

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

“Serve, Teach, and Love As We Grow In Faith”

SEPTEMBER 2019



Dear Beloved,

September is upon us. Cooler weather is in the forecast. School begins and fall athletics are in full swing. The “dog days of summer” are behind and fall activities increase. It is so with the church as well as the community. Sunday school and pre-confirmation are starting up. Youth group is back to a weekly gathering. The various music ministries once again are gearing up to help lead in worship. Adult study classes are beginning. It is once again time for us to ask ourselves, **“Am I intentional about my spiritual well being? Am I growing closer to Jesus Christ or am I growing spiritually cold?”**

I come out of a teaching background where I was able to help high school students train their minds and bodies but I was not able to help them on a spiritual level. As a pastor, my heart’s desire is to come along side you to help you grow in your love for Jesus Christ and your service to Him. My spiritual gifts are faith, preaching and teaching. It warms my heart to see you grow in your faith. This fall, I encourage you to come to worship on a regular basis; join one of the Bible study groups. Get involved with some of the church activities were you can experience Christian fellowship and accountability. Use all the various means of God’s grace to draw closer to Him.

“Come near to God and he will come near to you.” James 4:8

In Jesus’ love and grace,

Pastor Wendell

## **Laity Opportunity: Pilgrimage to South Korea with Bishop Jung**



Join Bishop Jung on a Pilgrimage to South Korea, September 23 – October 3, 2019. This trip will have a variety of opportunities for engaging, learning, tasting, and rejoicing in the mission and ministry in Korean Christian history and spiritual life.

The Wisconsin Conference has strong ties to the Dongbu (East) Conference of the Korean Methodist Church and to Korea. Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, Korea, will host the pilgrimage, and we will also spend a few days with our sister Dongbu Conference.

The only expense to you will be the flight and a monetary donation, totaling approximately \$1400. All other costs will be covered by the Bupyeong Methodist Church. The flight will be from the Chicago O’Hare Airport to the Incheon Airport in South Korea. There are 29 spots available for this special trip.

Contact Becky Halstead at [BHalstead@WisconsinUMC.org](mailto:BHalstead@WisconsinUMC.org) for more information.



- SEPT 2 Jaida Decorah
- SEPT 4 Leyah Staszak
- SEPT 5 Bonnie Burnham  
Candy Christianson  
Jann Dahl
- SEPT 6 Tom Epps
- SEPT 9 Tyler Bue
- SEPT 11 David Gjerseth  
Tyler Woods
- SEPT 12 Pam Bjerke
- SEPT 13 Orville Amborn
- SEPT 15 Lois Epps  
Cathy Whaley
- SEPT 17 Maria Lee
- SEPT 18 Rod McGillivray
- SEPT 22 Loretta Charneski
- SEPT 23 Breanna Amborn  
Sue Lindahl
- SEPT 24 Anne Boehm
- SEPT 26 Cheryl Dolsey  
Dennis Farnsworth  
Bill Perry
- SEPT 28 Iris Holder  
Phyllis Nesbitt
- SEPT 29 Jill Prochaska  
Jim Talley
- SEPT 30 Sara Baker



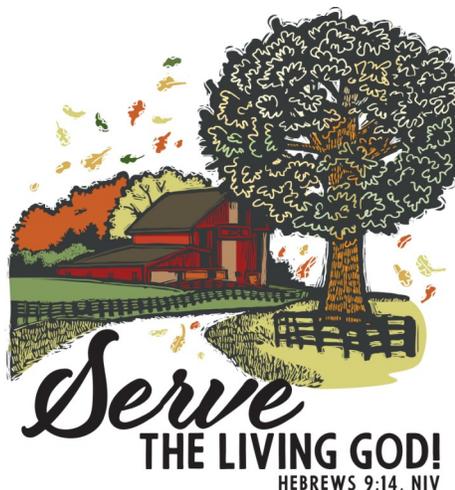
- SEPT 5 Larry & Sue Gaede  
Don & Charlene Galston  
Pastor Wendell & Sue Williams
- SEPT 7 Larry & Sharon Nemec
- SEPT 8 Harley & Kathie Boehm
- SEPT 15 Darrin & Anne Boehm
- SEPT 20 Tyler & Michelle Kapfer
- SEPT 21 Lance & Jennifer Leisgang  
Larry & Cathy Whaley
- SEPT 23 Orv & Beth Amborn
- SEPT 27 Ken & LuAnne Schoolcraft
- SEPT 30 Jim & Jill Kaphengst  
Derek & Marcie Peterson



