



Camp Chapel United Methodist Church

Rev. Laurel McNeal
Pastor

Gary Lushbaugh
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Pastor Laurel's Message

September has a way of gently calling us back into familiar rhythms. This is even true for the church: as Sunday School begins, groups start to meet again, events ramp back up, and we return to three Sunday morning worship services at 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 AM. This shift creates more opportunities for us to worship in a time and space that fits the rhythm of our lives and helps us grow in their faith.

As I am new to the Camp Chapel Community, I look forward to experiencing the uniqueness of each of these worship opportunities. At the same time, I know that each service will be a time for us to come before God with open hearts and minds, to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, to pray for one another, and to be then sent out in love to be the hands and feet of Christ.

As we enter this new season, I want to encourage each of us to see how the various church happenings can fit into the rhythms of life, whether it is by...

Joining one of our many groups: Adult Bible Study, the Band of Brothers, the Circle of Sisters, the Film Seminar, the Creation Care Team, the Garden Ministry, or the Children's Ministry.

Volunteering with one of our missions: the Food Pantry, the Furniture Ministry, the Pillow Ministry, or Churches for Streets of Hope.

Helping provide meaningful worship by singing in the choir, playing handbells, being part of the tech team, serving as a liturgist or prayer leader, or helping in other ways with the special services we have throughout the year.

Serving on one of our committees: Church Council, Finance Committee, SPRC, or Trustees.

Please reach out to the office or me if you are interested in one or more of these opportunities or have any questions about them.

In the weeks ahead, I hope we all make space for worship, to listen for God's voice, and to look for ways we can be connected to others. In the midst of all the busyness, it is my prayer that we all would approach this fall with a spirit of openness and anticipation for what God will do in and through us. I am curious to see how we will all continue to grow in our faith and in our relationships with each other, and with God.

Blessings,
Pastor Laurel

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Blessed, loaded up and ready to be delivered!

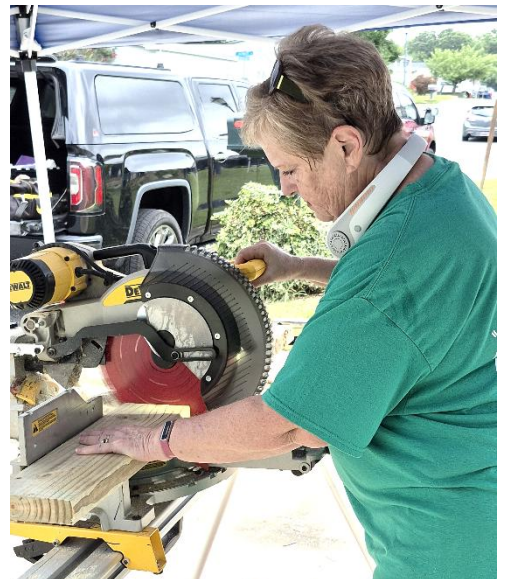
Thank you so much for the generous donations of school supplies!! We received 35 backpacks and were able to fill the backpacks with composition books, crayons, pencils, dry erase markers, glue sticks, post it notes, pencil cases, and binders. The Easter Regional Shelter has 41 children living there. Your generosity has helped these children begin the school year with a positive outlook.

Thanks again for your support and generosity!!
Sharon Smith and Maryann Plummer

CAMP CHAPEL'S WORKING HANDS

Another Baltimore County Christian Workcamp project is now under our (tool) belts and a job well done as we “ramped” up another home in Baltimore County. Yes, it was another hot day in July when our team set out to construct a handicap ramp for a home in Middle River. The homeowner, “Miss Mary,” and her family were thrilled with the result, and she just couldn’t believe that such an energetic team showed up to make her entry and exit to her home safer for her. Of course, we made it clear that we were working in the name of God’s glory.

