

*Daily Morning Message*  
*St Paul United Church of Christ*  
*5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247*  
*Allen M Fluent, Pastor*  
*Monday, August 16, 2021*

*Lectionary Readings*      *Psalm 34*  
*Genesis 43:1-15*  
*Acts 6:1-7*

*Today's Scripture Verse:*      *And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." (Acts 6:2-4)*

*What it means:*      The wording of this passage makes it seem as though the task being assigned to "seven good people, full of Spirit and Wisdom" was inconsequential. If so, why the high qualifications described? In truth, we are talking here about the Communion Meal, and those called to serve it were called "deacons." This sacred meal was to be the most central ritual of Christian worship and was required to be fairly and equally shared, because it represented the very essence of Christian fellowship – that all are welcome and none are ever to be left out, and all share in the mutuality of Christian love. The word of God is important to Christians, but our faith is rooted in an experience of active participation in the body of Christ

*Our time of reflection:*      May the truth of our words be confirmed by authenticity of our sharing, so that all may know that those who gather in the name of Christ are bearers of the Gospel of love.

