

# Sunday November 11 through Sunday November 18

- As we enter into this “Holy”-day season, Pastor Robert is going to help us to remember that our focus should be on people and not things.
- The Administrative Board will be meeting this evening at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to come take part in the discussion.
- United Methodist Men will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday.
- The study group at The Ugly Mug will be meeting again at 11 am.
- Wednesday evening the Prayer Team will be meeting at 6 pm.
- The choir will be continuing their work in perfecting the songs for the cantata.
- MEOC will be back in our Fellowship Hall on Friday morning.
- Pastor Robert shows us how Hope is the practice of Faith



## This WEEK at Trinity

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### Sunday November 11

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF  
7:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting

### Monday November 12

6:30 pm—Parsonage group canceled  
6:30 pm—United Methodist Men Meeting  
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

### Tuesday November 13

11:00 am—Study Group at Ugly Mug  
7:00 pm—Girl Scouts

### Wednesday November 14

6:00 pm—Prayer Team  
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

### Thursday November 15

No Scheduled Activities

### Friday November 16

9:00 am—MEOC in Fellowship Hall

### Saturday November 17

No Scheduled Activities

### Sunday November 18

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF

Faith Teaches us to Love People Not Things  
Genesis 14:14-24

God said to Abram, I will bless you. I will make you a Great Nation. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you. You are to be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

To curse someone, give them Fruit from The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. To bless someone, give them fruit from the Tree of Life. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil produces fear and deficit. The Tree of Life produces Peace and Abundance.

The Tree of Life grows in Bethel, the House of God. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil grows in Ai, the place of ruins. To live in the Promised Land means we see have eyes to see both Bethel and Ai. To be the Blessing God called Abram to be, he had to learn the difference between living by Faith and being guided by his senses. **Are things always as they appear?**

When Abram faced the famine, he had sense to go where he found abundance. Remember, God promised to bless Abram, not make him a puppet. Our five senses aid our survival. Faith and blessing guide our Salvation. Abram left the boundaries of the Promised Land to enter Egypt. **Your five senses interpret your physical surroundings. Faith reinterprets all things through the Cross where mercy, grace, and love redeem life.**

You will remember that Abram was so blinded by fear of the famine that when he entered Egypt fear guided all of his senses. He feared the Egyptian men would kill him. He feared Sarai's beauty. He gave his wife to Pharaoh. Giving Sarai away placed the promised Great Nation at risk. Food was at the center of Abram's fear. Things became more important than Sarai, God's Promise, or being a blessing. The Good News is that God's unconditional Promise may be delayed by Abram's fear but cannot make the Promise void. God will bless Abram. Remember, the Promise is based on Life, a son. **Does Abram's fear produce a place like Bethel, the House of God, or a place of ruins, Ai?**

When Pharaoh realized what Abram had done, he sent him back to the Promised Land with Sarai, his wife, and wealth beyond measure. The wealth overflowed to Lot. Abram and Lot had so many things they were forced to separate. Their things created conflict. Abundance of things is not the same as Abundant Life. **Describe a time when you became estranged from a loved one because of quarreling over things.**

You may remember from last week that Abram said, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. **9** Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

When Abram hears that Lot has become a victim of war, he remembers they are close relatives. Abram went, by night, with 318 men and defeated the King who sacked Sodom. When everyone was returned home to safety the King of Sodom offered Abram all of the spoils of battle. Abram remembers that he and Lot originally separated because of the wealth Pharaoh had given them. Pharaoh had made him wealthy. He has learned a great lesson. He will not allow the King of Sodom to brag, "I made Abram rich." **Jesus says, "It is hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Do you find treasure in the things money can buy or in the things the Cross redeems?**

Peace is made of faith and blessing. "Seek to find" the center of war and rumors of war, conflict, divorce, and broken families. "Ask" the time things became more important than people. Look and listen and you will discover how life was turned into ruins. **What is the difference between fixing a problem and redeeming a relationship? Watch Jesus on his WAY to the Cross. Listen to the Truth Jesus speaks from the Cross. At the cross, Jesus redeems sin and death with Life.**

**How would the atmosphere of our culture change if Believers focused on God's redemption in whomever we see Sin and brokenness? Faith opens the eyes of our souls to see "the things people do" through the Way, Truth, and Life of Christ.**

**What we do for a living creates many things. Our comfort and survival depend on what we do. The danger of focusing solely on what people do is seen in our culture's appetite for turning people into things to be fixed, replaced, or thrown away! Jesus redeems. Redemption heals. It never fixes, replaces, or throws people away. When we trade our appetite for treating people as "things" for eyes of faith we will be merciful as God is merciful. This is what it means to reflect God's image.**

**Be God's Blessing. Blessings change the culture's atmosphere. The place of ruins turns into a life of hope.**

One in Christ,  
Robert