

Methodist *messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of Jennings United Methodist Church
September 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

WOW! What a YEAR!!! 2020: may the year we want to end as soon as possible. Beginning with COVID and being in quarantine for months and still in a health crisis, and then came Laura. Recovery and scars from 2020 will take time. And yet we still have to make plans for 2021.

We are involved with helping our neighbors with limb removal, cleanup, supplies, etc., and we are receiving items to disperse to those in need. Churches in Lafayette and other places are gathering things and several pastors are making deliveries. We are doing our part.

But wait. Sarah, Crystal, and many helpers are working very hard to do virtual ministry by live streaming worship, Bible study, Sunday school, Youth, and many other things. Annual Conference which is normally held in June will be held virtually in September. Then comes our charge conference. We will have to begin preparations for that date which may be in November. A lot to do and get ready for.

Here is what has happened lately. A work crew of folks worked at Mrs. Wanda's home consisting of Walter Parker, Sarah, Isaac, Craig, Jacqueline, & Ryleigh Crochet, and Richard McGregor, and as we finished we went to Betty Jo McCourt's home and joined Kim Precht, Josh Crochet, and Brandon and Will from the high school band dept to remove a tree on the corner of Betty Jo's house.

We continue to gather supplies to help small communities who need help. Sarah has been working overtime to channel items where needed.

September Scriptures & Sermons

9.6

Romans 13:8-14

LOVE

9.13

Romans 14:1-12

Love begins on the knee!

9.20

Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel Living

9.27

Philippians 2:1-13

The Mind of Christ

Article Continued ...

As August rolled through we collected school supplies and held "Blessing of the Back Packs" Sunday and we honored our educators. It was a great day of worship, food, and fellowship.

I share all of this information with you to simply say Jennings United Methodist Church is alive with the Spirit of Discipleship and love. We can accomplish great task and care for our community in exciting ways. In the words of a camp song:

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around
can warm up in the glowing,
That's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it
You'll spread His love,
To everyone,
You'll want to pass it on."

My prayer is that we make time for our spiritual well-being and that each of you will find a way of using your gifts in the ministry and mission of our church. Also, that you will continue to be a witness to others for Christ through the touch of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and peace.
See you in church this Sunday,
Walter
Your pastor and friend



September Worship Music

SEPTEMBER 6TH

Opening Hymn: "The Gift of Love"
Anthem: "The Reconciliation Song"
Communion Song: "Just As I Am
(I Come Broken)"
Closing Song: "Make Us One"

SEPTEMBER 13TH

Opening Hymn: "Pues Si Vivimos
(When We Are Living)"
Anthem: "Made Me Glad" with
"Praise the Name of Jesus"
Closing Song: "What a Beautiful Name"

SEPTEMBER 20TH

Opening Hymn: "Take Up Thy Cross"
Anthem: "The Servant Song"
Closing Song: ""

SEPTEMBER 27TH

Opening Hymn: "Covenant Prayer"
Anthem: "Majestic" with "All Creatures of
Our God and King"
Closing Song: "Jesus Messiah"

SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT SONG: *Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)*

This gentle and assuring Mexican folk hymn has quickly become a favorite song in both Spanish and English speaking churches in a variety of denominations. To date it has been published in over thirteen denominational hymnals or songbooks. While this hymn is lovely in its simplicity of melody and message, its origin is a bit more complicated.

It first made its appearance in the songbook, *Celebremos II*, 1983. This songbook was published by Discipleship Resources, an in-house publishing arm of The General Board of Discipleship, and developed as a result of MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing Concerns of Hispanic Americans) recommendations that more Spanish indigenous music be collected for use in Spanish speaking churches.

Roberto Escamilla, editor of *Celebremos II*, added three additional verses in Spanish. These words were translated into English by George Lockwood, thereby creating the hymn as we know it today.

September Spotlight Song ...

The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology, in the essay, "Methodist Hymnody, USA" by Robin Knowles Wallace and Carlton Young, includes the following historical overview:

This hymn's first stanza references Romans 14:8 and as we can see it follows the biblical text very closely.

"Pues si vivimos, para el Señor vivimos; y si morimos, para el Señor morimos. Así pues, sea que vivamos, o que muramos, del Señor somos."

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living" (NRSV).

The meaning is clear that whether living or dying, we are not alone, we belong to God. Furthermore, it reminds us of the resurrection promise and heritage that is ours because Christ died for us and lives again. What an amazing assurance that is for all Christians, and what a great reminder we need every day!

