

**First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas**

On the Night in Which He Was Betrayed: by *Dr. Tim Tennett*
This spoke to me as I read it this week. I hope it has meaning for you as well. *Karen*

Psalm 41

CONSIDER THIS

Lent is a time of the church year where we reflect on themes we normally don't think about. One of those themes is betrayal. There is no greater wound than betrayal. We understand it when enemies speak out against us and stand in opposition to the ways of righteousness. But when one of your closest friends betrays you, the wound cuts very deep. Part of Jesus' own identification with human pain was experiencing betrayal. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of his own disciples (Luke 22:47-48). Jesus himself identifies the language of Psalm 41 as pointing to his own betrayal. Psalm 41 says, "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (v. 9). At the Last Supper, Jesus said that his betrayal by one so close to him was to fulfill this Scripture: "He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me" (John 13:18).

The very earliest Christian communion liturgy draws upon the profound nature of betrayal. When Paul gives us that early language regarding the Lord's Supper, he says, "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me'" (1 Cor. 11:23-24, emphasis mine). The very first phrase of the liturgy is remembering the "night in which he was betrayed." This phrase is found in communion liturgies all across the world. It is our reminder that Jesus didn't just suffer bodily on the cross, but he also suffered in that innermost place; the heart, which is broken and devastated by betrayal. When Jesus declares that his body was given for us, it is a reference supremely to the cross, but also to the whole of his incarnate life, which was given over to fully experiencing the depth of our lives, including all of its joys, laughter, pain, sorrow, and even betrayal.

When we affirm the substitutionary atonement (i.e., that Jesus died in our place), we also understand that this was only possible because he had lived in our place. He has stood with the human race. That's the good news. The second person of the Trinity stepped into human history and became a man. There is no compromise in that. Without sacrificing his deity, he fully embraced all that it means to be human. To use the language of Psalm 41, this is why we can say, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen" (Ps. 42:13).

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

This passage is surprising, paradoxical, difficult. We can allow it to explain itself through some questions it asks us.

1. What is human wisdom? Could it perhaps be defined as the art of living well in order to be happy? Then folly would mean heading towards failure and unhappiness. Still, we need to know where happiness is found, and discover that realistically speaking it is not possible to be happy all alone, without others.
2. Why does Saint Paul speak so negatively about this wisdom? Because it was in the name of human wisdom that Jesus was condemned to death: he disturbed the established order, called social hierarchies into question, forced people to change their idea of God. He appeared to be a politically dangerous fool, a madman.
3. Where then is true wisdom to be found? Saint Paul answers: in the language of the cross. Language here means that we have acquired some distance on this event and refers, beyond the mere fact of the cross, to its meaning in the context of Jesus' life and then in the light of his resurrection, all this situated in the overarching plan of God's covenant with us.
4. Why is the cross—the worst failure, and utter folly, since Jesus really did nothing to escape it—the language of God's wisdom? Because it reveals the power of love and it shows how far Jesus' gift of his life goes. It was the rejection of God by the "wise", and God turned it into total solidarity with the "fools" that we are. It was the condemnation of Jesus for blasphemy, and Jesus turned it into the forgiveness of those who crucified him and the return of human beings to God.
5. What will we do so that the language of the cross may become more and more the criterion of our human wisdom? So that our idea of happiness may be enlightened by the folly of Jesus' love? So that our art of living well may conform to that total gift of self that is the life—and the death—of Jesus?

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



**Please call the church
office to reserve a date
for flowers.**

March 4th Attendance

Sunday School	38
8:30 am Worship	53
11:00 am Worship	56
Total Worship	109



Wednesday through April 4 (except March 14th)
Confirmation Class
3:40 p.m.-4:50 pm

Church Camp
July 8-13

Please check the MYF Facebook page for updates.

Peace be with you,

Sarah Bohannon
Director of Youth Ministries



I. Cor. 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

God of infinite love, we thank You for this reminder of Your love and Your call that we be more patient, gentle and compassionate with others. Here in the middle of Lent, we turn to You to ask for help. Please soften our hearts. Help us to let go of judging others. We ask You this, in the precious name of Jesus Christ, AMEN.

You may send your prayer requests and praises to Terri Lacher at btlacher@sbcglobal.net or at (936) 598-3484 or (936)332-2717



CPR & AED

**March 10th & 24th, the church offer
a AED/CPR course.**

**The class will meet in the fellowship hall at
9:00 a.m. Please sign up beforehand with either
Kelli, Karen or Sarah.**

The cost is \$25 per person.

Make checks payable to Mary Head.

LENTEN OFFERING

Lenten Offering letters and envelopes have been mailed. Please turn your envelope into the church office or place in the offering plate.



March 25th

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Combined Service

***Covered Dish Lunch to follow**

1:00 pm Eggstravaganza



**Please bring plastic eggs and candy for our
Easter Eggstravaganza
and volunteer to help with games!
This event will take place on
Sunday, March 25th
1:00-3:00 PM**

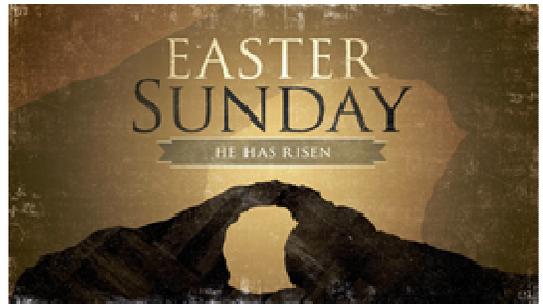


**Maundy
Thursday**

Thursday, March 29th

6:00 pm

In the Sanctuary



8:30 am Coffee Fellowship

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Combined Service



**LAKEVIEW
METHODIST
CONFERENCE CENTER**

The Church will pay for HALF of your youth's camp fees. In order to receive this, you must have your youth registered before the end of March.

Sign up on

<https://lakeviewsummerncampregistration.campbrainregistration...>

Let me know when you have signed your youth up.

Sarah Bohannon

Memorials

Bishop Samford

Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Braden

Donna Thomason

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Pigg

Suzanne Ihlo

Tommye Hall McDonald

Billy & Cathy Williams

Bobby Warr

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lee

