



Beneath the Spires

Too Busy Not to Pray

As I sit and write this column on the cusp of August, I'm lamenting how fast the summer seems to be passing by, but also considering how to slow things down a little before Labor Day rolls around. Sometimes it feels like my summers are more scheduled than the other nine months of the year.

It can seem like we're horses at the gate, chomping at the bit for Memorial Day to arrive so we can dash headlong into a blur of vacations, reunions, fairs, festivals, and concerts, and other summer pastimes. We're trying to pack in as much fun as we can with the warmth and sunshine as a backdrop.

But maybe at this point in the summer we're also confronted by all the things that we had hoped to accomplish but haven't yet. I keep wondering when I'll carve out some time for the beach and kayaking, or if I'll



ever get the market umbrella up over the backyard dining table.

And the garden keeps calling me to finishing the weeding I started more than a month ago when I planted tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and lavender. With all the recent rain and hot temps, the weeds are definitely growing like weeds!

Amid all the busyness we add to our plates in the summer, or that the world tries to pile on, we would do well to remember the example of Jesus. Despite traveling from

town to town to preach and teach and heal, Jesus always made time to rest and pray. And he often took the disciples along to those quiet places to pray and ponder.

We, too, need that kind of regular, intentional time to pray, meditate, and listen for the guidance of God. It is our daily practice that keeps us strongly connected to God.

In his book, "Too Busy Not to Pray," Bill Hybels writes: "Prayer is an unnatural activity; alien to our proud human nature. Yet, when we slow down to pray, we become astonished by God's approachability, endeared by his care, stilled by his presence, encouraged by his affirmation, and challenged by God's insatiable desire to make the truth known."

I know that when I get off my regular practice of prayer, one day can turn into two, and two days can quickly become a week. And then I begin to sense
See page 4

Save the date:

Coffee with the Pastor, Mount Kisco Bagel	8-2
Coffee with the Pastor, Mount Kisco Bagel	8-9
Coffee with the Pastor, Mount Kisco Bagel	8-16
"Friday Night Light" potluck picnic & games	8-16
Coffee with the Pastor, Mount Kisco Bagel	8-23
Rally Day / Start of Sunday School	9-8
Flea Market with vendors	9-21

Did you know?

- The church's stained glass windows were created and installed in 1917 to 1919 by Colgate Cathedral Glass Company in New York City. The total cost was \$2,625.
- The impetus for the new windows came from the pastor, Rev. William H. Moser, who described the existing windows of plain glass marked off in a diamond pattern as "homely."

Gehrig and Gratitude

On July 4, 1939, Yankee great Lou Gehrig gave one of the most famous and moving speeches in sports history. It was short, just 277 words, spoken by a shy man whose head was bowed in modesty.

It was his farewell address at sold-out Yankee Stadium after being diagnosed with the deadly ALS disease. He held his baseball cap in one hand and wiped tears with the other. Those in the stands knew Lou Gehrig was ill but didn't know the nature of the disease. He didn't tell them.

He simply began, "Fans for the past two weeks you have been reading about a bad break I had got. Yet today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

For the next few minutes, he told the crowd how thankful he was for his life, his wife, his parents, his teammates, even his mother-in-law. He finished his speech, "So I close in saying that I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for."

Lou Gehrig is a true inspiration and a role model. His fare-

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of Lights."

(James 1:17)

well speech indicates how he did, and how everyone should, appreciate each day. He died less than two years after giving this iconic speech, but his legacy lives on – to appreciate, love and value all life.

As Christians, we don't think of ourselves as lucky but as blessed. Occasionally we have bad breaks, but we have a good God who bestows good things on us. God doesn't demand gratitude, just as restaurants don't demand tips. We should give it willingly. It's how we remember we're the most blessed people on the face of the earth with so much to be thankful for including this church where we

worship in each Sunday embarking on the 2nd year under the blessed stewardship of Pastor Joanne. I believe the best years are ahead of us !!

- Dave Visaggio

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays in August: Pastor Joanne will be continuing a six-week series called, "Preaching the Windows," focusing on the biblical passages depicted in the sanctuary's stained glass art. Still to come are Jesus and the little children and Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Christ. Worship on August 4 will include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Friday, August 16: Join in "Friday Night Light" at 6:30 p.m. for a fun summer evening of food, fellowship and games. The church will provide burgers, hotdogs and fixings. If you are able, please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks; you may sign up in Halstead Hall or call the church office at 914-666-5014. The plan is to be outside on the lawn, weather permitting. So we're also looking for yard games like corn hole & etc. Bring along your family, friends and neighbors! Let us know if you will need a ride.

Saturday, Sept. 21: Fall flea market with vendor spaces available for \$35. Call the church office to reserve a spot. Rain date is September 28.

July-August Birthdays

13: Nancy Beck

14: Patty Mirabito

24: Kaitlyn Summers

25: Timothy Laux

31: Alexa Grace Hall



2nd Art Covey

9th Jennifer Ruff

Scott Davidson

27th Dave Visaggio

Yvone Orr

30th Joe Baldwin

June 2: Faith in Action Sunday



Some 40 adults and kids came together for a short worship service before splitting up to assemble 50 hygiene kits, make 3 blankets for Project Linus and do a spring yard cleanup at 3 homes. We finished the day with a pizza party. Thanks to all who helped put our faith in action.





**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF MOUNT KISCO**

300 E. Main Street
Mount Kisco, N.Y. 10549

Phone: 914-666-5014
Email: officeumcmk@gmail.com
Website: mountkiscochurch.org
Find us on Facebook, too!

**[We pray. We love.
We serve.]**

Too Busy Not to Pray *(continued)*

that something is amiss in my life. It can be easy to slide out of our regular routines in the summer, but I hope that you'll continue to nurture and work out your faith through prayer, Bible study or meditation. I can think of no better place to reconnect to God than out of doors – whether it's hiking in the woods, swimming at the lake, plucking a fresh tomato from the garden for dinner, or star gazing at a summer concert.

“People who are serious about something always make room for it in their schedules,” Hybels also writes. “When you establish a time and a place for prayer, it becomes integrated into the rhythm of your life. Jesus said to pray regularly, privately, sincerely, and specifically.”

May you establish a new rhythm of prayer this month in the midst of all your summer busyness. May it bring you closer to God so that you can truly revel in the wonder and majesty of all of God's creation around us.

In God's care and service,
Pastor Joanne

United Methodist Church Mt Kisco
300 East Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549