We will continue to have  
**One Worship Service**  
at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday

Sunday School begins on  
**Sunday, September 8**  
at 9:05 a.m.

The third Sunday of each month,  
starting in October, will be  
**Family Sunday**. Children will attend  
worship with their parents  
at 9:00 a.m. and remain in worship  
for the entire service.



**YOUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER IS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE at  
brfumc.org or it can be sent to  
you by email. Call the church  
office for more information!!!**

## United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace

It is Sunday evening as I am writing this article, and I am thinking about Pastor Wendell's sermon this morning. Among his suggestions for us to get closer to God, to experience God's presence were: worship with our church family, read and study scripture, have a group of Christians that keep you accountable in your journey of faith.

United Methodist Women has provided these opportunities for me. UMW is a group that has strengthened my faith with good Christian mentors and role models, meaningful Bible studies, worship experiences, and opportunities to serve. For me UMW has been worth the time invested both at the local and district levels.

Make this fall a time to take another step in being a UMW member. If you don't currently attend a Circle, come and join us. If you have never been to the District Annual Gathering or have not been there for some time, plan to attend on Sept. 14. Definitely plan now to attend the Conference UMW Annual Gathering here in our church on Oct. 19.

Investing time in UMW pays back with interest. UMW is not just something extra to do. UMW can be part of the foundation of life as a Christian woman. Invest your time; rejoice in the abundance you receive.

See you at UMW,  
Carol Anderson, President

### Dates for your calendar:

Sept. 9            Circle of Hope, 1:30 PM at the church, Circle of Faith, 5:30 PM at Mocha Mouse  
Sept. 14           North Central District Annual Gathering, Wausau Wesley, UMC    Registration forms on the kiosk in the Gathering Area. Registration fee of \$20 by Sept. 6. Late registration fee is \$25.  
October 7           Circle Meetings



### Finance Update

January 1, 2019-July 31, 2019

#### General Fund:

Budgeted Income:	\$174,797.00
Budgeted Expenses:	\$183,318.00

<b>Actual Income:</b>	<b>\$151,824.37</b>
<b>Actual Expenses:</b>	<b>\$147,128.73</b>

All expenses are paid in full to date.  
No payments have been made this year to the Conference for apportionments.

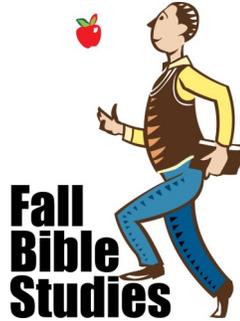
**Thank you to everyone for their financial support of our church.**



The church recently purchased *The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, and Worship and Song* hymnals on compact discs to use for accompaniment and hymn singing during our worship services.

Many of you who have been in worship this summer have experienced some of the issues we have encountered in getting used to this change. Thank you for your patience as we work to simplify and improve this process.

The cost of this new music system was completely covered by the Undesignated Memorial Fund and Music Fund which are totally funded by memorials and gifts and not a part of the General Fund. Monetary gifts in memory of following people were used to help fund the new music system: Dr. Lyle Hart, Ione Dana, Mildred Schoolcraft, and Francis Heller. Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations and memorials to these funds in memory of loved ones.



Pastor Wendell will be leading a Bible Study “**A Firm Foundation—Wesleyan Covenant**” on Sunday mornings after worship at 10:30 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 29. This is a 7 week study that will require some reading.

