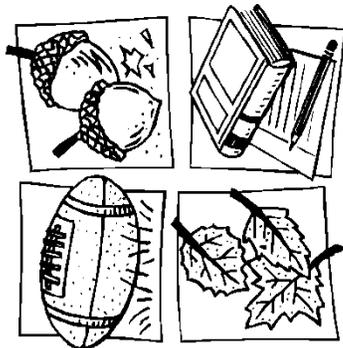


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 ROUTE 61 SOUTH
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA 17972
Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

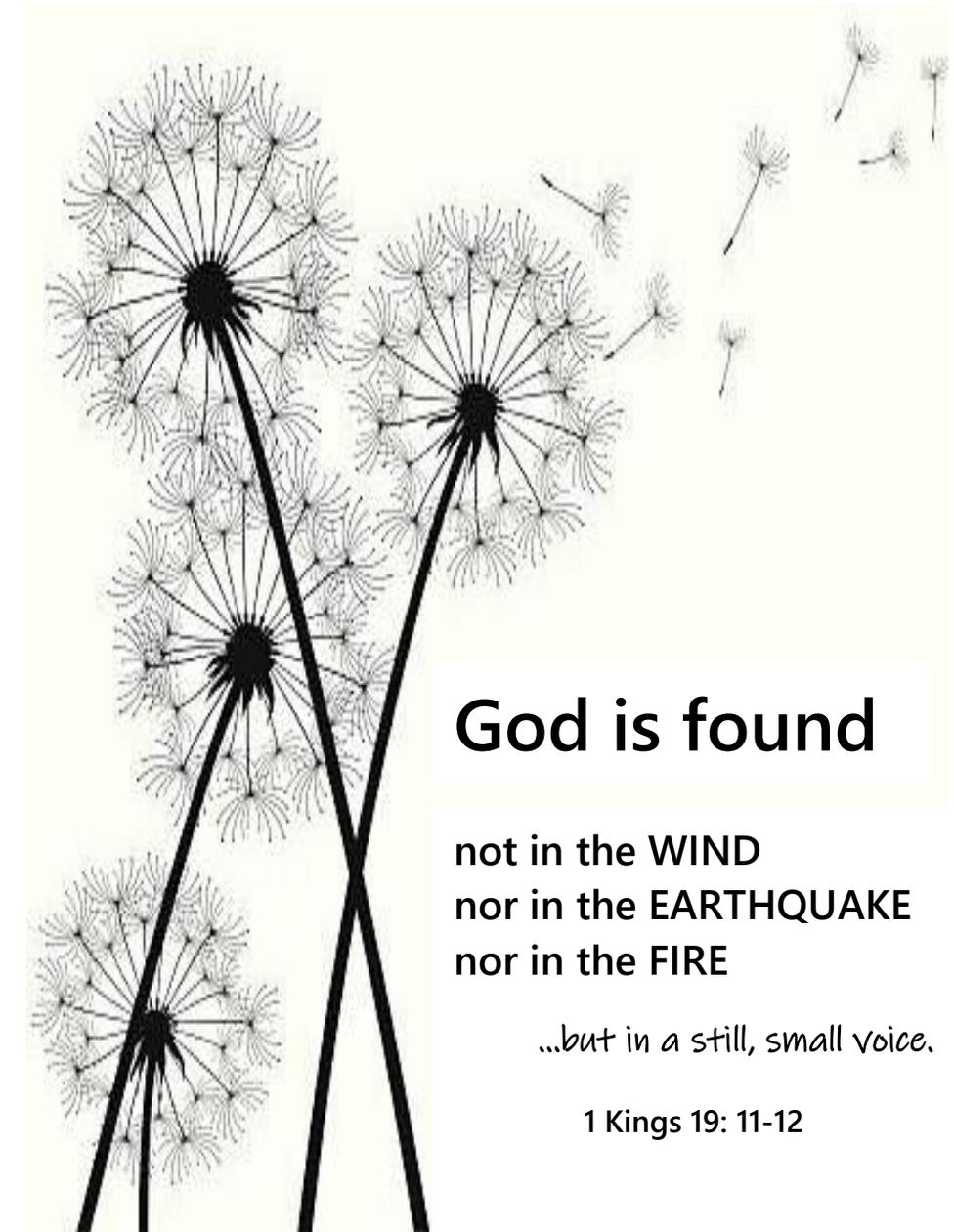
Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love

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Information Deadline for the FALL (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) 2019 NEWSLETTER is Sunday, September 15!



