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# *Bethel Prayer Concerns*

*Sunday, April 3, 2022*

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The Swindler family;  
Clay Landers.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, as I begin this day, place in me  
a spirit of generosity so that I may freely share  
love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter.

Keep me from quick judgements  
so that I leave room for your grace in my life  
and in the lives of others.

Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions,  
as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **REFLECTIONS**

John 12:1-8 draws our attention to three people: Mary, Judas, and Jesus. It is easy enough to identify Mary as “the good disciple” and Judas as “the bad disciple” not only in this story but also in the larger story of Jesus’s life and death. We can make this judgement: Mary is accepted and affirmed, while Judas is rejected. But is this the judgement that the other person in the story would make? As one commentator puts it, “... if Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus. ... If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd?” As this story ushers you into Holy Week, consider how the cross, the grace of Christ, speaks to this story and to your own life story, which like most life stories may not be a simple “either/or” example of faithfulness, but a “both/and” mix of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.

# Bethel Presbyterian Church Announcements

Youth Sunday School and Adult Christian Education  
begin at 9:30 a.m.

Childcare for infants and preschool age children is offered  
from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery.

The Quiet Room is available during worship.

## **CHOCOLATE LOVERS**

Easter Egg Minis are back! These fairly traded, egg-shaped chocolates are available in both dark and milk chocolate. Made with the finest cocoa, smooth cocoa butter and real vanilla, and serving up a rich, smooth flavor they are ideal for Easter baskets and egg hunts. They are available on the Equal Exchange cart - \$6.50 per bag.

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. OGHS has grown to be the most participated-in Offering in the PC(USA). It is received during the season of Lent.

**THESE DAYS** a daily devotional for April, May & June is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Pick one up today. *“To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of These Days. The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life.”*

## **HOME Food Collection**

For the month of April our focus foods are **Canned Vegetables & Baked Beans**. These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area.