

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.*

—Acts 4:32

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 24, 2022  
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas  
Link to worship videos available at: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Méditation” from *Symphonie* No. 1, Op.13, No. 1

Charles-Marie Widor

OPENING SENTENCES

adapted from Psalm 117

Welcome to worship this morning!

One of the Psalmists has written:

“Great is God’s steadfast love toward God’s people,  
because, truly, the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever!”

\* HYMN NO. 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies,  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**There’s not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.**

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\* Please stand in body or spirit.  
Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.

## PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

*Let us pray our praise and humbly confess our sin, wanderings, and failings to God. Let us pray together . . .*  
**We sense, Eternal One, that your love and grace draw us toward you, undeserving though we are; and we sing your praise! Forgive us, though, our reluctance to live as a true reflection of your love and grace toward each person, those close by and those far away, those similar to us and those different from us. From the redeeming and transforming vulnerable love you demonstrate in Jesus Christ, make us generous each day for authentic service among your people and creation, always from the abiding influence of your wise and stirring Spirit.**  
*(We pray in silence.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

Hear, trust, proclaim, and share with others the heart of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and continually made new. Thanks be to God!**

## CALL FOR OFFERING AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

OFFERTORY

Land of Rest

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:32-35; 11:25-26; 26:24-29

## GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Hearts, Minds, Doors, and Lives Open

\* HYMN NO. 306 (*st. 1,3,4,5*)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Let us pray . . .* Let us begin our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession this morning with each of us praying in silence for self and others . . . Let us pray . . . We give thanks beyond our ability to express, O God, that you have brought us through the days of our lives and that you have guided us to this hour together. Especially, we give thanks for your vision and faithfulness to people across the centuries, serving others through love of which you are always the source. We give thanks for those who have stepped forward, even in the face of strong opposition and at great cost, in order to lift up dignity and equality, justice and compassion, with an understanding of expressing values which begin with you and which are embodied in Jesus Christ. Through every conflict – religious, political, legislative, judicial, social, and military – we honor

you for the light of liberty and the triumph of broad consideration and thoughtfulness, which shine through days and decades, making visible your image in which all are created and your purposes always greater than numerous human agendas. Continue to breathe your Spirit through us and others, so that – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – we may grow in neighborliness and respect for one and all. Bring healing to individuals and to groups. Where threats are invoked, where harm and abuse have occurred, where fear inhibits and grief stings, aid all who are struggling and anxious. Stand between them and the many sources of pain and injury, so that forgiveness and recovery have an opportunity to gain the upper hand. O Well-Spring of all that is good and holy, remind us of the entire company of those in resurrection-communion with you eternally, because, today and always, we join our voices and lives with theirs, honoring you in a symphony of adoration and intercession, praying in the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

- |                          |   |                 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| * HYMN                   | God, Bless Your Church with Strength<br>(See insert.) | DIADEMATA SMD   |
|                          |   |                 |
| * DISMISSAL AND BLESSING |   |                 |
|                          |   |                 |
| * POSTLUDE               | Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty<br>+ + + + +         | arr. Mark Hayes |

At the conclusion of worship today, Rev. Foote will be in the narthex.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the narthex.  
Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Worship related activity sheets and markers are available on the tables in the Narthex. Room 108 is available for your nursery needs. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker.

**NEW MEMBERS** may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder or call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote ([tfoote@fpcbryan.org](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin ([ebeghin@fpcbryan.org](mailto:ebeghin@fpcbryan.org)). They will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.



# A WARM WELCOME!

*We are delighted that you are worshiping with us today.*



## WORSHIP NOTES

### PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

### LITURGISTS

Lois Basenfelder

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

### USHERS | GREETERS

Sherry Hinnant; Marcia Miculek;  
Scott Shafer; Ernie Wright

### MUSICIANS

Lisa Walston, *Pianist*

David Kipp,

*Director of Music Ministries*

Christine Larsen,

*Organist and Director of Handbell Choir*

#### HANDBELL QUARTET

Maegan Brewster; Angela Criaco;  
Eileen Peters; Jessica Sahm Petersen

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

In loving memory of

Kathleen & Lee Ann Palermo  
and

Doris & Bill Todd (Kathleen's parents)  
by Frank Palermo

### AUDIO VISUAL

Yesdel Benitez Posada; Adam Hartman;  
Jerry Norris; Bobby Randolph

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, JULY 24, 2022

9:20am Church School: Young Adults Class-304

9:20am Church School: Summer Class for Adults and Youth-P

9:20am Church School: Children's Class-10

10:45am Worship-S\*

Live-streamed worship will be viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org),  
with a click on the homepage "sentence about worship"  
or small red YouTube icon in far top right of homepage screen