Stanzas 2-4, written by Dr. Escamilla, are based more loosely on John 15:8, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." He continues the technique of binary opposition begun in the first stanza, which uses "living or dying." Stanza two centers on our lives and how we are to live it and finishes by contrasting "giving or receiving." Stanza three centers on our human feelings of joy and sadness and concludes with contrasting "suffering and rejoicing." The final stanza looks outward to the whole world and a Christian's response to the needs of humanity. The contrast here is "help or nurture," which is not actually a contrast, but two ways to serve a hurting world.

<https://www.umediscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-pues-si-vivimos>

1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
3. 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
We belong to God, we belong to God.



Be sure to check out this month's spotlight song. Brother Walter sang a portion of this hymn in his message on September 6th. This hymn is a beautiful song originally written in Spanish. The tune is a familiar one used for another sung benediction, "Shalom". The lyrics are a charge to us as the body of Christ. Our world is facing times like none other. Our immediate area has needs beyond our comprehension. What are you being called to do as a member of the body of Christ? How can you be His hands and feet?

Also new in worship this month will be a hymn arrangement of John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. There is no better time than now to evaluate our covenant with God. We, the church united, have been called for a time such as this. It's not just the ordained pastors. We, the laity, the majority of the church, are all called to be a part of His ministry in this broken world. How can we renew our covenant with God daily? How can we spend our lives as a people of God? How can we show love, be love to a hurting world?

Two beautiful songs to share with you in worship this month...I pray that you, too, are blessed by these special songs. May God fill your heart with a song that spills forth in your life...Let your life-song sing to Him!!!

In Christ,
Sarah

**Join us for choir
rehearsal
Wednesdays at 5:30**

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry has been full of ups and downs these days. Just when the youth and children start school they are hit with a hurricane. Their lives have not been normal at all in 2020 from the pandemic to a hurricane!! Some of our youth in our district have not only lost their homes, but their schools and their churches!! But during all this there is GOD!!

This past month I lost my mom to a battle with liver failure but during it all I witnessed the love of Christ through my youth and my loving church family. Which helps me know that I can get through this rough time in my life with the love of God and my church and family!

We were able to be the hands and feet of Christ this past Monday. We went to Glenmora UMC where Alice Boutte is Pastor now and helped with the needs of her church during this recovery process from the hurricane. I want to thank all the adults that traveled with the youth that day also!

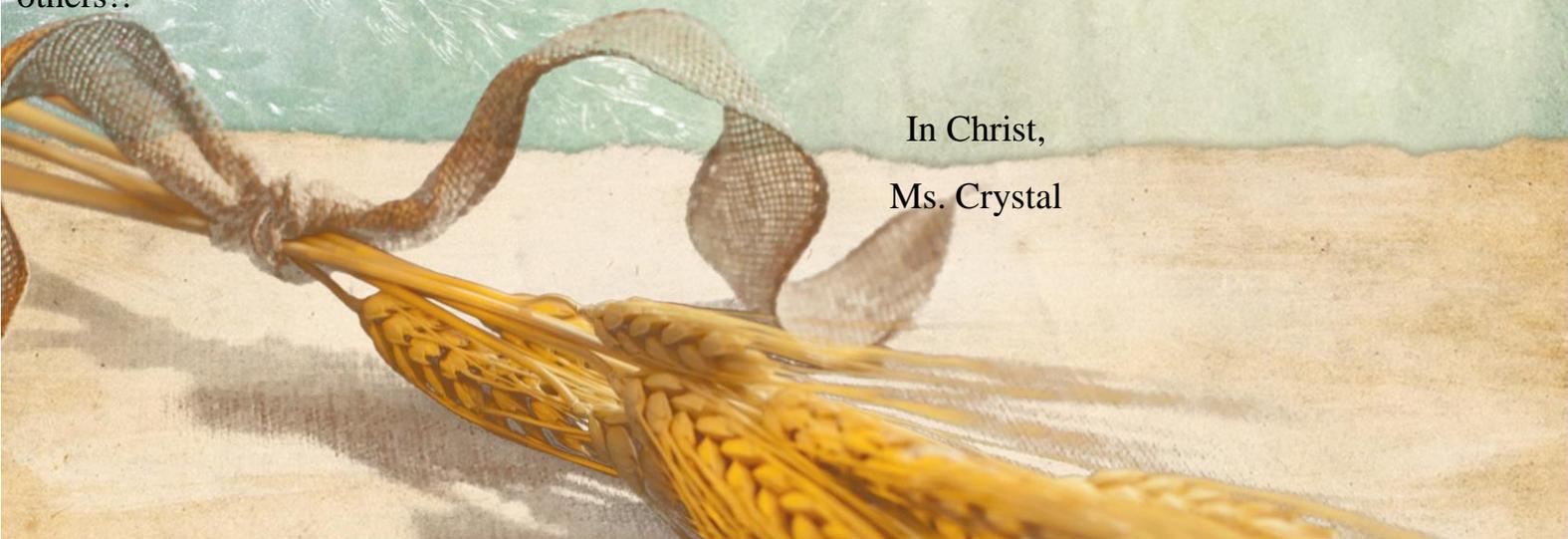
If anyone in our church needs assistance with anything, please reach out to us we would love to come and help in any way we can!!

