

Monday: Matthew 2:1 - 12. Who were these “magi” (they weren’t “kings” regardless of the lyrics in the carol) and the text never says how many there were. Whoever they were, they followed an unexpected star with the hope of a new King offering the world a fresh start. They may have spent up to 2 years following the star. Have you ever made a lengthy journey in life to find Jesus, or was he “right there” for you as a child? How have you learned to value and worship him?

Tuesday: Genesis 12: 1 - 3. God’s blessing to Abraham is so that Abraham and his offspring could share the blessing - blessed to be a blessing. These stories probably took their final form during the time of Israel’s monarchy. Later, after Israel and Judah had been conquered, these old promises gave a vision about who God’s people might be in the future. In what ways is God’s promise not just ancient history. Some might say CUMC’s best days are behind it. What step of faith is God asking of you to take in order to live into God’s promise for a new future in this congregation?

Wednesday: Jonah 4: 1 - 11. The writer of Jonah had a superb touch with irony. The book described an astounding preaching success - a whole city repenting and turning to God. The preacher’s attitude? “Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry.” What made Jonah so angry? Is it possible for God to care about people without endorsing violent or other hurtful actions, like Assyria’s violence toward Israel? Is there any person or group of people you’d rather see God “zap” than to see them repent? Is it right for God to extend mercy and grace to all people?

Thursday: Matthew 28: 16 - 20. A disciple is not just a person who knows some things about Jesus. A disciple follows Jesus all areas of life. It’s not a one-time thing but a daily choice to invest in ourselves and others. How are you investing in yourself as a disciple? How are you exhorting others in love? How do you keep grounded in faith in the face of challenges? How can knowing Jesus is with you give you courage, strength and peace to reach beyond your comfort zone to bless others and lift others up?

Friday: Matthew 7:12. Get an index card and on one side write “I did or said something kind.” On the other side write, “I did or said something hurtful.” Pay attention to your words over the next week. Mark the side of the card each time you do something kind or hurtful. No one else needs to see your card. It’s a way to be intentional to work toward being less hurtful and more kind. Pray for God’s help to treat all people near and far with love and kindness.

Monday: Matthew 2:1 - 12. Who were these “magi” (they weren’t “kings” regardless of the lyrics in the carol) and the text never says how many there were. Whoever they were, they followed an unexpected star with the hope of a new King offering the world a fresh start. They may have spent up to 2 years following the star. Have you ever made a lengthy journey in life to find Jesus, or was he “right there” for you as a child? How have you learned to value and worship him?

Tuesday: Genesis 12: 1 - 3. God’s blessing to Abraham is so that Abraham and his offspring could share the blessing - blessed to be a blessing. These stories probably took their final form during the time of Israel’s monarchy. Later, after Israel and Judah had been conquered, these old promises gave a vision about who God’s people might be in the future. In what ways is God’s promise not just ancient history. Some might say CUMC’s best days are behind it. What step of faith is God asking of you to take in order to live into God’s promise for a new future in this congregation?

Wednesday: Jonah 4: 1 - 11. The writer of Jonah had a superb touch with irony. The book described an astounding preaching success - a whole city repenting and turning to God. The preacher’s attitude? “Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry.” What made Jonah so angry? Is it possible for God to care about people without endorsing violent or other hurtful actions, like Assyria’s violence toward Israel? Is there any person or group of people you’d rather see God “zap” than to see them repent? Is it right for God to extend mercy and grace to all people?

Thursday: Matthew 28: 16 - 20. A disciple is not just a person who knows some things about Jesus. A disciple follows Jesus all areas of life. It’s not a one-time thing but a daily choice to invest in ourselves and others. How are you investing in yourself as a disciple? How are you exhorting others in love? How do you keep grounded in faith in the face of challenges? How can knowing Jesus is with you give you courage, strength and peace to reach beyond your comfort zone to bless others and lift others up?

Friday: Matthew 7:12. Get an index card and on one side write “I did or said something kind.” On the other side write, “I did or said something hurtful.” Pay attention to your words over the next week. Mark the side of the card each time you do something kind or hurtful. No one else needs to see your card. It’s a way to be intentional to work toward being less hurtful and more kind. Pray for God’s help to treat all people near and far with love and kindness.