12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

### MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022

5:30pm Cub Scout Pack 350-FH

7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 976-FH

### TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

11:30am Men's Lunch-Koppe Bridge, 3940 Harvey Rd, College Station

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022

11:30am Staff Meeting-L

6:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner Group-Koppe Bridge, CS

### THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

### FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022

### SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022

### 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, JULY 31, 2022

9:20am Church School: Young Adults Class-304

9:20am Church School: Summer Class for Adults and Youth-P

9:20am Church School: Children's Class-10

10:45am Worship-S\*

Live-streamed worship will be viewable via [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org),  
with a click on the homepage "sentence about worship"  
or small red YouTube icon in far top right of homepage screen

1:00pm Youth (GR 6-12)-drop in at Farmhouse Yogurt (next to Kroger)  
for a FREE fro-yo with Pastor Emily ('til 3:00pm)

\* *Loving childcare provided.*

**First Presbyterian Church | 1100 Carter Creek Parkway | Bryan, Texas 77802**

PH. 979.823.8073 | FAX. 979.822.7063 | Website: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) | Email: [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org)

Find "First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas" on FACEBOOK



## NEW! Find all of our social media in one place!

- ★ Visit <https://linktr.ee/fpcbryan> or scan the QR Code (to your left)
- ★ On the web [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) (newsletter, announcements, worship bulletin, calendar, ...)
- ★ Facebook [www.facebook.com/FPCBryan](https://www.facebook.com/FPCBryan)
- ★ Instagram [www.instagram.com/fpcbryantx1867](https://www.instagram.com/fpcbryantx1867) and [fpcbryan\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/fpcbryan_youth)

## BE THE FIRST TO KNOW when WORSHIP and ACTIVITY videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel!

Go to: [www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchofBryanTexas](https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchofBryanTexas), Click **SUBSCRIBE**

## Share prayer needs and church group news with fellow FPC participants on Church Updates!

FPC-Bryan's online tool for YOU to post church-related announcements, ways to serve, and your current prayer needs. While users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts, this online tool is "REAL TIME."

Contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org) to set up your account. Then, login at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login> to create your password-protected account.

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter, The Chimes, is **NOON TODAY**.

This newsletter will be distributed Wednesday, July 27, and cover news from August 10-24.

Submit your church news TODAY to: [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org).

**ONLINE GIVING.** To make a gift online, please scan the QR Code to your right or visit us at [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) and click **Give** in the upper righthand corner. When making your donation, you can select and specify:

- Regular Giving (Pledges or Funds given to the operations budget) and/or
- Special Giving (special offerings, Brazos Church Pantry, memorials, etc.).



*First Wednesday*  
**Potluck Summer Salad Bar**



**AUGUST 3, 6:00pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Mixed greens and drinks provided.  
Toppings, stand-alone salads,  
crackers, or dessert welcome!

Email Debe Shafer, [debemccshafer@gmail.com](mailto:debemccshafer@gmail.com),  
by Sun, July 31, to let her know what you are bringing.

## "VOICES FOR CHILDREN" DRIVE



**VOICES for CHILDREN**

Sponsored by Mission Committee, FPC-Bryan and **Voices for Children** are partnering during July and August to accept **GIFT CARDS** (Visa, Mastercard, Target, Academy, Amazon, etc.) for teens in foster care. VFC's mission is to improve the lives of children in foster care through powerful volunteer advocacy until each child is placed in a safe and permanent home. Place your gift card in the offering box/plate on Sunday mornings OR mail OR hand deliver M-F, 9:00am-3:00pm to:

First Presbyterian Church  
1100 Carter Creek Pkwy  
Bryan TX 77802

For more information about the drive,  
visit [www.vfcbrazos.org](http://www.vfcbrazos.org).

