

Tomball UMC Prayer Trail

Welcome to our prayer trail. As you take the steps around our trail, notice the various symbols of life and faith you will see along the way. Outlined below are some reference points you will see and some thoughts, scriptures and prayers to aid you in your journey. May you find God's blessing!

We begin and end with the Cross...

The same Cross...because it is the Cross of Christ that reminds us our faith in Jesus saves us for new life today and also reminds us that through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are given eternal life. As you turn to the right of the Cross to begin your journey around our Prayer Trail, read and/or share these words from the Bible and the following prayer:

- Scripture: 1 Peter 2:24 - *"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*
- Prayer: Dear God, as I begin to walk this trail, help me to remember your love, your grace, your challenge and your promises that I am redeemed and that I belong to You. Thank you, Father! AMEN

The Tomball Community Garden

On your right is the Tomball Community Garden. It provides food for hungry people in our area and is worked by people of many churches and many faiths. As God prepared a wonderful garden for the first man and first woman, now He, through us, works this garden that we might bless others with food and the power of His love.

- Scripture: Genesis 2:8&9 - *Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
- Prayer: Dear Lord, I am grateful for how You provide for me. And I am grateful for this garden that provides for others. May the food grown here fill the hungry with nourishment and with love! AMEN

The Calliham Outdoor Chapel

Just past the garden, you will see an outdoor chapel. It reminds us that we do not have to be in a church building to have worship and to praise Jesus, but

can gather in any place with others who want to seek His will and blessing. Worship is our opportunity to show our love for God and to seek His guidance for the living of our lives.

- Scripture: Psalm 95:1-3 - *Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.*
- Prayer: Dear God, I offer myself to You in praise! I raise my hands to You and lift my heart to You! You, O, Lord, are the creator and sustainer of all things and I pledge myself to You, that I can show your love to others! In Christ, AMEN

Fruit Trees

The fruit trees on your left will provide lots of yummy snacks in their seasons. Oranges, figs, lemons, grapefruit...all give nutrition to our bodies and delights to our taste-buds! Likewise, we are called to produce "fruit" as we love and serve Jesus, helping to nourish the souls of others and to provide a delightful community in the love of Jesus.

- Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- Prayer: Lord, I want my life to be fruitful in service to you and in love for others. Water me, prune me, keep me free from anything that would keep me from growing. Help me to be who You have designed me to be! In Jesus' name. AMEN

Bees

Bees make honey! And our bees over to your right make delicious honey that we share with those who are in need along with other produce from the garden. Honey is like a special blessing...not really needful, but definitely a joyous surprise! God provides for us, as well. And He not only provides the bare minimum of what we need, but delights and surprises us, too!

- Scripture: Exodus 16:31 - *The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.*
- Prayer: Lord, You have blessed us with so much in our lives! And we surrender to You knowing all we need will be met in You! Thank you for

your blessing and teach us to live thankful lives! To You be the glory!
AMEN

Firepits (there are 5, see if the kids can find them all!)

First on your right and then on your left, there are some fire pits our Boys Scouts use when they are camping out behind the church. In the Bible, fire is a cleansing power...one that symbolizes the presence and power of God. John the Baptist spoke of the coming Messiah who would use fire to protect His own and scatter the wicked and the proud.

- Scripture: Matthew 3:12 - *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*
- Prayer: Eternal God, I need You just now! There are so many things in life that threaten and frighten me. Yet I know You are there and You are more powerful than anything or anyone I face! You are the fire of hope and wholeness and I thank you! AMEN

Bridges

This is the first of 4 bridges you will go over on the trail. See if the kids can find them all! The Bible tells us that we, on our own, fall short over and over again in how God wants us to live. That is sin. But Jesus provides the "bridge" for us, to live in the presence of God, forgiven and free to start living a new and better life!

