



SPIRITUAL LIFE MESSAGE

Song: "I Need You to Survive" HEZEKIAH WALKER

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25

Topic: **THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP**

The meteorological summer of 2023 has ended. However, the summer of 2023 for many will be remembered as the first season of full-fledged in-person gatherings since the onset of COVID. It was the summer when people were willing to leave the land of familiar and venture into the unfamiliar with other people who were unmasked with unknown COVID vaccine and booster status. It marked the summer of the "new normal."

I say "new normal" because although still a major concern for individuals with compromised immune systems, the impact of contracting the virus is typically not as severe as it was in 2019 and 2020. As we gathered in our various settings, one could observe individuals who were wearing masks, as well as others who were not. There were individuals who greeted each other with hugs while others nodded their heads or gave fist or elbow bumps. No matter the individual concerns regarding COVID, anyone present at these gatherings experienced the joy of fellowshiping with others.

Verse 25 of the above Scripture tells us to "not neglect our meeting together..." Whether this Scripture influenced the decision of our International President Dr. Jacqueline Scott and her committee to have an in person, not hybrid meeting this summer, I do not know. However, I must believe their knowledge of this Scripture had some bearing, either conscious or subconscious, on their decision to gather in Jacksonville Florida for the Women's Missionary Council Quadrennial Assembly, and for this I am grateful.

The 20th Quadrennial Assembly was a gathering where essential business was conducted, but more importantly, it was a gathering where meaningful interactions between sister missionaries and fellow believers occurred. The nature of these contacts varied. In some instances, ideas were shared that were helpful to the hearers. Some were simply words of encouragement that gave the recipient motivation to keep forging ahead. Others marked the beginning of new friendships. No matter the interaction, all were uplifting, and the in-person gathering was permeated with a bond of Christian love that will be remembered by all until we meet again.

Prayer: Dear Father in Heaven. Thank You for bringing the Women's Missionary Council of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church together this summer. Please continue to unite us in gatherings where we can rejuvenate and recommit to sharing the Love of Jesus throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

WORD POWER

1 **Impose** 2 **Diatribes** 3 **Iniquity** 4 **Doldrums**

- ___ a. immoral or grossly unfair behavior
- ___ b. a state or period of inactivity, stagnation, or depression
- ___ c. force (something unwelcome or unfamiliar) to be accepted or put in place
- ___ d. an oration in which the speaker seeks to persuade an audience by debating an imaginary opponent

July August Word Search

Answers

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Avocado | Delphinium | Holistic | Sage |
| Bastille | Disco | Hollyhock | Samaritan |
| Caviar | Emoji | Lavender | Snorkeling |
| Cheesecake | Friendship | Mango | Tiger |
| Cherry | Geranium | Pecan Pie | Waterpark |
| Chess | Hammock | Reggae | Zinnias |

S Q D S M R N I Z J L R Q X W O Z F O W A O D A
 D S K I P X N R M E P W X A W C Z E V E U A E J
 B S G I S E O E S N E U E L L I T S A B F U L H
 J J R B G C C H M Z A E D S A I V V K A K I P K
 L C H E Y L O A U O X F A E C Z P K C N E B H B
 Z H N H G U P K N U J V S H T X X S F R P S I B
 V E E O N G V D L P O I E S I J B S T B P H N L
 F E G L I H A W P C I S R X B M O K M I H M I K
 M S A L L A X E A T S E E W D I Y E P U C T U Q
 E E S Y E M J D Z L M A Q O Y K M I Y G K K M X
 D C B H K M O L W H X J F J Q J H M S Z G W B J
 V A C O R O Q M U C N R M T Y S A D A T C U M C
 T K S C O C R A I V A C H G D S A D K N H I R C
 N E D K N K D X I R N M K N N Z N K O Y G E E I
 V T Q V S F M J P W P A E I M E H K Z Y A O D T
 E H Z R I B I Q A F B I T U T O K G G S Y J N S
 M R I Y I J N T V M R L I I U N G P J Z C P E I
 W R H B S Y E Z C F Z R H V R R F D N J T R V L
 T B A L R R I X V T F C B R E A J K F U N L A O
 A K O R P N U W P L U Q W G X Q M L D I J G L H
 A R E A N G D G V N W H I M U I N A R E G X B R
 W H R I S J K W E I B T S M A R M D S J P O A Y
 C K A F T A D B L E D Y Y C V K K M A J E Z E V
 R S S P R A O U W R N S F C T I P E E M S U H X