A great big shout-out of thanks goes to participating team members: Ryan Bird, Rob Ermer, Phil Graham, Pastor Laurel McNeal, Dan Pazdersky, Pat and Mike Ryan, Jacob Smith, Alan Smith-Hicks, and Rick Wallace. Special thanks goes to Kathy Whitson and Sue Wallace who collected money for and brought our lunch each day.



CAMP CHAPEL NEWS



*Front row: Phil Graham, Ryan Bird, Pastor Laurel, and Pat Ryan
Back row: Mike Ryan, Rick Wallace, Bob Ermer, Jacob Smith, Dan Pazdersky, and Alan Smith-Hicks*

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

MUSIC PROGRAM PRESENTS 3 CONCERTS

There are three concerts currently scheduled for 2026-2027. Please put these on your calendar.



Sunday October 4 at 3 pm, The Deer Creek Chorale Chamber Choir. The Deer Creek Chorale Chamber Choir is a select ensemble with members from the larger Deer Creek Chorale. The ensemble has performed widely in the Baltimore region and brings audiences an eclectic array of choral music. The concert is titled "We Are the Music Makers" and will feature pieces from the following:

- "We Are the Music Makers" - O'Shaughnessy/Wright
- "Bring Me All Your Dreams" - Hughes/Harris
- "Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind" - Shakespeare/Rutter
- "Evening Peace" - Ruckert/Rheinberger
- "Saturn" - O'Neal/Breeze
- "Inscription on a Seashell" - Stroope
- "Seven Bridges Road" - Young/Johnson
- "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" - Bach/Arr.. Hayes
- "Illuminare" - Hagenberg

Sunday December 6, 2026 at 3:00 PM, Christmas Concert. The Christmas Concert will feature the musicians at Camp Chapel. Both the Chancel Choir and the Chapel Bells will perform as well as our outstanding Instrumentalists.

Sunday April 11, 2027 at 3:00 PM, Vocal Concert by Louis Gephardt-Gorsuch. Louis has often sung with our Chancel Choir. The concert by Louis will be a program taken from "The American Songbook". I am sure those in attendance will probably know the entire repertoire included in this concert.

Gary Lushbaugh,
Music Director

Coming Events

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Wednesday, September 2, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

Join us and enjoy an afternoon of lunch, games, and fellowship with other Camp Chapel members. Bring a sandwich and a drink for lunch (dessert will be provided). Feel free to bring your favorite board game, cards, or dominos.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Camp Chapel Children's Carnival

Saturday September 5, 11 am to 2 pm

Fun, Old-Fashioned Carnival Games for Every Age!

**Tickets are just 25¢ each
or \$5.00 to enjoy all the games!**

Petting Zoo Crafts Pony Rides
Refreshments Penny Candy Table Souvenirs

AND MORE!

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!
BRING THE NEIGHBORS!**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! If you are available, we welcome your help. You can talk to Jackie Brawn or Pat Ryan.

PENNY CANDY DONATIONS Any individually wrapped candy item will work. (NO chocolate candy or DUM DUM lollipops please!). Please contact Jackie Brawn at jackiebrawn@gmail.com or 410-652-2776 to arrange drop off or pick up. **THANK YOU!**

Gary's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, September 6 following the 11:00 service

Camp Chapel celebrates our Music Director for his decades of dedication to our church and all his wonderful contributions to our fine music program! Join Gary for lunch, dessert, and a ceremony in his honor!



Coming Events Continued

Camp Chapel Film Seminar Presents: Saturday, September 19, 6 pm Via Zoom

In this comedy-drama, a group of British senior citizens move into a retirement home in Bangalore, India. Some of them adjust well to their new surroundings; others have a bit more difficulty. The residents of the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel deal with life, love, loss, and death.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011), directed by John Madden and starring an ensemble cast including Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel, Tom Wilkinson, Penelope Wilton, Ronald Pickup, and Celia Imrie, has a running time of 124 minutes.