- Scripture: Romans 3:23-24 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*
- Prayer: Father, alone I am not enough. I can't be good enough. I don't have the ability or the talent or the money or the looks...to be all that I want to be. But through Jesus I am still Yours. You call me to Yourself and make sure I have the way to You through Jesus. AMEN

Wire Tunnel

Most tunnels are dark places. Ours is not, except at night, but think about it like a regular tunnel! We all know there are dark times when we feel alone or lost and when we need to find light that will guide us home again. In those dark times, the Bible tells us God is with us...we are never alone! And in our darkness, God has sent Jesus to guide us home to Him.

- Scripture: Psalm 23:4 - *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
- Prayer: Heavenly Father, things can look awfully dark and scary sometimes. Help me to remember I am not alone...never alone, but that You are with me always! You are my source of comfort and Hope and I can live with confidence and assurance. Gratefully I pray. AMEN

Butterfly Garden

When you see the beautiful butterflies that flutter around this area in their season, you would never know they had once been plain, even ugly, caterpillars before undergoing the amazing transformation of color, beauty and flight! Just like that, when sin and sorrow made us ugly and sad, Jesus died for us. We did not have to get right before He did that...He did it when we were lost that we could be transformed into new creatures in Him.

- Scripture: Romans 5:6 - *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*
- Prayer: Lord, I pray that You will transform my life. Help me not to live by the old ugliness, but to remember that you have made me new that I can live a beautiful life in the light of Your love. AMEN

Wilderness

Sometimes it feels like we are in the wilderness. This part of our trail does not have as much to look at and it would be easy to think it is empty and maybe even a little boring. But even in the wilderness, God is there! When we feel alone, when we are afraid, when life seems empty and meaningless...God is with us and will guide and protect us. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed the coming of the Messiah...out of the wilderness...showing that at all times, we live in God's love!

- Scripture: Luke 3:4 - *As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.*
- Prayer: Holy God, even in the dry and dusty places in my life You are with me! Remind me that even when I am empty, You are there to fill me and bring me Home in Jesus. AMEN

Houses of the Community

Look over to your right. There are houses over there...beyond the wilderness! You see, we are surrounded by people. We know some of them and do not know others. But we have the opportunity to share Jesus with ALL of

them! Sometimes that is in what we say to them. Sometimes it is how we live in front of them. But in all things, we are witnesses...people come to know Jesus through our examples!

- Scripture: Matthew 5:16 - *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Prayer: Lord, give me a heart for the people around me. Help me not to stop with my church family, but to keep living my life for those in the community around me who may not yet know Jesus. Help me to live with witness to His love and majesty so all can see! In His Name, AMEN

Children's Playground

What we teach our children is important! It was so important to the early Jews that they embedded the responsibility to teach the children in their most sacred text about who God is! It is important for us, as well, to protect, teach and guide our children into loving relationships with God through Christ.

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 - *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*
- Prayer: Eternal God, remind us that we are not only learners, but teachers, as well. Show us how we can share Your love in everything we do. Enable us to live out our faith so that others can learn about You from us. Especially, we pray Your blessing on our children so that they can come to know You! AMEN

Picnic Tables

Eating with our friends and families at picnic tables like these on your right can be fun and can bring us closer to each other, as well. The early church knew how important this fellowship was, and the Bible reminds us that fellowship with each other comes when we live our lives in the light of Christ and share that light with each other. In fellowship, then, we remember His sacrifice and are brought together in faith.

- Scripture: 1 John 1:5-7 - *This is the message we have heard from him and declared to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not*

live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- Prayer: Bind us together, Lord, that we might be knit together as a community of faith in Your love. Strengthen each of us that we might strengthen each other. And draw us together through the blood of Your Son that in all we do as a family of faith, we will give you honor and glory. In Jesus' holy name. AMEN

Return to the Cross

So here we are...back at the beginning...at the foot of the cross. When we started we thought about what it means to enter a relationship with God and to have our lives changed because of what Jesus did on the cross. Now we remember that beyond this life is life eternal, granted to us by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus.

- Scripture: Romans 6:8 - *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*
- Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am grateful for your salvation and look forward to living forever with You. Help me to live today with the joy and holiness that will reflect my hope of eternal life in you. In Jesus' name. AMEN