What does the future hold for the United Methodist Church? This is a question being asked all around our denomination. Join us as we explore what it means to remain faithful disciples in the theological tradition of historic Methodism in our day and time. We will gather around the insights, questions, and principles that will help guide our thinking and renew our hearts in this rich season in the life of our church.

Please sign up in the Gathering Area to give us an idea on the number of books will be needed.



Theresa Paul and Carrie Farnsworth will facilitate a Bible Study on the book, “**The Daniel Prayer**” by **Anne Graham Lotz**, the daughter of Billy Graham. This study will be held on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, September 19. This is a 6 week, video-based study led by Anne Graham Lotz. Some homework will be required.

The study is based on Daniel’s prayer in Daniel 9, and will help you pray effectively for your nation, your family, and for yourself. Anne will answer questions such as: How do I know the God to whom I pray will listen?, How do I know God cares about my prayer? How do I know God will answer my prayer?

Everyone is welcome to join. Sign up in the Gathering Area and let us know you are coming so we can order materials.



If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, please call the church office so that the Pastor is aware of the need and can respond accordingly.

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If you know of an individual or family that is working through health issues, hospitalization, or some other crisis and could benefit from the gift of a meal, please call the church office and Jill will pass the information to our Caring Meal Crew.

## Scrip Cards



Be sure to see Rhoda, Rhonda, or Joan on Sunday mornings to purchase your Scrip Gift Cards! Now is a perfect time to get ready for extra school expenses, something new to wear for fall, groceries, gas for your car, or a date night dinner! Scrip Cards are also great to give as gifts. And, with the proceeds the church gets from the sale of each card, you are helping your church, too. What could be better than that?!



# Packer Tail Gate To-Go Boxes

for  
Sunday, September 15

**Green Bay Packers vs  
Minnesota Vikings  
12:00 Noon football game**

Orders will be taken after worship  
Sunday Sept 1 and Sept 8

Each **To Go Box** contains:  
Brat and Bun, Sauerkraut, Bag of  
Chips, Pickle, and a Monster Cookie  
Box with one brat: \$6.00  
Box with two brats: \$8.00

Proceeds will go to benefit  
the church's General Fund



There is still time to join the Mission Outreach Team on a mission trip to Harbor House Homeless Shelter in Superior, WI, September 13-15. Please contact Marcia Hagen at 715-896-0421 for more information



## Need a World of Opportunity in Finding Your Place in Mission?

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**  
will be the day for you to find this opportunity!

**When?** 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Where?** Hope United Methodist Church  
2233 Golf Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

We are very excited to invite you to a learning event for local mission chairs, clergy, UMW presidents, lay leaders, and anyone who is intrigued by the excitement of being in mission for our church!

The presenters will include information on local, state, national, and international mission opportunities. Learn more about the Rainbow Covenant, In Mission Together, share ideas with counterparts, and so much more.

The presenters are: Paul Webster-agricultural missionary, Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner-Harbor House, Nancy Flath-Wausau Memory Café, Volunteers in Mission, and more!

Cost for the day is \$7.00 which includes lunch and is payable in cash upon arrival. This event is sponsored by the Mission Motivation Committee of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church.

\*\*Please register by September 25 by emailing Lucy Silvester, [loosesilv45@gmail.com](mailto:loosesilv45@gmail.com) with the names of those attending and the name of your local congregation. All are welcome!

### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**

Did you know that you can sponsor the Bulletins or the Radio Broadcast on a Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones? The cost is as follows:

- Bulletins — \$20.00 per Sunday
- Radio Broadcast — \$100.00 per Sunday

You can also provide Altar Flowers for a special Sunday. Please call Jill in the Church Office (715-284-4114) to schedule the Sunday of your choice.





**Matthew 19:14: But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."**

**Rainforest Adventures, A tree-Top Bible Blast VBS** was a success! 46 children ages 3 years to 10 years came to listen to Bible stories, do arts and crafts, and learn new songs. A HUGE THANKS to everyone who contributed items or volunteered their time for Vacation Bible School! Programs like this cannot happen without people like you!