# ***"God, Bless Your Church with Strength"***

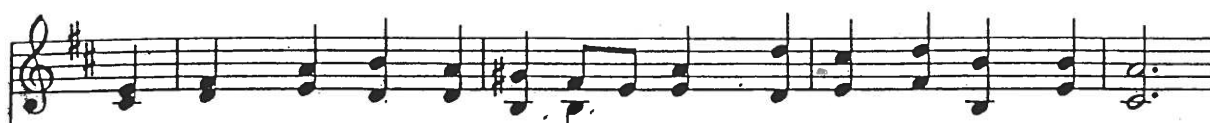
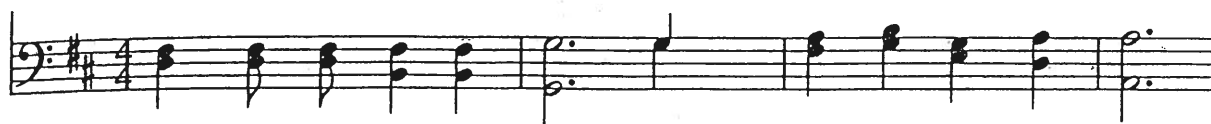
DIADEMATA SMD

Words: John A. Dalles, 1984

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868



1. God, bless Your church with strength! Wher ev - er we may be,
2. God, bless Your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive,
3. God, bless Your church with hope! De - spite cha-ot - ic days,



Up - build Your ser - vants as we work In com-mon min - is - try.  
Un - blem-ished, whole-some, bearing fruit, A - bun-dant - ly a - live.  
May we in cha - os shine to light A path-way through life's maze.



Urge us from fledg-ling faith To ven-ture and to soar  
From You, one ho - ly vine, In free-dom may we grow;  
May jus - tice be our aim, And kind-ness ours to share,



Through o - pen skies, to sing the praise Of Christ whom we a - dore.  
Sus - tain us in our mis-sion, Lord, Your love and peace to show.  
In hum - ble-ness O may we walk, As - sured our God is there!







# CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATING FORM

We invite your prayers for the Nominating Committee which will meet soon to nominate candidates to serve as Elders (12, Class of 2024); Elder (1, Class of 2023); 2023-2024 Nominating Committee (5, members-at-large), and; Foundation Trustees (3, Class of 2028).



## 2022-2023 CONGREGATION'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(a committee of the congregation)

Co-moderators (Ruling Elders)..... Cheryl Moreno; Jessica Sahm Petersen  
Members-at-large ..... Lois Basenfelder, Rachel Cochrane, Glenn Mathews, and Ken Telg

### RULING ELDERS

#### CLASS OF 2022

Rick Avery	Sally Kate Morse
Christy Becker	Tom Reed
Shelley Espinoza	Debe Shafer
Sherry Hinnant	Scott Shafer
David Holdredge	Ellen Thornton
Cheryl Moreno	Ernie Wright

#### CLASS OF 2023

Becky Alter	Billy Housman
Leigh Gathings	Sam Humphries
Gilbert Gonzalez	Nancy Robertson
Adam Hartman	Jessica Sahm Petersen
Janice Haverland	Ethan Truax
Kaitlyn Hendler	

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. — I Corinthians 12:4*

**Gifts and requirements for serving as a church officer.** Elders are called to exercise special functions in the Church. God gives these persons suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. (*Book of Order* G-2.01)

**ELDERS** are those, in a Presbyterian Church, who compose the Session which is the governing body of the church. They are responsible for decisions of the daily life of the church by serving on the following committees: Administration, Children's Center Ministry, Christian Education, Community Building & Engagement, Congregational Care, Missions—Local and Beyond, Property, Stewardship & Finance, and Worship.