FIRST CHURCH HERALD
Vol. 38, Issue 4 Newsletter of First UCC Sch. Haven, PA
SEPTEMBER 2019



God is found

not in the WIND
nor in the EARTHQUAKE
nor in the FIRE

...but in a still, small voice.

1 Kings 19: 11-12

FIRST UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love
110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

PHONE – (570) 385-2049 **FAX #** – (570) 385-3019
OFFICE HOURS – 9 AM - 1 PM (Monday-Friday)
EMAIL – firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net
WEBSITE – www.firstucc-haven.org

*If we are not in the office or have stepped away from the phone,
please leave a message on the answering machine
and we will get back to you as soon as possible.*

Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor
25 S. Margaretta St., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
(570) 385-5425 firstuccpastor@verizon.net Cell (570) 617-7185

OTHER STAFF

Minister of Music – Chris Evans
(chrisevans838@gmail.com or 717-329-6904)
Church Secretary – Jen Semanco
(also Special Funds Treasurer)

WORSHIP – Sundays, 9:30 AM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH – Sundays, 9:30 AM

2019 CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Harris Bradley, Vice President (385-1494); Brian Edling, Recording Secretary (385-7343); Keith Edling (385-1199); George Hosler (366-1400); Carrie Ann Klinger, Treasurer (728-0173); Kenny Klinger, President (205-5465); Malaki Nye; George Rondeau; Rusty Searle (385-2533); Cheryl Strunk (610-750-1210), Lora Yoder & Peggy Zechman (366-1400)

Newsletter Sponsor
In Loving Memory of Richard Foose, by wife Wally Foose.

SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN

Enough

Have you had enough? Enough of your children bickering? Enough of unreasonable job demands? Enough of the boasting and bullying of social media? Enough of the 2020 presidential campaign (which started as soon as the 2016 election ended)? Are you fed up, frustrated, and overwhelmed?

Or does it seem like life isn't offering you enough? Are you cynical, just going through the motions without feeling like you're getting anything out of life?

In either situation, we may find that the prophets Elijah and Elisha have something to share with us about integrating our lives to feel whole and fulfilled. The two holy and wholly ordinary men were able to move from thinking about a life of faith to putting that faith into action. They found fulfillment in drawing close to God and then worked for God's purpose to bring about good. As Mark G. Boyer notes, Elijah and Elisha were open "to the process of God's transformation so that one is aware that God lives in him or her more than he or she lives in himself or herself."

As we contemplate God's word and cooperate with God's plan, we will become conduits for divine power just like the two prophets. We may not want to model them too closely, however, as Elijah tended toward fiery retribution against his opponents and Elisha was way too touchy about being bald. Holy and wholly ordinary people.

Still Elijah and Elisha remind us that earthly human power dims in the presence of divine sovereignty. Ultimately God is in control. When we've had "enough" we can turn to God in prayer, seek God's wisdom in scripture, and discern together in worship where the Holy Spirit is leading us, so that we can live and act with purpose and meaning. When we feel inadequate or overwhelmed, we can look at God's actions in the lives of these two men of both faith and doubt, remembering God is with us and will be with us. God lives in us more than we live in ourselves. And that is enough.

Yours in Doubt and Faith,
Pastor Shawn



Spirit Sunday Fellowship
Sunday, September 8, 9 AM

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

2019 Fall Worship: Enough!

God had enough of Ahab and Jezebel's evil, enough of the worship of false gods which the royals encouraged among the people. God called first Elijah and then Elisha to challenge the wickedness of their time. They worked with only the limited resources which God provided. It was enough.