We are currently doing a bible study for youth on Sunday afternoons from 3pm-4pm. We are doing a study on the book of James. Our next lesson is "How to Become Patient, Steady, & Strong". I would like to encourage all youth to come and join us for wonderful scripture reading and discussions. This is how we lift each other up during these times is by keeping in the Word with each other. Our next bible study will be on Hebrews!

We are having Sunday School at 9:15am on Sunday mornings we would love for you to join us for Sunday School!

My prayer for you this month is to look at what God has blessed you with! We all have something to be thankful for I encourage you to find out what that blessing is and thank God! Share that blessing with others!!

In Christ,
Ms. Crystal



Children's Ministry Updates

It is already September, and I feel as if we have been spinning our wheels to try to get this school year going! JUMC parents, please know that you are prayed for as we continue to work through the process of what this year brings. Each day presents a challenge of its own, and sometimes (a lot of times), there is no way to even know how to prepare for what is to come! I would ask our JUMC family who do not have school age children of your own at home to continue to surround our families with prayer and support. This will be a different, and sometimes difficult year. As of recently, we have even families whose homes have sustained damage from Hurricane Laura.

Our Sunday school class has begun a new unit called "The Parables of Jesus". We cannot wait to get started new sessions that will teach us about familiar stories of Jesus! This unit will cover all the Sundays in September and October. Below are the descriptions of this month's lessons. Be sure to check out the website to catch up on the Sunday school lesson skits and object lesson videos. They are traded out weekly. Speaking of the videos, if any youth and/or children (or adults) are interested in participating in recording our unit skits, please let me know. They are truly improv skits, and trust me when I say, you may even be blessed by participating in making the videos! Weekly Sunday school session materials will continue to be delivered to our families. The DVD of the new unit's skits is coming to a package at your doorstep very soon!

See you Sunday!
Mrs. Sarah

Parables of

JESUS

- The Sower •
- The Talents •
- The Lost Son •
- The Lost Sheep •
- The Mustard Seed •
- The Good Samaritan •
- The Wise and Foolish Builders •

Unit Memory Verse:

"Then Jesus said,
"Whoever has ears
should listen." "
Mark 4:9 (NIRV)

Lesson 1 – The Sower

Scripture: Mark 4:1-20, Parable of the Sower

Kids will be introduced to what a parable is in this lesson. They will also study the parable of the sower to learn that God's Word has to be number one in our life and if we try to make other things more important than following Jesus and obeying His word, it can cause our faith to stop growing and die out.

Objective: Kids will learn that a parable is a short story meant to help us learn an important lesson.

Lesson 2 – The Talents

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents/Bags of Gold

In this lesson kids will learn that it is not God's plan for us to compare ourselves to others, but instead we need to try to do our best with what God has given us. God is not as concerned with how much or how little you have as much as He is concerned with how faithful and obedient you are with what you do have.

Objective: Kids will identify gifts, talents, or abilities they have been given and state how they can use those for God. The Good Samaritan Scripture: Luke 10:25-37,

Lesson 3 – Parable of the Good Samaritan

Kids will learn from this parable that God wants us to show love to everyone, even people who are different than us or might disagree with us. This parable also shows us that we need to be ok with having our plans interrupted if it means we have to choose between helping someone and getting to do something we had planned to do. That's how we show God and others that we love them, is by helping even when it's not always easy for us.

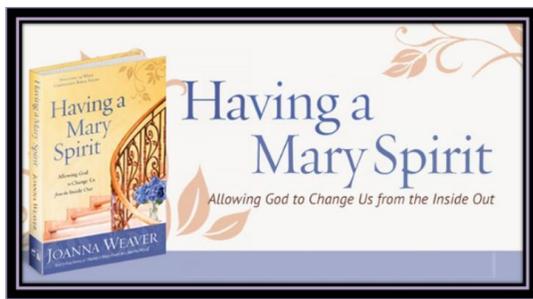
Objective: Kids will learn that thinking of others ahead of ourselves is really important to God.