Check the flyer on our website:

<https://campchapel.org/event/film-seminar-the-best-exotic-marigold-hotel/>

Or scan the QR code ►

You must be 18 years or older. Zoom invitation will be sent via email



The Deadline for Submitting Articles for the October *Acorn* Is Monday, September 21



Camp Chapel Community Yard Sale Saturday September 26, 8 am to 1 pm (Rain Date October 3)



Registrations are available online only. The cost is \$25 per space. For detailed information and registration, click here: **YARD SALE**

Or scan the QR code ►



VENDORS: Complete the registration form, and Vendor Lease Agreement, and submit your payment. You will receive an email confirmation. Spaces will be assigned, and you will be notified. You may request a specific space, but it is NOT guaranteed. For questions contact **Barbara Thompson** at barbara7916@msn.com





Pumpkin Painting

Sunday October 25

2:00 to 4:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

ALL SUPPLIES ARE PROVIDED – REFRESHMENTS TOO!

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE STARTING OCTOBER 1.

WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE SO PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.



Fall Tea

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

\$25.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE STARTING OCTOBER 1



Please let us know if you would like to set your own table (minimum 6 to maximum 8 guests).

Additional tables will be pre-set to accommodate individual guests or smaller groups.

For tickets (paid by check or cash), or if you need additional information, please reach out to Jackie Brawn at 410-652-2776 or jackiebrawn@gmail.com

COME AND ENJOY A LOVELY AFTERNOON FILLED WITH DELICIOUS FOOD AND RELAXING CONVERSATION



Upcoming Concerts

The Deer Creek Chorale Chamber Choir

Sunday, October 4, 3 pm

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6, 3 pm





SAVE THESE DATES!



September 1	Trustees (Zoom)	October 6	Trustees (Zoom)
September 2	Band of Brothers	October 6	Circle of Sisters
September 8	Finance Committee (Zoom)	October 7	Band of Brothers
September 15	Circle of Sisters	October 13	Finance Committee (Zoom)
September 16	Band of Brothers	October 20	Circle of Sisters
September 22	Church Council (Zoom)	October 21	Band of Brothers
		October 27	Church Council (Zoom)



AND ALSO SAVE THESE...

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Holiday Bazaar

Gingerbread House Event

Live Nativity

Louis Gephardt-Gorsuch Concert

Sunday, October 4

Saturday, November 21

Saturday, December 12

Saturday, December 19

Sunday, April 11



HELP WANTED!

Furniture Ministry



Camp Chapel's Furniture Ministry needs volunteers to help with transporting furniture from donors and to recipients. If you can help, please call the church office and our church administrator will put you in touch with the furniture coordinator.



Churches for Streets of Hope

Streets of Hope is in dire need of a place of their own. Their current home church can no longer provide free bathroom, laundry, and kitchen facilities for the homeless in Baltimore County. If you or someone you know is aware of a building that has these facilities to house this vital ministry, please contact Sue Wallace at 410-382-8318 or susan.wallace@mail.com



History of the Sunday School

The Methodist Book of Discipline of 1836 included directions that it was the duty of the preacher in charge of his church to form a Sunday school.

Here at Camp Chapel, Sunday school was originally held in the Chapel where curtains were used to divide the room into classes. Eventually the old horse shed used to house the carriages was enclosed and converted into a Fellowship Hall. It had hardwood floors, a Kerosene stove for heat, a kitchen, and a stage. There, church suppers were served by the ladies, and plays and talent shows were presented by the youth. Sunday school classes were held every Sunday also. The building was still used for classes and plays after the existing Fellowship Hall was built. After the new sanctuary was built in 1964, Sunday school classes were moved to the basement and the old building was torn down and today is the parking lot adjacent to the church.



A Sunday school class in 1957



Another class (date unknown)



All classes assemble on the church steps (circa 1983)

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

When our church was part of the Great Falls Circuit, Charles E. Akehurst, my great-grandfather, was the first Sunday school superintendent chosen in 1887. Many members of the church served throughout the years as superintendents. Classes of all ages met every Sunday with their teachers. One was beloved kindergarten teacher Dolly Frank, who taught many of our little ones and was truly loved by all.

