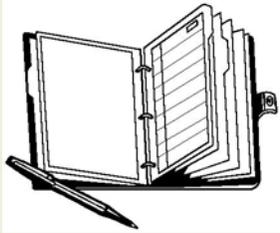


Ashland First United Methodist Church, 220 Sandusky St., Ashland, OH 44805



Labor Day

Monday, September 3

Back-to-Church Sunday

September 9

Staff Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, September 9
12:00 PM
CUMC

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, September 23
2:00 PM
First UMC

Feast Night

Sunday, September 30
5:00 PM Dauch Hall

Volunteer Ministry Schedules

Welcome Center

September 2

Hazel Ritchey
Kay Smithhisler
Dottie Greene

September 9

Ken and Darlene Householder
John Donelson

September 16

Brooks and Jenny Whitmore
Barbara Schantz

September 23

Charles and Melody Barnes
Barb Kirkbride

September 30

Randy and Bonnie McQuate
Cheri Welch

Connection Café

September 2

Barb Kirkbride
Stacey Lucas

September 9

Denny and Ruth Hiner

September 16

Bonnie Hobson
Leanna Wally

September 23

Edna Cox
Tom Workman

September 30

Lou and Linda Kauffman

Worship Liturgy Team

September 2

Toni McKee

September 9

Kim Liston

September 16

Tracey Eagle

September 23

Jenny Whitmore

September 30

Jack Cadley

Communion Team

September 2

Kim Liston

August

Counters

Marilyn Koop
Bonnie McQuate



Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3 [A Time For Everything] *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ...*

It is that time of year again. Fall is in the air: the children have gone back to school, the leaves are going to change color, stores are full of pumpkin flavored items and we are all gearing up to cheer on our favorite football teams. There is something special about fall in Ohio.

I can remember as a child sitting on the school bus hoping that as we neared our farm that I would see smoke rising from the woods behind our house. Smoke rising from the woods meant that my Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Kathryn, and dad were in the woods felling trees, burning brush and preparing for the long winter ahead.

The curls of smoke rising from the woods would send me running with excitement over the ten plus acres between the house and the woods. Working with my dad, aunt and grandparents always meant unconditional love and lots of laughter.

If it was a really good day then dad would even let me use the chain saw!

It was on one of these fall days when I saw the curling smoke that I dumped my belongings inside the house and went running through the woods, over the bridge and to (what my

dad called) the back forty and encountered a very comical scene. My grandma and Aunt Kathryn were almost doubled over in laughter. It did not take long to see what was causing their delight. Somehow my dad and grandpa had managed to get the tractor stuck front to end between two trees. There they were trying as hard as they could to get the tractor out. I can still hear my grandpa's heavy German accent yelling the one word in German that still lingers in my vocabulary (much to my dismay). Grandpa and dad must have worked for hours trying to get that tractor unstuck before finally relenting and cutting down the tree in front of the tractor. It was a day which my grandma and Aunt Kathryn would never let them forget and a memory which still makes me chuckle.

I often reflect on that day when I am stuck in a frustrating situation. It reminds me that sometimes we have to cut out something in our lives before we can move forward. Often the things that I need to work on cutting out in my own life are self-doubts and fear of change. Other times those items come in the form of bad habits such as over eating or using that "one German word" that still lingers in my vocabulary. Often it is jealousy, envy and pride which hold me back.

There is a season for all things in our lives and we must take the time to prepare ourselves for each new beginning by cutting away those things which hold us back.

My prayer for each of you and for our community of faith is that we will learn and grow together in this particular season of change. May God bless each of you and Go Bucks!

On Bended Knees,

Laura

NEW VOLUNTEER POSSIBILITIES

Volunteers are needed for the Farmer's Market Prayer Ministry at Christ UMC. The volunteers would join Pastor Allan or Pastor Laura from 8:30 to 11:00 am and pray with people who stop by. The Farmer's Market runs on Saturdays throughout the summer. Let Pastor Allan know if you are interested.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The Children's ministry team will be taking a break this summer. There will be no Sunday school through September 2nd. Fall kick off will be September 9th.

Watch for more details coming in the bulletin.





Dean Stampfli	5
Carol Wally	14
Susan Gregg	16
Delberta Hedglin	22
Joshua Pheneger	23
Howard Smithhisler	23
John McFarlin	24
Karla Bannerman	24
Grace Stampfli	25
Logan Lucas	25
Rachel Pheneger	26

If your name is not listed and you would like it to be, please call the church office.



Bible Study Offered Weekly

You are invited to join Pastor Allan and/or Pastor Laura each week for an hour of study on the Bible lessons for Sunday worship.

