



Church on the Cape Newsletter



August 2025



Please see page 5 on ways to donate to the flood victims
of Kerrville County, Texas.

From the Pastor's Desk

Give us this day...

The Gospel lesson for the seventh Sunday after Pentecost in Year C of the Lectionary cycle features the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus responds with the words we know as the "Lord's Prayer." This prayer is recorded in Matthew and Luke, but not in Mark or John. For that reason, it is considered to be part of the "Q" material, which, simply stated, is material that Matthew and Luke share in common but which is not found in Mark. There are two challenging parts to the linguistics of this prayer that offer a window into Biblical translation and interpretation, as well as challenging us to think deeply about what the prayer is saying.

The first challenge is what kind of bread we request and require! The Greek word that describes the bread, "epiousion," is found nowhere else in scripture or in ancient Greek texts. It is an orphan word that may have been used in spoken Greek but has not survived in written texts except here. For that reason, we cannot say with any degree of certainty what the word means. In assigning a meaning to the word, translators become interpreters following established tradition and making the best guess they can.

Bread, in Jesus' time, was not like bread today. It often was not made from wheat, but from other grains, so without a high gluten content, it would have been a flat bread or cake. It was, however, like in much of human history, a staple of everyday

nutrition. We need not look back very far in our own history to a time when bread was served at every meal and considered a basic food for daily living. So it was for Jesus and his friends lending support for the conclusion that the prayer is asking God to give us the basic sustenance that we need to live each day—physical bread for physical bodies.

This interpretation is supported by the story of the wilderness journey of the Hebrew people as they fled Egypt. In this story, God provides daily bread to sustain the people in the desert. You will recall, though, that they were only allowed to gather enough "manna" for one day at a time. They were given "daily bread" in the wilderness except on Saturday, when they could gather enough to get them through the Sabbath without having to work on the day of rest.

Another possibility is hinted at in Acts 2:43-47, which describes life in the early Christian community. We are told that "day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread from house to house and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God..." This may well refer to early Eucharistic practice—sharing bread and thanksgiving—in a daily spiritual practice. Could it then be that the prayer of Jesus refers to bread that feeds the soul—or even the bread of Holy Communion shared daily and freely by the first Christians? Might this prayer actually be calling us to a deeper spirituality and a more constant sharing of Communion?

Such an idea would honor the teaching of John Wesley, who exhorted his followers to receive Communion every Sunday and more often if possible!

The other challenging aspect of the prayer involves the forgiveness we seek. Here, Luke and Matthew diverge. The Lukan version of the prayer has us asking to be forgiven our "sins" while we forgive those who owe us a "debt." Matthew's version, likely the more original, has us seeking forgiveness of debts and forgiving the debts owed to us. You might have noticed that some congregations pray for the forgiveness of debts rather than trespasses! In reflecting on this, Diana Butler Bass reminds us that ultimately, the greatest debt we owe is to God and God alone. Everything that we are, and all that we have, comes from God, meaning that all temporal debts pale in comparison to our absolute indebtedness to God. The prayer, then, acknowledges our indebtedness, admitting that we can never pay off that debt and asking God to wipe the ledger clean. It is, then, a sign of gratitude and good faith when we, in turn, cancel the debts we perceive that others owe to us – and usually those debts are not monetary!

So, then, in spite of or, perhaps, because of its linguistic twists and turns, this prayer challenges us to enter into a deeper spirituality and relationship with God. It holds before us our absolute dependence on and indebtedness to God and suggests that we respond appropriately with humility, faith, and compassion.

Rev. Greg Smith



If you know someone who would benefit from a visit by the pastor, please let us know.

Thanks!

Pastor Greg



SUMMER FAIR 2025

To our loyal COTC bakers:

Thank you, once again, for your willingness to bake during these hot, humid summer days.

You provided a wonderful variety of cookies, bars, breads, cakes, pies, and even gluten-free and sugar-free goodies.

We had a very successful sale with many happy customers.

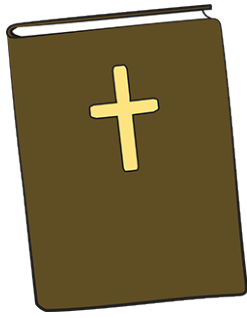
Gratefully yours,
Debbie and Joan



PERSONAL THANK YOU

I want to thank all our friends at COTC for your many prayers, cards, and support throughout my long recovery from major surgery in March. It has helped me tremendously.