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*You do not need to confer with those whose names you suggest. The Congregation's Nominating Committee will ask potential nominees of their willingness to serve. Please list your suggestions for nominees whom you feel will be the best suited to serve in a new class of leaders at First Presbyterian Church:*

Nominee(s) for Elders (Class of 2024)\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee(s) for Elder (Class of 2023)\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee(s) for Nominating Committee Members-at-Large (2023-2024)\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee(s) for Foundation Trustees (2028)\_\_\_\_\_

Place your completed form near the offering box or  
email suggestions to [office@fpcbryan.org](mailto:office@fpcbryan.org) by Sunday, July 31, 2022.

## Hearts, Minds, Doors, and Lives Open

Acts 4:32-35; 11:25-26; 26:24-

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

Our United Methodist friends in the United States, since 2001, have utilized the slogan or motto of, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.” Not wanting to speak for United Methodists – as if they would have any desire for me to do that as a Presbyterian - I suspect this phrase describes “open hearts” for compassion and respect in relationships, “open minds” for the importance of lifelong discerning and learning as disciples of Jesus, and “open doors” for the practice of welcoming all of God’s people. Since 2001 when I first saw this slogan in front of Faith United Methodist Church on 91<sup>st</sup> Street in southeast Tulsa, I have wished Presbyterians had thought of this description first. I have a few Methodist friends who might say, “I wish I thought we’ve lived up to the slogan better than we do.” To which I would reply, “If that was the slogan of the Presbyterian Church (USA), I’m certain I would wish we lived up to it better than we do – even without it specifically being our slogan.”

The church I began serving in Tulsa during July of 1994 was located on East 31<sup>st</sup> Street, six miles north of Faith United Methodist. Our sign on 31<sup>st</sup> Street had a marquee. I had been called as pastor and had been moved into my office only a short time, when someone said to me, “You are partly in charge of the words and announcements on the marquee out front. Would you like to put the phrase out there, “All are welcome”? I replied, “Let me think about that. I don’t yet know the church that well. If we put that on the marquee, would it be accurate? I’ve been here too short a time to know if ‘all are welcome.’” The person visiting with me then said, “I think I understand. Whenever you say, we’ll put it out there.” About six months later, in January or February of 1995, we put those words on the marquee. Truthfully, I think, as a congregation, we had to grow into that phrase, practicing “all are welcome.” Saying we were a “work in progress” of people growing into “all being welcome,” means we do not always do that successfully. “All are welcome,” or “Open hearts, open minds, open doors” – either or both of those – how do you think you or this church as a faith community generally practices this consistently and faithfully? Undoubtedly some do better at this than others. Undoubtedly none of us do it perfectly. But might we aspire to this

July 24, 2022

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas

as God’s goal for us, whether we are Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Catholics, etc.?

The Bible book entitled “The Acts of the Apostles” narrates a version of the “spread and evolving of faith” and of faith-communities’ developing in several parts of the Mediterranean world during the first several decades following Jesus life, death, and resurrection. In its narratives, Acts has certain verses that – at least in my lifetime – have been the texts for many sermons. I’ve been pondering lately how three of these Scripture passages might be related, similarly to the relationship of the words in the slogan, “Open hearts, open minds, and open doors.” So here’s a fairly brief grouping of the three: (1) Acts 11:25-26 tells of the faith community of disciples who were followers of the teachings of Jesus in and around the town of Antioch being called Christians. They were known by this name due to their association with and self-identification as disciples of Jesus Christ. (2) Acts 26:24-29 tells of Paul’s conversation with the Roman government official named Festus and the King known as Agrippa. King Agrippa said to Paul the prisoner, “You are absolutely focused, aren’t you, on my becoming a follower of this Jesus as you are?” Being a Christian was the name. Now we are told that a leader outside the community of faith notices that Paul, within the community of Jesus’ followers, senses his (Paul’s) purpose as living a faith focused toward “teleological wholeness,” which is a three dollar word meaning that we serve God in life along the journey of being healed and made whole in the fullness of God’s time. Today, yes. Tomorrow, yes; and yes on God’s purposes further out than we can see or know. Similarly to King Agrippa’s observation about Paul, Nigerian-American author Luvvie Ajayi writes: “Fear has a very concrete power of keeping us from doing and saying the things that are our purpose.” Known by a name due to their association with Jesus, and sensing a purpose to serve God in life along the journey ever shaped by God’s healing and God’s making life whole with others. (3) Acts, chapter 2: verses 32-35, tells of these followers of Jesus being characterized as sharers of material goods which came their way in life, doing so in a spirit of respect and caring. They had a name, a purpose, and a characterization, all related to God’s love and outreach in and through



Jesus Christ for all the world. Not for your or my limited version of God's favor. For all the world.