Lesson 4 – The Unforgiving Servant

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35, Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

The parable of the unforgiving servant will help kids learn that we do not have a right to hold a grudge against others. This parable will help challenge kids to remember that they have made mistakes and hurt others when they are tempted to get mad at someone else, or judge someone else for making a mistake. They will be challenged to remember how good it felt when someone forgave them and be encouraged to try to do the same for someone else.

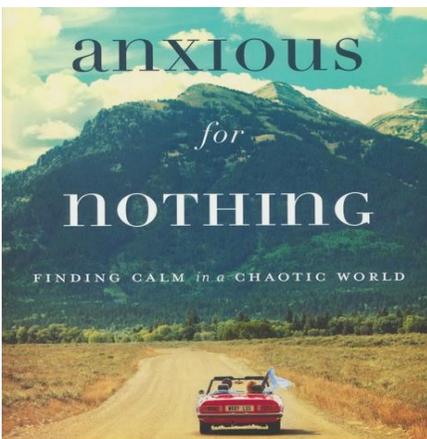
Objective: Kids will learn that when they are tempted to get angry or hold a grudge, they should remember that they have made mistakes too.



LADIES' SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: All ladies are invited to join the new study series. Each week, Zoom links are made available for any ladies who are unable to join the group in person.

In *Having a Mary Spirit*, Joanna Weaver, author of the bestseller *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, directs your gaze past your own shortcomings to the God who stands ready, willing, and able to make a new woman out of you. Drawing on the stories of biblical Marys and others whose experience with God transformed their lives, Weaver shows how you can find the hope, healing, wholeness, and joy your heart longs for.

We have 4 more sessions in this study series. On October 4, we will begin a Max Lucado study entitled *Anxious for Nothing*. See the description below, and let Crystal or Sarah know if you would like to participate in this series so that we can order your books.



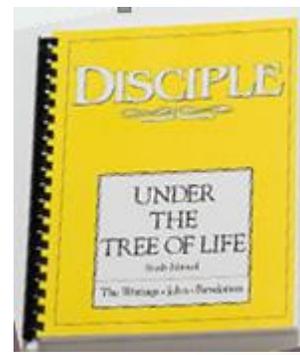
NEW LADIES' SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: On September 27, the ladies' Sunday school class will begin a new 5-week study series by Max Lucado titled *Anxious for Nothing*. Read the publisher's description below. In this five-session video Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in the most underlined verse in the Bible, Philippians 4:6-7:

Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

As you follow the Biblical prescription – celebrating God's goodness, asking for his help, leaving your concerns with him, and meditating on good things – you will experience God's peace. This is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help you reframe the way you look at your fears.

With the heart of a pastor and his poetic storytelling and homespun humor, Max will help you:

- Let God help you win the war on worry and receive the lasting peace of Christ.
- Recognize the difference between present anxiety and persistent anxiety.
- Find true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Train yourself to rejoice in all circumstances.
- Discover the secret of remaining calm when you feel you have more than you can handle.
- Know how to encourage a friend and help them navigate anxiety and fear with real help from God's Word.



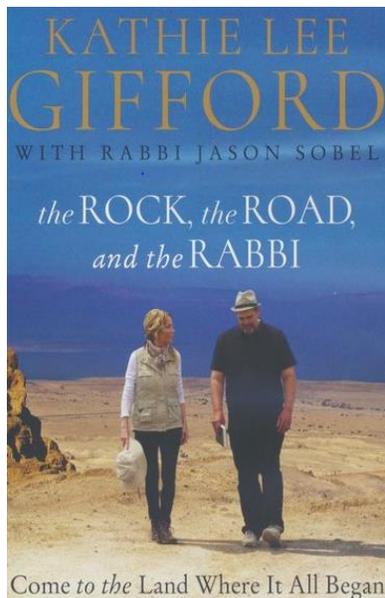
DISCIPLE IV: UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE is prepared for those who have completed **DISCIPLE I: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY**. This study concentrates on the Writings (Old Testament books not in the Torah or the Prophets), the Gospel of John, and Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads natural to an emphasis on worship in the study. Present throughout the entire study is the sense of living toward completion—toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in the Revelation.

If you would like to participate in this new small group study, please contact the church office to reserve your place. The group size is limited. The study will be led by Diane McGregor on Monday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. each week. The first session will be on Monday, September 14.