September 1

12th Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

Psalm 112
Proverbs 25:6-15, 20-22
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Pay Back

Blessings of the Righteous
Wise Sayings of Solomon
Service Pleasing to God
Humility and Hospitality

September 8

Spirit Sunday, 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Grandparents Sunday;
Bell Choir Practice Resumes; Confirmation Orientation; Women's Fellowship

Psalm 1
1 Kings 17:1-7
Titus 3:3-8
Luke 14:25-33

Drought

The Two Ways
Ravens Bring Food to Elijah
Maintain Good Deeds
The Cost of Discipleship

September 15

14th Sunday after Pentecost; Fall Newsletter Information Deadline;
Confirmation Classes Begin

Psalm 14
1 Kings 17:8-24
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Death

Denouncing Fools
Elijah Helps a Widow
Gratitude for Mercy
Parable of the Lost Sheep

September 22

15th Sunday after Pentecost; Pamela Foley, Guest Organist

Psalm 79:1-9
1 Kings 18:17-40
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Cry

Plea for Mercy
Elijah Defeats the Prophets of Baal
Instructions about Prayer
Parable of the Dishonest Manager

September 29

16th Sunday after Pentecost; Praise and Healing; American Indian Ministry

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Kings 19:1-18
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Silence

Assurance of God's Protection
The Still Small Voice
False Teachings, True Riches
The Rich Man and Lazarus

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Communion & Food Pantry Donations

September 1

As we come to be fed at the Lord's Table, we remember those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. Our donations of non-perishable foods to the SH Food Pantry are much needed and appreciated.

Christian Education

September 8

The future of Christianity depends on how well we know the scriptures and how well we apply them to our lives. Our support of the Christian Education program for all ages at First Church is crucial to our service to God.

The Compassion Fund

September 15

This Special Offering is placed in an emergency fund where 90% helps church members in need and 10% may be used for emergency community needs.

Church Change Special Offering

Our Church Change offering will be donated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Community Ministries.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The following totals are up to and including the end of July 2019
plus a comparison to July 2018 & 2017.

	<u>July 2018</u>	<u>July 2018</u>	<u>July 2017</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$133,798.61	\$139,949.33	\$105,534.42
REVENUE –	\$ 44,942.82	\$ 42,026.86	\$ 39,916.29
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$ 94,900.00	\$ 91,600.00	\$ 63,907.85
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$139,872.82	\$133,626.86	\$ 103,824.14
Gain/Loss –	\$ 6,044.21	\$ -6,322.47	\$ -1,710.28

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Sunday, September 22, 9 AM or 10:30 AM

Any youth who is grade 5 through confirmation age is asked to be an acolyte. Training is held for those who have not been an acolyte in previous years. Linda Deatrich will train all new acolytes on Sunday, September 22 in the Sanctuary. Please let the office know if you would prefer before or after worship. ***Make a note on the Friendship Pad or call the church office (385-2049) to sign up your child for acolyte training.***

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

If you have an idea for a small group, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

Bible Study **Tuesdays, 2 PM in the Weiser Board Room** **The Book of Job: Why do bad things happen to good people?**

In August we began to read the Book of Job, perhaps the oldest book in the Bible, which asks where is God when we experience suffering? Why do bad things happen to good people? On September 3 we will explore Job 22-27. Please join us. We are an informal group and sometimes cancel meeting at the last moment. If it is your first time joining Bible Study, please call the church office to confirm that we are meeting.

The Love Diet **New Day: Thursdays, 11 AM**

Are you interested in taking care of the body God has given to you? Would you like to lose some weight and/or, perhaps more importantly, feel better about yourself? With a focus on fresh and nutritious food (not low fat scam food!), we can feed our taste buds, eating well while still enjoying half-n-half in our coffee. If you're interested in supporting others in a joint venture of healthy living, please join us.

Women's Fellowship **September 16, 3 PM**

All women in the church are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and food with no set agenda, other than to enjoy one another's company. Bring a snack to share if you like. Beverage will be provided. Desserts are welcome!

SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch) **Second Tuesdays, 12 Noon**

SOUL consists of senior members of the congregation who like to get together at local restaurants. If you would like to join SOUL for any of their upcoming luncheons, call Iris Weller (366-0897) so that they can save a seat for you!

Tuesday, September 10, Noon – Cracker Barrel, Hamburg

If you have an idea for a small group, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

CONSISTORY

LED fixtures were installed in the exterior lights around the church to improve visibility and reduce electric cost. A gift of \$10,000 was received from the Bobbi Freed Estate which was placed in Special Funds. A car show held August 3 involved about 60 cars; plans are to continue the event next summer. Consistory meets next on **Thursday, September 12, 6:30 PM**. All Consistory meetings are open to church members.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Prophets Elijah and Elisha. When the nation of Israel faced difficult times, God worked through the prophets Elijah and Elisha to show the people God was still with them, working for good.

