



August 3, 2026

Houston Trinity News

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV)

Friends,

August has arrived. The "Dog Days of Summer".

Dog Days of Summer is a phrase without a clear origin. Most think that it goes back as far as the Greek and Roman days when the time was so hot that food spoiled and even the wine became ruined. According to The Old Farmer's Almanac: *This period of intense heat coincides with the heliacal rising of Sirius, the Dog Star, part of the constellation Canis Major. Ancient civilizations noticed the star appeared in the eastern sky just before dawn during midsummer.*



The Greeks believed its brilliance intensified the summer sun, and its name, "Sirius" (σεῖριος), even means "scorching." For the Egyptians, Sirius—called Sothis—signaled the annual flooding of the Nile, a critical event for agriculture and survival. While the star has no actual effect on Earth's temperature, the lore surrounding Sirius has endured for thousands of years.

In America it became a reference used for the latter part of the baseball season when players encountered extensive heat during the end of a long season.

Here in Houston, we relate it to days with oppressive heat, dryness (unless there is a hurricane), high humidity (always). To times when most vacations have been taken, and families are getting ready to go back to school (most students aren't happy, but most parents are). Dog days. Those are the days you wouldn't want to give to your worst enemy. Yet we live them here in Houston, every year.

I guess the question we should ask ourselves is how do we live them? I am not asking how we survive them, I am asking how we live them. What attitude do we greet the day with. What mood are we going to put ourselves in. Are we going to let the mundane get in the way of our relationship with God and our neighbors.

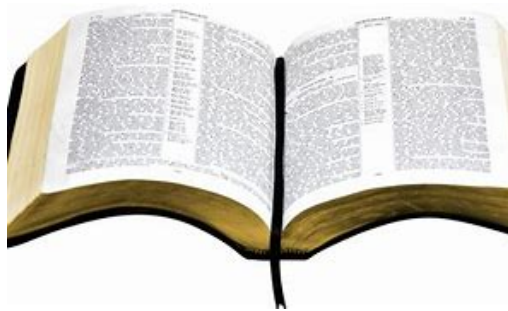
Our revival Sunday this past Sunday gave us a hint at where we need to be even in the dog days. We need to be seeking God's face. We need to be singing God's praises. We saw it in the psalmist. Even in the midst of a rough time, praising God: looking, listening, discerning, following, moving forward. That is just the opposite of what our tendencies are when we have days like

August. We want to sit at home in the A/C. We don't want to go out into the heat. We aren't thinking there is much to praise. That is what happens if we are not careful. We can let the world around us; we can let the climate we live in zap us of our desire to praise.

That is not who we are. That is not who we are called to be. If you are struggling with the "Dog days of summer" join us this Sunday for our next revival Worship. We are going to have some Old Time Religion. We are going to sing. And pray. And hear some testimonies. And sing some more. But most of all we are going to lift our voices to Praise our God. A God who loves each and every one of us even when we forget, even when we think we are unlovable.

Join us Sunday. Send me an email today or tomorrow with your favorite hymn. We are going to sing as many as we can.

God bless you. See you Sunday



Scripture Reading

**1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.**

**2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

**3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

**4 Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

**5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

**6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

**16 When he summoned famine against the land,
and broke every staff of bread,**

**17 he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

**18 His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck was put in a collar of iron;**

**19 until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD kept testing him.**

**20 The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.**

**21 He made him lord of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions,**

22 to instruct his officials at his pleasure,

45b Praise the LORD!

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (NRSV)

Calendar Reminders - August

August 2 - Sunday Worship - Communion

August 3 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Exodus - led by Pastor Manuel

August 5- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job- 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 9 - Sunday Worship

- Confirmation
- Backpack Blessings

August 10 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Exodus - led by Pastor Manuel

August 12- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 16 - Sunday Worship

- Church Directory

August 17 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Exodus - led by Pastor Manuel

August 19- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 23 - Sunday Worship

- Council Meeting

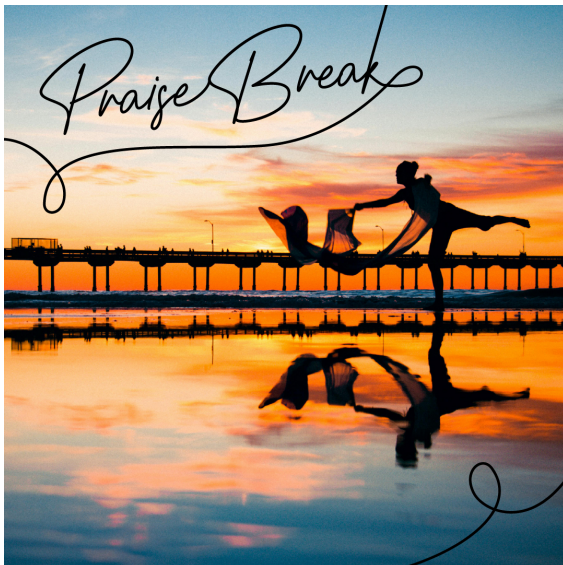
August 24 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Exodus - led by Pastor Manuel

August 27- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 29 - Women of Faith Prayer Meeting - 2:30

August 30 - Sunday Worship

- Congregational Visioning Workshop
-



New Sermon Series Begins August 2 - Praise Breaks

Does the summer seem too long? Is it just getting too hot and not a lot of excitement? Maybe it is time for a praise break!

You are invited to take this short, three-week pause in the busyness of a summer of activities to remind ourselves that the God we worship and the Christ we follow are with us every step along the way. And the only appropriate response to encountering the divine among us is to sing, shout, and declare our praise.