One day in 1983, when Tom Schmid was pastor of San Pedro Presbyterian Church in San Antonio and I was associate pastor, we both saw an advertisement in a church publication which was posted by a Presbyterian congregation. It read, "Almost perfect church seeks almost perfect pastor for a future richly blessed in ministry together." Tom and I wondered what the almost perfect church and the almost perfect pastor would be. In a few weeks, he wrote an article for another publication which gave his different sense of the way Jesus' disciples ought to represent themselves as "church." Tom's version read, "Imperfect pastor seeks imperfect church for ministry together, in order to experience how God's grace abounds."

The primitive church during the early decades after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection was not perfect. They were on a journey evolving. Neither is the church today "perfect." Anywhere. Yet, how well do we measure up to the name, the purpose, and the characterization to which the early church sensed was their calling from God as followers of Jesus? I need infinite help in measuring up to the name, the purpose, and the characterization of being a disciple of Jesus with others who sense a call to serve together with folks often different from ourselves in God's world. A Methodist friend, knowing I need all the help others can give, recently sent me an opinion page article from the New York Times by Anne Lamott. Ms. Lamott became a church member twenty-five or so years ago when she – in her struggling life – felt led one Sunday into the small St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in the San Francisco Bay area. She tells us today how life, for her, often is still as chaotic and full of brokenness as it was then, but how she is strengthened for chaos and brokenness by grace from God which mysteriously abounds and which beckons her still today. In that New York Times op-ed from July 8 of this year she wrote:

"I wake up praying. I say a prayer some sober people told me to pray 36 years ago, because when all else fails, follow instructions. It helps me to not fixate on who I am, but on whose I am. I am God's adorable, aging, self-centered, spaced-out beloved. One man in early sobriety told me that he had come into recovery as a hotshot, but that other sober men helped him work his way up to servant. I pray to be a good servant because I've learned that this is the

path of happiness. I pray for my family and all my sick friends that they have days of grace and healing, and I end my prayers, 'Make me, God, ever mindful of the needs of the poor.' Then I put on my glasses, let the dog out for early morning relief and start my day. I will have horrible thoughts about others, typically the Christian right or the majority of the Supreme Court, or someone who has seriously crossed me, whose hair I pray falls out ... I say to God, as I do every Sunday in confession: 'Look — I think we can both see what we have on our hands here. Help me not be such a pill.' It is miserable to be a hater. I pray to be more like Jesus with his crazy compassion and reckless love. Some days go better than others. I pray to remember that God loves Marjorie Taylor Greene exactly the same as God loves my grandson, because God loves, period. God does not have an app for 'Not Love.' God sees beyond each person's awfulness to each person's needs. God loves them, as is. God is better at this than I am. I lift up one of my grown Sunday school kids who is in the I.C.U. with anorexia. I beseech God to intervene, and (God) does, through finding my girl a great nurse later that day. (Nurses are God's answer 35 percent of the time.)"

If your life is anything like Ann Lamott confesses hers is, then you sense how misleading the usual cultural standard of "perfect" can be, possibly for the church in Acts over 1900 years ago and certainly for the church today. Yet no less today than then – or anytime – are we called, and beckoned, and transformed by God's grace: (1) for the name of those who follow Jesus, (2) for the purpose of living toward God's ultimate goal of salvation as healing, and (3) for the characterization of being people who share God's love of grace-filled and honor-according generosity with those who are both similar to us and rather different from us. Yes, since at least 2001, United Methodists have had a good idea: "Open hearts, open minds, open doors." When you add those together, you have "open lives." That's God's desire for us with others all the way to the end of time. If our being opened by grace is God's desire today and always, we can leave to God God's mysterious completed healing of us. Some call this our "perfecting." We can leave this to God's capability, realizing how this completed healing is possible for God, even though we individually and together fall short of "perfect" here and now all the time. By grace, may our lives be opened. – All honor and praise be to God.