us know and we can connect you with one of our Community Care Calling Crew members who will give you a call of encouragement and support. Call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email at office@umchurchofthepines.org for more information.