Two times are offered for your convenience:
 Monday evening @7:00 p.m.
 at Christ UMC
 1140 Claremont Avenue

Tuesday morning @10:00 a.m.
 at Downtown Perk
 145 West Main Street

Bring your Bibles with you and join the conversation!



Want to spread God's love today? Why not drop a note to a shut-in or visit a church member who is in a nursing home.

Belmont Tower

(2140 Center St., Ashland)
 Kathy Chorpening
 Verla Long
 Carolyn Lowe

Brethren Care

(2000 Center St., Ashland)
 Ruth Emmons
 Richard Kriens (Bradford House)

Crystal Care

(1251 E. Main St., Ashland)
 Steve Chorpening
 Ben Strouse #312

Good Shepherd Villa

(726 Center St. Ashland)
 Sandy Benson

Kingston of Ashland

(20 Amberwood Pkwy, Ashland)
 Carol Barnes #313
 David & Sandra Grindle

Lutheran Village

(330 Davis Rd., Ashland)
 Cliff Hubler
 Needy Prosser
 Mary Puglisi
 Ireene Thomas

Spire Deadline

If you would like to submit an article for the September newsletter, the deadline is Monday, September 24, 2018.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute flowers for the Altar in memory or in honor of a person or event, there is an Altar Flower Sign Up Schedule on the wall in the entrance area. If you sign up for flowers and are having them delivered, please make sure that they are delivered on **Thursday** of that week. They will be placed in a refrigerator to keep them fresh for Sunday.

Caring Connections Ministry

The purpose of the **Caring Connections Ministry** is to keep our church family connected. People with any family concerns, illness, absence from church, meals, visits, etc. can contact Mary Pheneger, coordinator at 419-606-3062.

Attendance

	Worship	S.S
8/5	86	N/A
8/12	86	N/A
8/19	83	N/A
8/26	103	N/A

Financial Update

General Operating Ministry Budget

7/1	\$ 8,616.00
7/8	\$ 2,635.00
7/15	\$ 2,887.00
7/22	\$ 5,260.00
7/29	(in September Spire)

2018 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 96,861.02
2017 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 105,407.87

GOOD NEWS! The newly signed "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015" makes certain "**Charitable contributions of IRA distributions**" provisions permanent.

Note: Those Americans subject to RMD's (required minimum distributions) can now elect to have their IRA custodian send charitable contributions **directly from their IRA to an eligible charitable organization**. When these transfers are made directly from the IRA to the Qualified Charitable Organization, the event is nontaxable.

This provision can really be helpful for many senior citizens who have part of their Social Security and the IRA distribution become taxable by eliminating the IRA from coming into income altogether.

If you are subject to RMDs and are planning on supporting any qualified charitable organization, such as the church, please contact your IRA plan sponsor, your investment advisor or accountant.



Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today!

Ask for an authorization form in the church office
or visit our church website:
www.ashlandteamministry.org.

Update from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the church would like to give an update on our finances. For the past three years we have been able to fully fund our denominational apportionments, pay our bills and build a small reserve. However, our giving has declined recently. Our 2017 giving was about 10% below prior year giving and for the first six months of 2018 we are down another 10%. This puts us about \$15,000 behind last year's giving. Our reserves from prior years are nearly exhausted and the Finance Committee wanted to make the church aware that we need about \$30,000 more in giving by the end of the year to match last year's giving level and to be able to pay all of our apportionments and fully fund the ministries of our church. We appreciate all of the faithful giving of the congregation. We just want to clearly lay out the need for funds to continue our current ministries. We would encourage our entire congregation to give as God continues to bless and give to us.