Sunday school picnics in the summer were always a lot of fun. Early picnics were held in the grove of trees and were open to the public. They were free to attend, but ice cream, peanuts, cake, candy, and soft drinks were sold. Bands from the city came to entertain. In later years, the picnics were held at Breezy Point Park or Rocky Point Park and at Beachmont Camp in Kingsville. Softball games and other activities were enjoyed by all.

Children's Day activities were held one Sunday each year at which the young people would participate and recite poems, sing songs, and show off their talents in other ways. Another activity in which young people in the Sunday school participated were Tom Thumb Weddings. The first one was in 1950. Tom Thumb Weddings became an American tradition staged primarily at churches, schools and social halls. These events featured dozens of the children, sometimes as young as two or three years of age taking on the roles of bride, groom, best man, bridesmaids, flower girls, minister, and guests. The guests represented various members of the church. The service included a full ceremony and reception often serving cake and ice cream. There were Tom Thumb Weddings held here at Camp Chapel in 1950, 1962, 1967, and 1976.



One of Camp Chapel's Tom Thumb Weddings

The children of the Sunday school also presented Children's Musicals. "The Rich Man, the Builder, and the Feast" and "100% Chance of Rain" were two that were performed in the Sanctuary. The children and youth also participated in a Puppet Ministry under the direction of Lois K. Akehurst. The puppets performed Bible stories during the church service.

During the summer months, the church held Vacation Bible School. Before the Fellowship Hall was built, Camp Chapel and Cowenton United Methodist Church held Bible School

together. Teachers from both churches worked together to provide a meaningful program for the youth of both churches. Once the new hall was completed at Camp Chapel Bible School met for a week each summer providing the classes with Bible activities, physical activities, crafts, and snacks. For a few years Bible School was held in the evening. At the end of each week, the children displayed their crafts and entertained their parents with a program. Today, we still have Vacation Bible School during the summer.



Sunday school angels, shepherds, and wise men pay their respects to the Holy Family at Christmas

In the early 1950s, the Sunday school awarded pins and bars to the students for weekly attendance. These awards were given from the nursery class through to the 12th graders.

Christmas programs have been provided by the Sunday school classes throughout the years during the Christmas Eve service. Today we have the live Nativity held during the Christmas season.

Sunday school activities continue to provide our youth as well as Adult Bible Study every Sunday.



A Sunday school pin from the 1950s with bars for each year attended

Doris Akehurst Tarleton,
Church Historian



In Our Gardens

CREATION CARE CORNER



Planning your home garden year? For fall, consider leaving your leaves. Leaves make a natural compost, releasing nutrients back into the soil. They feed soil organisms like earthworms, fungi, and helpful microorganisms. They protect the soil – a layer of leaves helps keep soil moist and protects from temperature extremes. They provide habitats for many beneficial insects that use leaves for shelter. They reduce waste, keeping this valuable resource out of the landfills! And you can shred leaves with a mower to keep lawn attractive... no more bagging!

Rita Talley,
Garden Coordinator



Measuring the Journey

I recently learned that my daughter and her husband had begun the process of putting their house on the market and looking for another. Their two children, my youngest grandchildren, aren't taking it well, reluctant to leave the only home they've ever known. My granddaughter has stated matter-of-factly that she's not going to go, and there's nothing anybody can do about that. My grandson has begun planning how he can barricade himself permanently in his bedroom closet and wage a guerilla war on whoever moves in after his parents move out.

I'm trying to do a little soft sell when I take care of them each week. I've casually begun to reminisce about the time my mom and dad moved my family. This isn't that easy to do – I was just four years old at the time and there's a lot I've forgotten, but I do carry the remembrance of saying goodbye to Jimmy and Bobby Hartsock, my best buddies from across the street. I experience no emotion connected with that leave-taking anymore, although I'm sure it was gut-wrenching for me as a toddler back then. My mother took me back at least once for a visit. It was good to be in the old neighborhood again, but it wasn't the same. It wasn't my home anymore, and the Hartsock brothers had already moved on, and so had I. Still, every time I'm driving and make that turn from Belair Road onto Northern Parkway, there's that house that, after all this time, I have only the vaguest memories of, but I still check it out and wonder who is living there now. Do they enjoy sitting on the porch during a thunderstorm as I once did? Do children still ride tricycles up and down the alley in the back?