It's a Carnival! The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 8, with registration and a **Carnival Extravaganza!** Watch your mail for a postcard! The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will receive a postcard inviting them to help at the Carnival Extravaganza. Registration forms are also available on our webpage, [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org). On September 15, 22 and 29, all children will be combined and participate in Group Sunday. This will enable the Sunday School Team and children to get to know each other. Sunday School will begin at 9:05 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. (Children are encouraged to attend church with their families at 9:00 a.m. They will be dismissed to go to Sunday School following the Children's Message).

In October, we will continue the Rotation Model Sunday School. This is a way to teach Bible Stories and concepts through child-friendly, creative, and interactive areas. The name of our rotation is JAM, Jesus and Me. The children will rotate to a different area each week: Creation Station (Art), Sunday's Diner (Cooking), Godly Games (Games), and Hollywood (Stories/Music). They will focus on one story for 4 weeks. Rotation Leaders do not rotate, but stay in one place, preparing one lesson (with some age-appropriate modifications) for the four week rotation. All children will begin in the Hollywood Room and be dismissed to their rotation. The Hollywood Room is located downstairs by the elevator.

**FAMILY SUNDAY:** The third Sunday of each month has been designated as Family Sunday. Our first one is October 20. All Sunday School children will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Pre-K children (first time attending Sunday School) and 4th graders will receive their Bibles. Families and children are encouraged to attend this special Sunday and remain in church for the full service. What a great opportunity to involve our younger youth in worship!

Like our Facebook page Black River Falls Sunday School to see photos of our activities. You can also go to the church's website, [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org) for photos and other information.

#### **Our Rotation Model Sunday School Team:**

**Children's Ministry Coordinator:** Beth Bue

**Hollywood:** Beth Bue, Penny Goldsmith

**Creation Station:** Ann Smetana, Barb Goldsmith, Emily Ward, Tia and Mark Maurer

**Sunday's Diner:** Ashley Jessen, Tia and Mark Maurer, Candy Christianson

**Godly Games:** Mike Rave

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be taught by Roxie Hostrawser. She will be using her own curriculum for the students.

Please continue bringing in your ink cartridges and old cell phones. There are boxes in the front entryway, but the Church Office, and by the Youth Rooms for the ink cartridges and cell phones.

#### **YOUTH BIRTHDAYS:**

SEPT 2	Ember Kapfer Ian Phillips
SEPT 3	Mackenzie Dougherty
SEPT 6	Tucker Peterson
SEPT 12	Maddison Jessen
SEPT 21	Channing Goldsmith Owen Zenz
SEPT 23	Brayden Olson
SEPT 28	Henry McCullough
SEPT 30	Erika Phillips





Weekly Youth Group will begin on September 11th. We will meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to begin. Anyone in grades 6-12 is welcome to join us in faith, friends and fellowship.

In August, we met and decided on several additional activities besides our weekly gatherings. We plan to go apple picking, visit a corn maze, go hiking, and do mission work to name a few.

Visit our Youth Group at Black River Falls UMC Youth Group, or contact me via text or call at 715-896-0224 with any questions.

If you missed our Youth Group led worship in August that focused on our YOUTH 2019 trip to Kansas City, please track down a youth and ask how their trip was. It was a 5-day Christ-filled week! We met new people and experienced many faith activities. We appreciate all who supported us leading up to, during, and after our trip.

Suzanne Goldsmith

## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPT 1	Bob Uhrig Randy & Pam Bjerke Elroy & Jann Dahl Janet Gilbertson
SEPT 8	Ruth Hart Darlene Hostrawser Liz, Sam & Lauren Lund Larry & Sharon Nemeč
SEPT 15	Rich & Jill Prochaska Mary Van Gorden Darrin, Anne, Nolan, Dylan & Charley Boehm Lovey Dambach
SEPT 22	Barry, Karolyn & Mitchel Gjerseih Roy & Dorothy Hefty Jim & Roxie Hostrawser Gene & Mary Maurer
SEPT 29	Bob & Phyllis Nesbitt Les & Linda Rhoades Alan & Paula Voskuil Harley & Kathie Boehm

Make Music a  
Part of Your Life



**Do you love to sing??  
Come and join the UMC Choir!!**

Whether you sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass, there is a place for you in the choir!