Reflective Scripture Readings

<u>Daily</u> Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Proverbs 11:1-31 Hebrews 12:3-13	<u>Thurs. Sept. 20</u> Proverbs 30:1-10 1 Cor. 2:1-5	<u>Sat., Sept. 29</u> Esther 3:1-15 Matthew 5:13-20
<u>Sat. Sept. 1</u> Song of Sol. 1:1-17 James 1:1-8	<u>Wed., Sept. 12</u> Proverbs 14:1-9 Matthew 17:14-21	<u>Fri., Sept. 21</u> Proverbs 30:18-33 Romans 11:25-32	<u>Sun., Sept. 30</u> Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
<u>Sun. Sept. 2</u> Song of Sol. 2:1-7 James 1:9-16	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 19	<u>Sat., Sept. 22</u> Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 Matthew 23:29-39	
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 37:12-22	<u>Thurs., Sept. 13</u> Proverbs 15:1-17 Hebrews 11:17-22	<u>Sun., Sept. 23</u> Proverbs 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 125	<u>Fri., Sept. 14</u> Proverbs 19:24-29 James 2:17-26	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 128	
<u>Thurs., Sept. 6</u> Proverbs 1:1-19 Romans 2:1-11	<u>Sat., Sept. 15</u> Proverbs 21:1-17 Matthew 21:23-32	<u>Mon., Sept. 24</u> Proverbs 27:1-27 James 4:8-17	
<u>Fri., Sept. 7</u> Proverbs 4:10-27 Romans 2:12-16	<u>Sun., Sept. 16</u> Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	<u>Tues., Sept. 25</u> Ecclesiastes 4:9-16 James 5:1-6	
<u>Sat., Sept. 8</u> Proverbs 8:1-31 Matthew 15:21-31	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 73:21-28	<u>Wed., Sept. 26</u> Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 John 8:21-38	
<u>Sun., Sept. 9</u> Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-10,14-17 Mark 7:24-37	<u>Mon., Sept. 17</u> Proverbs 22:1-21 Romans 3:9-20	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 124	
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 73:1-20	<u>Tues., Sept. 18</u> Proverbs 25:1-28 Colossians 3:1-11	<u>Thurs. Sept. 27</u> Esther 1:1-21 Acts 4:13-31	
<u>Mon., Sept. 10</u> Proverbs 8:32-9:6 Hebrews 11:29-12:2	<u>Wed., Sept. 19</u> Proverbs 29:1-27 John 7:25-36	<u>Fri. Sept. 28</u> Esther 2:1-23 Acts 12:20-25	
<u>Tues., Sept. 11</u>	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 1		

**Ongoing Prayers for Our Church
and Community**

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Don Kettering

Georgene Aber

Rita Beaver

Don Larson (Chuck and Hazel Ritchey)

Vicki Johnson (*Jenny Moore*)

Barbara Fenn (*Sally Ann Hull*)

Jon Pickering (*Jane Betts*)

Cappie Stone (*Stacey Lucas*)

Steve Budd (*Marlene Brewer*)

Naomi Koons (*Debbie Shanklin*)

Heart of Ohio Emmaus/Chrysalis/Face to Face

Pilgrims (*Melody Barnes*)

Asher Kettering (*Mary Kettering*)

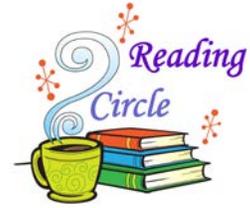
Dillon Crozier (*David Boyer*)

For the refugees coming out of Syria (*Anna Slade*)

Patricia Boyer (*David Boyer*)

Holly Fulmer (*David Boyer*)

*(Please call the church office if you would like
to add someone to the prayer list.)*



WSC Reading Circle

Our next book is:

**Loving God by: Charles Colson. We will be
meeting on Wednesday, September 19th**



Please contact the church office if you would like to add someone to the Prayer Chain email list. Please email at afdebbie@zoominternet.net or call the church office at 419-289-7551



PRIORITY PRAYER GATHERING

THERE WILL BE PRIORITY PRAYER MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE AT CHRIST UMC ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

Women
Serving
Christ



From the
First United Methodist Church

Come join the Women Serving Christ Ministry on September 25. WSC will be meeting at Tim Horton's at 11:30 AM. If you have any questions, please see Sandi Rowsey. Please notice that the meeting is the 4th Tuesday instead of the 3rd.

THE CRISIS FUND IS IN CRISIS!!

We need your help so we can continue to help others.

In Galatians 6:2 it says "bear one another's burdens"

Hebrews 13:16 says "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

If you are able to give to the Crisis Fund, please mark your offering envelope.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord by serving others.

We're All EARS!!!!

Thanks to our corn pickers, to Brooks Whitmore for providing a pick-up, and to John Boyer for providing the corn.

We sold 40 dozen ears of corn for \$230.37. Thanks to **all** who continue to support ZOE with your interest, your prayers, and your gifts.



We would like to start recognizing the Wedding Anniversaries of those in our church.

Just as God gave you to us on your birthday, so were you given to your spouse on your wedding day. We want to celebrate the occasion.

Please let us know when your anniversary is so we can share in your day.

You can mark the sheet at the Welcome Center or e-mail Debbie at afdebbie@zoominternet.net.



Happy Anniversary! September Anniversaries

*Rob and Carol Wally 7th
Denny and Ruth Hiner 10th
Charles and Melody Barnes 19th
Russ and Bert Hedglin 30th*



If you have items of interest you would like to share with the congregation, please let me know and I will be happy to put it in the bulletin and also in the newsletter.

You may contact me at the church at 419-289-7551 or by email at afdebbie@zoominternet.net.

Thank you.

Serving together,
Debbie



In the
Hospital?

Pastoral Care

Reminder to please contact the church office if you are or know of someone who is in need of Pastoral Care so the Pastors can minister to you.
Thank you.

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
PHONE 419-289-7551

Sunday Worship Hours

Worship – 9:30 am
Sunday School – 10:45 am