Join us as we take a Praise Break. Join us as we bring a spirit of revival to the church these first three weeks

of August. No revival tents. I promise. Cool air-conditioned Sanctuary but maybe a little more singing. Maybe a little more praying. Maybe a lot more praise. Join Us!

Series Titles

August 2 - Behold the Face

August 9 - Sing Praises



image courtesy of Focus on the Family

This Sunday - Give Me Some Old Time Religion

You do not want to miss our Revival Sunday Worship this week. We are going to sing all our old favorite hymns. We are going to pray for the church and each other. We are going to give witness to the glory of God and the love, grace and mercy poured on each of us. We are going to Praise God with our voices our hearts our hands and our feet.

We are looking for you. Invite a friend.

**Backpack
Sunday
August 9**



Bring your backpack so we can bless it before you head back to school

Backpack Blessings - August 9

We will bless all of the backpacks during Worship on August 9. If you have a backpack ready for back to school bring it on August 9 and we will bless it in preparation for the start of classes.

Church Directory - Stop by this Sunday!

Dawn Jones and Barbara Goddard will be in the Narthex on August 9th and 16th to begin gathering information for our new Church Photo directory. They will have forms for you to provide your contact information (only if you want). They will also be taking photos.

As we grow it will be important to have a directory so everyone will know who we are.

If you are a photographer Dawn and Barbara could use your assistance with the photos.

Youth Night

Youth night was a great success. Stayed tuned for our August date!



2026 Congregational Focus Corner



Community Outreach/Missions

We are nearing the first actions of our Missional Community program. Stay tuned for exciting information of the first effort we are taking in our community.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Velma Bailey, Mei Mei, Angela Leslie or any member of our Outreach committee.



Samaritans Purse - Operations Christmas Child

The Missional Community is asking the congregation to prayerfully consider the Shoebox program we heard about this past Sunday. We will be considering how we are going to participate in this program as part of our outreach.

Prayer

August Prayer Focus - Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Our prayer focus for August is an important reminder that we are called to devote ourselves to learning, to fellowship, to praying and to breaking bread together.



During this month pray unceasingly for each other, for the church, and for the world. When the Holy Spirit helps us align our prayers with the works of God, they are powerful. Remember that we are created in God's image, called to continue Jesus' ministry and mission and this world and convicted to that work through the Holy Spirit. Allow the Spirit to guide your prayers and they can create works greater than we can imagine.

As we continue to walk our prayer journey this year pray daily to understand where our faith lies. Pray daily to understand that the power of men is nothing compared to the power of God. pray daily that we, the body, the church are beholden only to Christ, not to men.

If you are interested in being a part of the planning for our monthly prayer focus, please contact Mel Bernardo or any member of the Prayer Team.

News from the Marvin Rader School

School opens Today, June 8

School opens on Monday, June 8. But our regular classes start on June 15th. We will have a three-day orientation and classes will only be from 8am to 11 am.

The Parents Orientation will be held on June 11 at 9 am.

Our Faculty have been busy with each preparation for their classes and room assignment. The renovation of the roof had been done. Hopefully it works well when the typhoon season comes.

We are looking forward to having more than 60 learners. As of now we have 64.

We had a week - long celebration of the 59th Founding anniversary of Marvin A. Rader School on Feb. 22 - 27. with the theme: Educating the Mind, the Heart and the Hands 59 Years Nurturing Faith and Service. The activities included Science Quiz Bee, Mathlympic, Storytelling, Clay



modelling, Fun Games, Booth Sales, Cake Raffle or a Cause. The highlight of the celebration was a motorcade to promote our school.

Our school finally closed with the moving -up/ graduation and awarding of certificates on March 31.



The Parents Project of renovating the roof was a huge success. The parents were able to donate 56K and we were able to receive donations from friends abroad and local supporters for the project. The renovation was almost done.

Regards to all and please keep us in your prayers.

Prayer Corner

Please let Nini or me know if you would like to have your prayer request added to the newsletter.

This weeks' prayer requests.

Prayers for Healing

Jose Liwanag
Saffa Gabba
Christopher Hilton
Bruce Jocz
Pam Custer
Anita Solas
Louise Mosley
Michael Bhola
Jared Davis
Rev. Steven Newcombe - FUMC
Bill Robinson
Josh Bridges
Florante Paz
Fawn Cumby
Christian Mirasol
Leticia Abenojar
Juanita Miller
Ruben Paz
Shellie Robertson
Teddy Ellison
Mel Bousley
Ben Bailon
Zandy Aquino
Ed Roethlein
Linda Litt



Gracious God, as we embark on this new journey to cast our vision, we seek Your wisdom. Help us to put aside our understanding and trust fully in the direction that You will send us.

Open our minds to think beyond what we can imagine. Open our hearts to feel the Spirit working here. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear the direction you wish us to travel.

We hear your call Lord, upon the life of Houston Trinity and we want to answer. Yet we are not sure how. We pray Lord, that You bless us, bless our visioning exercises, bless our decisions so that we may go into your world and bless everyone we meet.

Guide our thoughts and actions so our choices will reflect Your will. May we

Prayers for the World

The peace of God to reign.
For the Marvin Rader School

Open Hearts and Minds; Eyes that See and Ears that Hear

Houston Trinity United Methodist Church

Prayers for Comfort

The Rillo family as they grieve the passing of Rod this week.

August Prayer Focus - Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

participate in this effort not swayed by the past but grounded in your divine truth.

Give us peace of spirit and confirmation that we are proceeding on the right path. We surrender our plans to You and pray that You lead us in Your perfect way.

We pray all this in the name of your son, our Redeemer, our Savior, Jesus Christ,

AMEN



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