Rich Parsons



August Lectionary

AUG 03 | 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Hos 11:1-11
- Ps 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830)
- Col 3:1-11
- Luke 12:13-21

AUG 10 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Isa 1:1 10-20
- Ps 50:1-8, 22-23 (UMH 783)
- Heb 11:1-3, 8-16
- Luke 12:32-40

AUG 17 | 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Isa 5:1-7
- Ps 80:1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801)
- Heb 11:29-12:2
- Luke 12:49-56

AUG 24 | 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Jer 1:4-10
- Ps 71:1-6 (UMH 794)
- Heb 12:18-29
- Luke 13:10-17

AUG 31 | 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Jer 2:4-13
- Ps 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803)
- Heb 13:1-8, 15-16
- Luke 14:1, 7-14

Texas Flood Update

THANK YOU for your contributions to help those devastated by the floods in Kerrville County, Texas. So far, they total \$11,700.00. More help is needed. Please contribute if you can.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Pastor Greg will never send you a text message or an email asking you to purchase gift cards. Many bad actors are using the names of pastors and other community leaders to scam people. If you receive that kind of text message or email, do not respond to it. Report it, delete it, and block the number. Never open any links or attachments in these messages!

FREE CONCERT



Coastal Winds Clarinet Quartet

All are invited to the Coastal Winds Clarinet Quartet by The McClelland Foundation on Saturday, **August 9, at 2:00 p.m.** here at Church on the Cape.



"Guadalupe River Relief Special Offering"

As we continue to assess the impact of the flooding along the Guadalupe River and surrounding communities, one of the most effective ways you can help right now is through financial gifts. Flood Buckets are an essential item in this type of disaster. Though we have a stockpile in the Kerrville Martinez Warehouse, many more will be needed. Your financial gift would be greatly appreciated.

"You may send individual or church checks to **Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Advance #2050**, noting **"Guadalupe River Flood"** on your gift. **Contributions can be sent directly to Rio Texas Disaster Response, 16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78248**

"100% of your generosity will support immediate needs in the affected areas.

"As the flood waters recede, we will activate our Emergency Response Teams to come in and help with cleaning up and securing the areas affected. If you would like to assist, we will try to conduct an Emergency Training session in the area to qualify you to deploy. Stay tuned for information.

"As always, follow our Facebook at RioTxDR or our webpage at www.riotexasresponse.org for current updates."

Source: UMC.org

Please Pray for Them and Give Generously

Your help is desperately needed to care for those impacted by the horrific flooding disaster in the Kerrville, Texas area.

The unexpected devastation took the lives of loved ones, especially little children. Beyond the grief of lost loved ones is the need to start over for so many, whom we need to treat as we would ourselves.

For those who would rather give through our church, please make the checks out to Church on the Cape, **include "Texas Flood" in the note line, and mail it to the church or drop it into the collection plate at church.** The office will send your contribution to UMCOR."

The charity that is a trifle to us can be precious to others.

—Homer

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

—Bob Hope

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

— James Russell Lowell

COFFEE HOUR - SPREAD THE JOY

We are blessed each Sunday with volunteers who provide coffee hour for us. Importantly, this is not only a time for a cup of joy with light refreshments but also a time for fellowship and helping new church members and visitors get to know us. Thank you for serving us and God.

Preparation and serving volunteers are always needed. Please sign up at the Bartlett Hall table or call Jen at the church office.



Photo by Mike Kelly



Photos by Marge Smith

THE CHURCH FAIR WAS A LOT OF FUN

There were plenty of items, and especially tempting were the baked goods. It was a fun event, and we are most grateful for everyone who contributed both time and goods, especially to Marge Smith and Susie Goodwin, who organized and managed the fair, and all their helpers. Fair net proceeds totaled \$3,304.49 and will be added to the church budget.



Several fair photos below are by Marge Smith:





COTC GIFT TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The dollhouse, seen in the picture with Debora Berry and Bruce Martin, was a leftover from the fair, and was donated to Ronald McDonald House in Portland. Martin was very excited to receive it and shared that it will go in the Children's Room. He shared with Pastor Greg and me that oftentimes children will be awaiting surgery and will be eager to play with it.

Article by Jen Murray



DONATIONS AT RONALD MCDONNEL HOUSE ARE WELCOMED

"We believe in bringing communities together at the global and local level to support families throughout their health care journey."

"However you want to get involved with RMHC, we appreciate you.

Whether you donate your time or money, you help support even more families with ill and injured children around the world. Your efforts and generosity can help build or expand a House, provide more snacks and services in a Family Room, and bring healthcare services to underserved communities. So, however you choose to make an impact, we thank you."

Source: www.rmhc.org

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes,
confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts;
You are among people like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

The Church on the Cape
3 Langsford Road
PO Box 2740
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Church Phone: 207-967-5787
Email address: office@churchonthecape.org
Website: www.churchonthecape.org
Pastor: Reverend Greg Smith
Email Address: rev.gregsmithumc@gmail.com
Phone: 207-967-5787