September 1	NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH	
September 8	Ravens Bring Food to Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-7
September 15	Elijah Helps a Widow	1 K 17:8-24
September 22	Elijah Defeats False Prophets	1 K 18:17-40
September 29	The Still Small Voice	1 K 19:1-18

Thank you to our Children's Church teachers! Delia Edling, our lead teacher, who often creates the curriculum; Lilly Edling, Gavin Fry, Riley Moyer, Malaki Nye and Cole Paul. If you would be interested in teaching and learning with the children, please talk to Pastor Shawn or Delia.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

— Malala Yousafzai

Board of Christian Education

BCE Meeting **Tuesday, September 3, 4:30 PM**

We will finalize plans for Spirit Sunday on September 8, review curriculum for the fall, plan for the Children's Sabbath on October 27, and look ahead to Advent activities. If you are interested in supporting the church's Christian education program, please join us on in the Weiser Board Room.

Uniting Hearts and Voices to End Childhood Poverty **Prayer Vigil for Children September 15 through October 27**

During the annual Prayer Vigil for Children you are invited to pray for:

- Children who are alone; afraid; disabled; ill; bullied; and poor.
- Children in our church and community; this nation; and God's world.

The youth of our congregation will lead us in worship on Sunday, October 27, as we conclude the Prayer Vigil for Children. If you have a specific concern for children you would like to address, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

Preparing Children for Communion: Sunday, September 29

Pastor Shawn will talk with children during worship on September 29 about receiving communion for the first time. Children would be invited to receive their first communion on World Communion Sunday, October 6.

At First UCC, parents decide when their children may receive communion. Through conversations about faith and communion, parents know when their children come to believe in Christ as their Savior. Children are strongly encouraged to participate in Children's Church to learn more about the Christian faith and sacraments in preparation for confirmation class in sixth and seventh grades.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Organizational Meeting

Sunday, September 8, after Worship, Weiser Board Room

Who am I? Why do I need God? How can Jesus help me understand myself?

As young people grow, they need the opportunity to explore who they are as people made in the image of God, physical, intellectual and spiritual.

First Church invites young people in sixth grade and older to affirm their baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Through baptism, they were welcomed into the worldwide community of the Christian Church. Through confirmation, or catechism, young people are invited to grow in faith in God through the teachings of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Youth and their parents, grandparents, or guardians are invited to an organizational meeting which will be held in the Weiser Board Room after 9:30 AM worship. Please bring your school and activities schedules so that we can select a weekly meeting time.

The confirmation process at First Church is a two year program. Confirmands are required to attend worship on a weekly basis, attend weekly confirmation class, and participate in periodic church activities.

If you have questions about confirmation, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

Pastor Shawn's Annual CROP Walk Challenge to the Confirmands

Pastor Shawn challenges the confirmands to see who can raise more money for the CROP Walk against hunger on Sunday, October 6. Consequences for the loser(s) have yet to be determined but a cream pie facial has been employed in the past. Information will be provided at the organizational meeting on September 8. For more information on the CROP Walk, see the information under "Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches."

CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Deaths – **Bob Corby** passed away on August 2, 2019. Bob is survived by his daughter **Cathy Mabry**, son **Bill Corby** and their families.

Mary Saul passed away on August 2, 2019. Mary is survived by her sister **Robin Alexander** and extended family.

Weddings – **Robbie Wensel** & Chelsie Zapolsky were married on July 6, 2019. Congratulations Robbie & Chelsie!!

Todd Roberts & Penny Shade were married July 18, 2019. Congratulations Todd & Penny!!

EVANGELISM

Welcoming God's Guests

With Penn State back in session, students may join us for worship, along with other visitors. God draws people into the church, so our effort to welcome "God's Guests" is part of Christian hospitality as we share the joy of our faith. Welcoming others is pretty simple: treat others the way you wish to be treated. Say hello, smile, introduce yourself, show others where to find the hymnal, invite them to stay for fellowship, and welcome children to be children (and adults to be adults if you know what we mean).

Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend... Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring (others) over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. –Henri Nouwen

FELLOWSHIP

Spirit Sunday Fellowship

September 8, 9 AM

Gather with the Board of Christian Education and the Bell Choir as we meet before worship in the Narthex on Sunday, September 8. As we return to our full fall schedule, with Children's Church offered weekly, we are looking forward to catching up on summer adventures. Please join us!

