

Do we ever Pray that

God will use us? I’m sure you have. I know I have. It’s the idea that God will put us into a place or situation where he can do something through us that is for his Kingdom. And it can be a very honorable prayer because we truly want God to do something through us that is not necessary good or best for us but is ultimately best and good for him. And that, too, can make it a scary prayer as well.

But it can also be a very selfish prayer especially when God decides to grant it in a way that we don’t expect or that doesn’t necessarily make us look good. Being used by God for his Kingdom is good, but when we’re embarrassed or treated poorly or have to turn the other cheek or feel something is unfair, even if it is good for God, it doesn’t make us feel very good sometimes. Often, unfortunately, when we pray for God to use us, we mean to use us in such a way that we enjoy the experience, we look good in some way and, yes, that God’s Kingdom is glorified. So, how do we expect God to use us when we pray that?

On the other side, too, when we pray for God to use us, the focus is, often, on us. We’re so attentive to what we’re doing and how our actions or interactions are connected to God’s work. And when we do that, too, we often fail to see how God is working in other people. And, too, when we are focused on ourselves, we often get jealous and even angry that God is using someone else.

I saw a video this week of the lead singer of a popular Christian band who said that he would often pray before concerts that God would use them in a powerful way. And, again, his was an honest and wholesome prayer for God’s will to be done. However, he had the realization that God, in response to this prayer, might be telling

him, “Well, what if I want to use another band tonight instead, would that be okay?” And, in that realization of God’s desire to use others, he realized that his focus on God using him hadn’t been about God and it’d been more about him and his band and the attention he could get. And so, should we ask for God to use us? Absolutely. Should we be purposeful about how we use that prayer? For sure.

Paul writes in Romans 12.3-4:
“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function...”

Notice that it’s God who gives grace and he is the one who distributes faith as well. And while that may be a little difficult to grasp in terms of free will, what matters is that God is in control of so much of our world and he’s the one who decides how many things in this life will happen. We are just called to be faithful and responsible for what we can control.

And so, if we can accept that and accept his ruling in our world and in our lives, he is much more able to use us but, even more, we can celebrate when others are being used by God, too. If we are truly celebrating and looking for God’s Kingdom to grow, then jealousy should disappear from our mind and heart.

I pray that we’ll continue to ask God to use us, in powerful and unique ways, but also know that his work and his Kingdom are much bigger than just you and I and to appreciate and celebrate when God uses others, too.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Lenten Service

On **Sunday, February 18th at 6:00pm** we will be having a Community Lenten Service at Woodland Church of the Brethren. This begins the season of Lent and will lead us up to Easter. This will be a simple, traditional service with hymns and a brief message.

There will also be an Ash Wednesday Service at the UMC on Wednesday, February 14th at 10:00am that is worth attending.

Adult Night Out

We will be going to Los Charros in Rushville for another Adult Night Out on **Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00pm**. There will be a signup sheet in the sanctuary so we can let them know how many are coming.

Food Donations

There will be a tote inside the front doors of the church for anyone interested in donating extra food or household goods. Simply drop them there and Matthew will get them to The Shelf. This can simply be extra pantry items you have that you won’t use.

Dishes

There is a table with several dishes and Tupperware that have piled up that don’t belong to the church. Please check it and see if any of it belongs to you or it will become a permanent part of the church’s collection.

Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Jeff (and Cindy) Benefield – upcoming procedure
David Cassel – surgery went well, home
Robert Cassel – back in Rushville
Dorothy Cleavinger – serious health issues
Emily Clemens – collarbone surgery went well
Karen Fredrick – in hospital, not well
Mike Grater – cancer
Hadley Garbett – heart appointment went well
Eric Hamm – leukemia
Tristin Hayes – medical issues
Nancy Herron - brain tumor surgery recovery
Jim Kinzer – cancer, heart attack
Butch Maloney - cancer
Dan Palmer - health issues
Charlie Bill Palmer
Lori Rodriguez – health and personal issues
Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work
Becky Watson – cancer back
Ellen Webb – cancer, colon surgery
Friend of Mary Belville – unspoken
Unspoken Prayer Concern
Condolences
Betty Davis family

January Financials

	Weekly Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Jan 7 th	\$580.00	\$580.00	\$931.54
Jan 14 th	\$330.00	\$910.00	\$1,863.08
Jan 21 st	\$1,000.00	\$1,910.00	\$2,794.62
Jan 28 th	\$566.00	\$2,476.00	\$3,726.16

You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Weds., Feb. 7th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun., Feb. 11th – Board Meeting
@6pm

Weds., Feb. 14th – Ash Weds.
service, UMC @10am
Family Night @6pm

Thurs., Feb. 15th – Ladies’
Fellowship @6pm

Sun., Feb. 18th – Lenten Service,
Woodland Church @6pm

Tues., Feb. 20th – Adult Night Out
@6pm

Weds., Feb. 21st – Family Night
@6pm

Sun., Feb. 25th – Worship and
Prayer @6pm

Weds. Feb. 28th – Family Night
@6pm

All events are subject to change. Please
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,
Facebook page or website.



*“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will
save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by
his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”*

Zephaniah 3:17