Meanwhile, in our brand-new house on Fuller Avenue, I had made new friends: Bobby Fortenbaugh, Johnny Reifsnider, Judy Hack, Bruce Jaeger, Cheryl Wilson, Richard Overbey, Theresa Stuprich. There were the kids I cared about now, and when I started kindergarten at Fullerton School, my new set of friends just kept growing, and Jimmy and Bobby eventually began to fade from my memory, to the point where several days ago I had to text my sister because I could not, for the life of me, remember their last names.

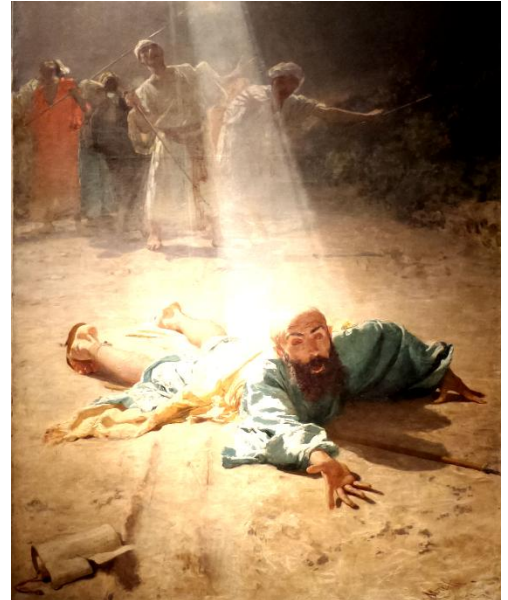
So, I'm trying to teach my grandchildren something that they do not want to learn: that living your life means changing one situation for another, and that change is like a journey, and that a journey means you have to leave one place behind to get to the next.

It's a concept steeped in history. Our country was built by people who left a village in another part of the world and never went back. Our history is also full of incidents in which my ancestors forced people to leave their ancestral lands and relocate to other places against their will. For all these people, whether they moved voluntarily or by force, their lives had two parts: before they left their old homes and after they arrived in their new ones.

This image of moving from one home to another can apply as a metaphor to other evolutions that we all go through as we live our lives. We can measure these journeys by what we see in the rear-view mirror. We track our progress through school by commencement activities, leaving behind elementary school to begin middle school, finishing middle school to begin high school, and for many of us, completing high school to matriculate at a college or university. In our marriage ceremony we speak of leaving mother and father and cleaving to

our new spouse to begin a new family. We forge careers by serially leaving behind one position to take on another that has new and more challenging responsibilities and rewards. Each of these transitions can be visualized symbolically as seeing our birth family or our former school or our last job in the rear-view mirror as we drive onward.

It applies to our journey of the spirit too. Maturing from child to adult can be viewed that way. So can be our growth in terms of our attitudes and thought processes as adults. We all change as we accumulate experiences in life, and that kind of change, too, is a journey of sorts. We leave behind attitudes and prejudices that no longer make sense to us as we grow in wisdom – at least that’s how it’s supposed to work. If we look back upon our own faith journeys, we will surely see that we don’t think the same about God and Jesus and about our relationship with God and Jesus as we did when we were first learning about them in Sunday school. The evangelist, Paul, wrote about it in his first letter to the Corinthians: “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.” Paul writes of his journey as if there was a single event that transformed his life, and for him there was. He had been tasked by the high priest in Jerusalem with the responsibility of seeking out and arresting Christians in Damascus, and he was riding to that city to carry out his orders when God struck him down and blinded him. God gave him instructions for regaining his sight, and after he had done what God commanded, he changed his life, embraced Jesus, and became one of those he had been sent to persecute. His rear-view mirror held for him his life as a man of the Jewish faith up to that point.