Meat BINGO

Saturday, September 14

Although BINGO is a service project to raise funds for the church's ministry as we host games and provide refreshments for guests, it's also a great time to be together, sharing in work and play. Please join us!

Schuylkill Haven Borough Day

Saturday, September 28

While we work to support the church, but at the same time we can visit with one another and with our neighbors in the community. Sign up for the fun!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Bell Choir Rehearsal Starting September 8

Bell Choir practice will resume Sunday mornings at 8:15 AM on **September 8**. New members are always welcome to join the bell choir. If you have questions about the church's music program, you can contact Chris Evans, at 717-329-6904 or email him at chrisevans838@gmail.com.

MEAT BINGOS

Our next Meat BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, September 14. Doors open at 11 AM; games begin at 1 PM. The prizes will be packages of meat. There will be 20 games for \$15. Specials & Raffles are extra. Food and refreshments will be available. We are also looking for helpers age 13 and older. Please call the church office if you are able to volunteer.

Other 2019 BINGO date ... October 12

PARKING: When parking for our fundraisers, we ask that all workers park in the upper lot so the spots in the lower lot are available for our patrons.

MISSION

Hillside SPCA Donations to Bless the Animals

During the month of September we will gather items needed at Hillside SPCA to care for the animals there, including: non-clumping cat litter, cleaning supplies, wet and dry dog/cat food, dog and cat toys, and dog leashes and collars. Monetary donations may also be made to "Joe & Caroline's Fund." Place your donations in the box in the Narthex. Tentative plans are to visit Hillside Saturday, October 5 to deliver our donations and bless the animals.

Volunteers Needed at "Servants to All"

Overnight Shelter volunteers are needed to assist the staff at the shelter which is open 7:30 PM to 7:30 AM, 7 days a week. Volunteers are asked to complete training and background checks. Contact Jeanette Triano Sinn, Exec. Director, Servants to All, 4 S. Centre Street, Pottsville PA 17901, 570-728-2917.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members Welcome, Sunday, September 22

New members will be welcomed into the Christian fellowship of the church on Sunday, September 22, during worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of the church, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

THANK YOU

Thank you to **everyone** for your support over the summer of the Car Show, Vacation Bible School and the Church Picnic. You met the church's needs with prompt generosity, increasing the love of God between neighbors, using your gifts to share God's gift. Special thanks to **Todd Roberts** and **Darrell Spotts** for all of their work maintaining the church property over the summer.

PSEC

Jesus Tweet! Using Social Media to Reach Our Neighbors Blue Mountain UCC, Strausstown, September 7, 8:30 AM - Noon

In today's world, a congregation without a healthy social media presence is irrelevant to half the population. Every congregation, with very little money and some serious elbow grease, can and should, have a very active presence on social media. If you would like to learn how, join Pastor Shawn for this workshop. Pre-register at psec.org.

"Hear Me: Is God Listening?" Ventures Adult Faith Retreat

September 24-26, Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading

Full time: \$160 per person double occupancy; \$175 single occupancy

Full time Commuter: \$100 per person; Wednesday only: \$65 per person

For more information or to register visit psec.org. Register by September 8.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Monthly Food Pantry

Friday, September 20, 1 PM

Between 170-180 households in our area receive food every month through the Council of Churches Food Pantry. Food is distributed on the third Friday of each month at the Food Pantry, located on Market Street behind Evans Delivery (the old Walk In Shoe Factory).

Bi-Monthly Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 7 PM

St. Mark's Cressona. The Council of Churches provides emergency assistance for homeless people, assists with utilities on an emergency basis, and organizes a monthly food pantry for those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. First Church is in need of lay representatives to serve on the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested.

Bloodmobile

Thursday, September 26, 12:30-5:30 PM

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Council holds a Bloodmobile for the American Red Cross every other month at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. You must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be healthy in order to donate blood.

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 6, 1 PM

Enjoy a beautiful walk through the Schuylkill Haven Borough with friends AND raise money to feed hungry people at the same time. Receive a participant's envelope from Pastor Shawn. Registration begins at 1 PM, with worship at 1:15 PM and the walk kick-off at 1:30 PM. Participants are encouraged to register on-line, inviting their friends on social media to support their walk. Register at www.crophungerwalk.org/schuylkillhavenpa.