WAYS TO SERVE IN JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

- Scripture reading during weekly worship
- Facilitating/leading children's/youth Sunday school lesson
- Presenting children's message in worship each week (except the first Sunday of the month)
- Donating to mission projects (i.e. hurricane relief efforts, Operation Christmas Child supplies, etc.)
- Preparing/serving hot meals during hurricane relief efforts
- Participate in weekly devotions, Bible studies, prayer days, and other small groups
- Participate in the chancel choir

If you would like to be a part of lay ministry in our church, please see Brother Walter for more information. The Scripture readings, children's sermons, and Sunday school lessons can be done as a part of a rotation with others. Please let Sarah know if you are interested in this so that she can add you to a list of servants and get your materials for you.



NEW LADIES' BIBLE STUDY begins August 26th. Let us know if you would like to participate in this study as soon as possible so that we can order your books.

Kathie Lee Gifford always believed the Bible held the answers to every question a person could ask. Her problem was, how could she be sure of what the Bible was really saying, when we are so separated from the ancient Jewish culture in which it was written?

As a lifelong student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires.

In this six-session video study, Kathie Lee invites you to join her as she visits sites in Israel that have impacted her life. As she shares her story, Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi who was trained in the ancient rabbinical way, provides fascinating background details into the language, culture and heritage that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel will take you and your group beyond the typical "Sunday school" teaching to examine the original texts of the Bible.

Now you can walk with Kathie on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith:

- **The Rock (Jesus Christ):** Hear directly from Kathie about her life-changing and ever-deepening connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul.
- **The Road (Israel):** Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant.
- **The Rabbi (God's Word):** Go beyond a Sunday-school approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures.

Come! Explore the land of Israel and mine the treasures of God's Word. There is so much more!

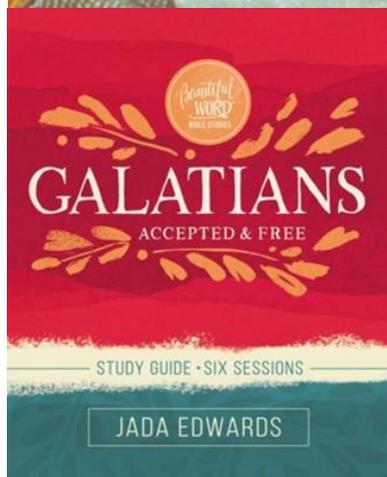
Sessions include:

- **Bethlehem:** Where It All Began
- **Nazareth:** The Early Years
- **Capernaum:** Ministry Headquarters
- **Galilee:** Ministry Grounds
- **Mount of Olives:** The Triumphal Entry
- **Jerusalem:** Crucifixion and Resurrection

New Ladies' Bible Study Coming in October...Liberating freedom is found in Christ's acceptance!

The Book of Galatians is a passionate letter written by the apostle Paul explaining what it really looks like to be followers of Jesus Christ. Paul is adamant in his letter that the gospel is all we need to know and to live truly free – that Jesus is enough and nothing needs to be added. There is certain and specific freedom in receiving our acceptance in Christ and that freedom gives us authority, assignment, adoption, and restoration like nothing else!

God loved you so much that he created a plan that you could never have achieved on your own. And when you don't get that, you find yourself subject to the bondage that you were in before you even knew Jesus. What you'll see as Jada walks you through Galatians is Paul giving a very passionate and urgent assurance, helping you understand that once you place faith in Jesus, you are transformed. You are made new. You are forever a part of the family of God. You are fully accepted, and you are free.



Sessions include:

- The Hidden Power of Acceptance
- Your Life is Rich in Purpose
- Approval in Christ > Human Approval
- The Truth About Your Inheritance
- You've Been Set Free For This
- Your Restoration Restores Others



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- September 12th: Theresa Lyons
- September 13th: Aaron Cooper
- September 14th: Brittany Talley
- September 16th: Miriam Kahl
Matthew Precht
Jacquie Prielipp
- September 17th: Harry Ann White

- September 22nd: Cheryl LeJeune
- September 24th: Hazel Hoffpauir
- September 26th: Ginger Brown
- September 27th: Mike Boutté
- September 29th: Bryan Goodreau

Hurricane Laura Relief Donation Items:

- Ensure/Pediasure
- Off/Mosquito Spray
- Work Gloves
- Personal Toiletries (i.e. toothbrush, deodorant, soap, etc.)
- Ant Poison
- Sunscreen
- N95 Masks
- Clothespins
- Odoban
- Bleach
- Wipes (Disinfectant)
- Wipes (Baby/Flushable)
- Tire Patch/Plug Kits

LINEMEN SPECIFIC NEEDS:

- Socks
- Gold-Bond Powder
- Boudreaux's Butt Paste

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

– Mark 12:30-31