The Conversion of St. Paul
Domenico Morelli, 1876 (detail)

Most of us can’t claim such a dramatic break between one stage of our Christian journey and the next. If you read Paul’s words closely, you can tell that he isn’t just talking about his own momentous change of heart; he’s leaving enough wiggle room to fit all our experiences in. For us, the mileposts in our own rear-view mirrors are much smaller. When did we stop thinking of God as an old man with white hair and beard and long flowing robes? When did we realize that God is a spirit and has no gender at all? When did we learn that heaven’s pearly gate and golden streets are just figures of speech? Chances are we can’t assign a date to our developing, maturing relationship with God, because it is a different kind of milepost on our personal journey. It happens gradually. It’s like driving in a dense fog. We’re moving slowly. We can’t make out much because of all the mist. But at some point, it dawns on us that Nashville isn’t ahead of us anymore; now it’s in the rear-view mirror and we’re halfway to Memphis.

Anyway, I’ve been trying to pass some of this along to my grandchildren. Is any of it sinking in? I don’t know. At this point, as far as their willingness to move is concerned – their own journey – it looks as if they’re both still stubbornly refusing to start their engines.

Bill Smith

Birthdays

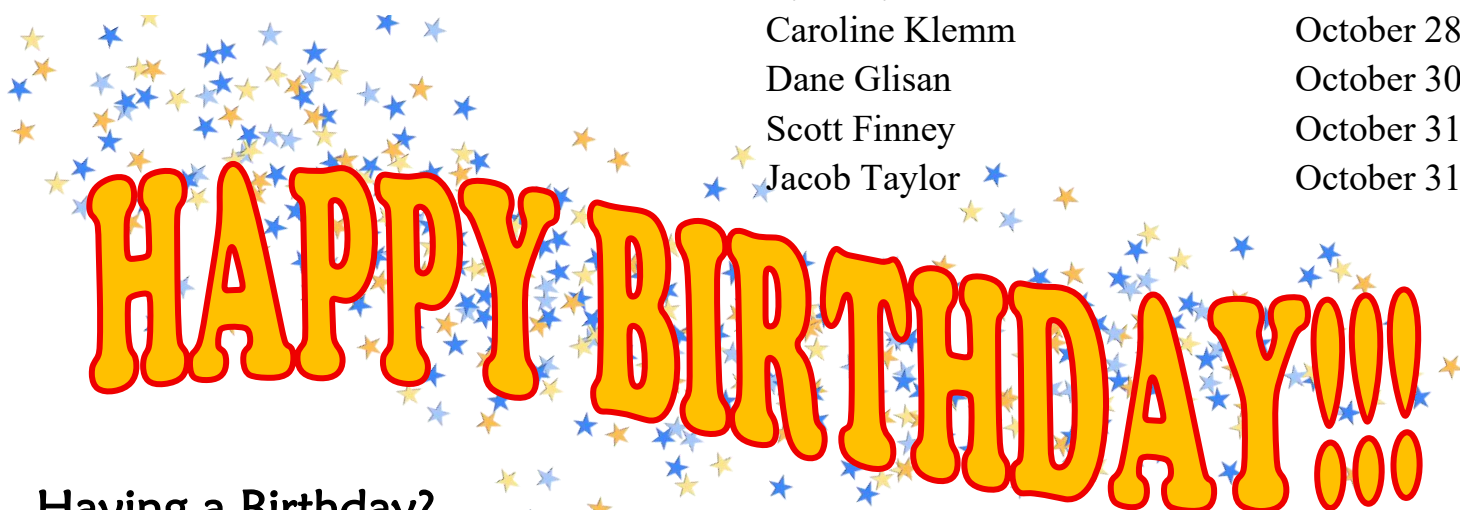
September Birthdays

Marvin Gyr
Barry Foster
Easter Swecker
Jackie Potter
Matthew Welsh
Christopher Bain
Faith Klemm
Rebecca Finney
Kelly Burgess
Mary Daubert
Keith Klemm
Landon Beveridge
George Krause
Debbie Porter
Birdie Swecker
Cheryl Welsh
Sara Delkoon
Kathy Martin