STEWARDSHIP – CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

Borough Day Community Outreach and Fund Raiser

Saturday, September 28, 8 AM – 4 PM

Baked Goods, Pierogis, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Beverages

Baked good donations are needed. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts to sell food. Please sign up in worship or call the church office at 570-385-2049. (We'd love to serve haluski but need volunteers to make it.)

Meat BINGO

Saturday, September 14 & October 12

Please sign up to donate food items to sell and/or donate your time to help with the event. Doors open at 11 AM.

Friends Helping Friends, Boscov's Wednesday, October 16

Buy a 25% shopping pass for \$5 to use on most purchases at Boscov's Wednesday, October 16. The church will keep the \$5 for every ticket sold. The day includes refreshments, entertainment and prizes. Please contact Carrie Ann Klinger at 570-728-0173 to buy your shopping pass ticket or if you would like to help sell the shopping passes for the church.

Shank's Vanilla. 8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$7 per bottle. The vanilla is a great ingredient for baking.

Rada Cutlery. Brochures will soon be available in the Narthex. Call the office or contact Carrie Ann Klinger if you would like to place an order. Please check the weekly bulletins for an order deadline date.

Boyer's Tag. Boyer's SKU Tags are available in the Narthex. When you purchase groceries at Boyer's, ask to have your tag read. Periodically, Boyer's will tally the readings and send a check to the church. (No need to hand in Boyer's receipts.)

Redner's Save-A-Tape. Pick up a Save-A-Tape card at Redner's and use it whenever you buy groceries. Hand in your Redner's receipts by placing them in the box in the Narthex. Totals of the tapes will be submitted to Redner's who will then provide the church with a check.

Our Life is Stewardship

Christian stewardship is not just one dimension of our faith life but rather our whole attitude as followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus has given us the mission of reaching out into the world to share the love of God, something we do with every word we say and every action we take. Douglas John Hall described the church as "a community that cares for the world...for its welfare, its justice, its peace, its survival." The gifts of our time and money empower the church to serve its purpose as God provides us with all we need, with more than enough, as God has given us one another to be the church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9/2- Heather Corby (1980)
Chris Evans (1986)
Dwayne Reichert Jr. (2005)
Tom Stewart Jr. (1974) | 9/13- Bill Harp (1963)
9/14- Sean Spotts (1993)
9/15- Becky (Sikora) Klimas (1983)
Jara Strunk (2006) |
| 9/3- Eric Heck (1988)
Suzanne Schrader (1943)
Quinlan Spotts (2003) | 9/17- Alesse Coover (1984)
9/18- Braylon Ludwig (2012)
9/19- Rusty Searle (1955)
Pastor Shawn (1958) |
| 9/6- John Pritiskutch (1961)
9/7- Beth Fryer (1951)
9/8- George Rondeau (1961)
9/9- Bill Corby (1970)
Mary Stewart (1978) | 9/20- Jeff McCormick
Billy Schaeffer (1990)
9/21- Jim Haeseler (1972)
9/26- Lily Fenstermacher (2007)
Grayson Fessler (2008)
Marcia Harp (1964) |
| 9/10- Beth Eckert (1958)
Helen Kimmel (1963)
9/13- Brian Harp (1963) | 9/29- Corey Mentzer (1981) |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9/11- Gary & Gloria Ebling (1976) | 9/20- Harris & Joan Bradley (1969) |
| 9/12- Brandon & Becky Devlin (2015) | 9/26- Brian & Marcia Harp (1998) |
| 9/12- Bob & Carole Lee (1997) | |

If we missed a birthday or anniversary, listed an incorrect date or do not have the year, please call the church office so that we are able to correct and/or update our records.

You are God's Gift

God created you. You have meaning and purpose. You are gifted by God with your own unique characteristics. You are needed. Your unique gifts, combined with those of others, show God at work in the world, empowering and transforming our lives for the good of all. Think of God's other gifts: a child of promise for Abraham and Sarah, two stone tablets of truth for people wandering in the wilderness, five smooth rocks for the palm of young David, and a scorned Savior who prepared breakfast for his disciples offering forgiveness for their mistakes. Then remember that you are also one of God's gifts and use that memory to gift others.



MEAT BINGO
Saturday, September 14, 1 PM