September 5 Carol Haeberle
September 7 Camille Bain
September 7 Sandra Boenig
September 9 Chris Yanson
September 9 Florence Littleton
September 12 Fox Swecker
September 12 Darin Daubert
September 14 Rachel Stein
September 15 Gregory Yanson
September 16 Matthew Ansel
September 17 Elizabeth McDonold
September 20 Angie Howard
September 20 Ali Rezai
September 21 Leah Klemm
September 22 Robert Lentz
September 23 Martha Spero
September 24 Chris Grande
September 24 Beth Lingner

October Birthdays

October 1
October 2
October 4
October 4
October 5
October 8
October 10
October 10
October 10
October 12
October 13
October 14
October 18
October 20
October 20
October 24
October 25
October 25
October 28
October 28
October 30
October 31
October 31



Having a Birthday?

The *Acorn* would love to celebrate every single birthday of every member of our congregation. Each month, we list the birthdays for this month and the next. If your birthday does not appear, please send an email to acorn@campchapel.org with your name and the month and day you were born. WE DO NOT NEED TO KNOW THE YEAR! Your age can be your secret!



Lectionary Readings

September

September 6: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149 or Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (UMH 135)
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78 (UMH 799)
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October

October 4: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

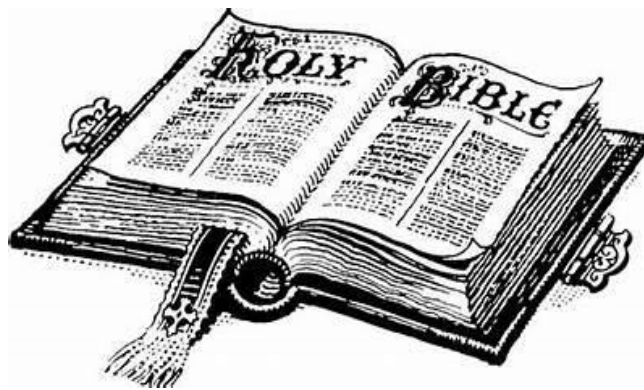
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809)
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46



The Holy Bible Is the Word of God





What's Happening in September?



Among other observances, September is the month of awareness for childhood cancer, gynecologic cancer, prostate cancer, and blood cancer, and for self-care, suicide prevention, and baby care. In addition, the month of September celebrates honey, square dancing, papayas, classical music, service dogs, yoga, and Hispanic heritage. Here's what else is happening:



U.S. AIR FORCE



- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Pink Cadillac Day |
| 3 | US Bowling League Day |
| 4 | National Food Bank Day |
| 5 | National Hummingbird Day |
| 6 | National Fight Procrastination Day... or we could wait... |
| 7 | Labor Day |
| 8 | Birth of the Virgin Mary (traditional date) |
| 8 | Star Trek Day |
| 11 | Patriots' Day |
| 11 | Rosh Hashanah begins |
| 12 | National Chocolate Milkshake Day |
| 13-19 | National Assisted Living Week |
| 15 | International Day of Democracy |
| 16 | Trail of Tears Commemoration Day |
| 16 | National Play-Doh Day |
| 17 | Constitution Day |
| 17 | Smithsonian Day |
| 18 | U.S. Air Force Day |
| 19 | Batman Day |
| 19 | Talk Like a Pirate Day |
| 20 | Yom Kippur begins |
| 21 | Wife Appreciation Day |
| 22 | Autumnal Equinox – the first day of fall |
| 26 | Johnny Appleseed Day |
| 26 | Full Moon (Corn Moon or Harvest Moon) |
| 26 | National Day of Praise and Worship |
| 30 | National Women's Health and Fitness Day |



Smithsonian Institution



CELEBRATE WORKERS



We the People