Our practice time will be on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, beginning Thursday, August 29.

Come and help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!  
You will be glad you did!!

## Lay Servant Training Weekend

**Dates:** Friday & Saturday, September 27 & 28, 2019

**Times:** Classes begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27 and conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 28.

**Place:** **Pine Lake Camp & Retreat Center**  
W8301 County Road M  
Westfield WI 53965

Participants may choose from **ONE** of the following classes. Please indicate your selection when registering:

- Leading Prayer – *InWha Shon*
- Leading Worship – *Cathy Christman and Deb Verdegan*
- Spiritual Gifts – *Roxi Gnatzig and Pat Gallus*
- UM Heritage – *Vicki Brantmeyer*
- UM Polity – *Scott Carlson*
- Continuing Ed: “The Scientific Evidence for the Existence of God” – *Wesley Jacob*

**Cost:** \$110/per participant for attendees staying at Pine Lake.

\$40/per participant for those not staying at the retreat center.

The cost includes rooms (if you are staying at Pine Lake), meals as well as covering costs of class materials.

**Please register with:** *Corrine Daniels*, 608.934.5258, email [corrie.email@gmail.com](mailto:corrie.email@gmail.com)

**Registration Deadline is September 9, 2019.**



## 2019 Walk to Emmaus Weekends

*Men's Fall Walk ~ September 19-22 ~ Women's Fall Walk ~ September 26-29*  
at the Sparrow's Nest in Sparta, WI

If you are looking to grow in your faith, this weekend is for you.  
More info is available on the bulletin the bulletin boards or in the church Office.



## Van Etta Library

### BOOK REVIEW

#### When God Whispers Your Name

by Max Lucado

Max Lucado is one of America's most widely read authors and in this book he challenges each of us to listen to God's whisper that can erase our doubt, our sorrow, our weariness, our despair.

The author uses stories from the Bible and some drawn from everyday life. Most are about people who are lost, or weary, or discouraged like we can be. He states that if we listen we will hear God lovingly whispering our name, like the shepherd who knows his sheep. He has written our names on his hand. [Isaiah 49:16]

This is a book of hope, a book that is meant to encourage us.

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



## Sunday School Carnival!!!



HURRY, HURRY...COME ONE, COME ALL  
*Step right up and have a ball!*

For: First day of Sunday School

Date: Sunday, September 8

Time: 9:05 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Place: BRF UMC Fellowship Hall





**CONCURRENT**  
**Basic and Advanced Lay Servant Classes**

**Basic / Beginning Lay Servant**  
**OR**  
**Preaching**

Students may choose ONE of the following

**Basic Lay Servant Ministry**

Led by Pastor Pam Harkema, Driftless Regional Ministry (Liberty Pole, New Hope, and Retreat)  
*A foundation for all courses in lay servant ministries. How are you gifted and how is God calling you to use your gifts? What spiritual practices are you developing?*

**Preaching**

Led by Pastor Cheryl Weaver, Prairie du Chien and Eastman Salem UMC  
*When you are called to fill the pulpit, how do you prepare and develop a meaningful message? Designed for those who do not have formal preaching training. Required for lay speaker track of study.*

**Saturdays:**  
**October 26 and November 2**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**At New Hope United Methodist Church**  
 E2290 State Highway 82  
 De Soto, WI 54624  
*Between LaCrosse and Prairie du Chien,  
 South West Wisconsin*

Lunch provided by New Hope church.

Registration is \$15 per class.

**Required texts**

(students should acquire their own copies)

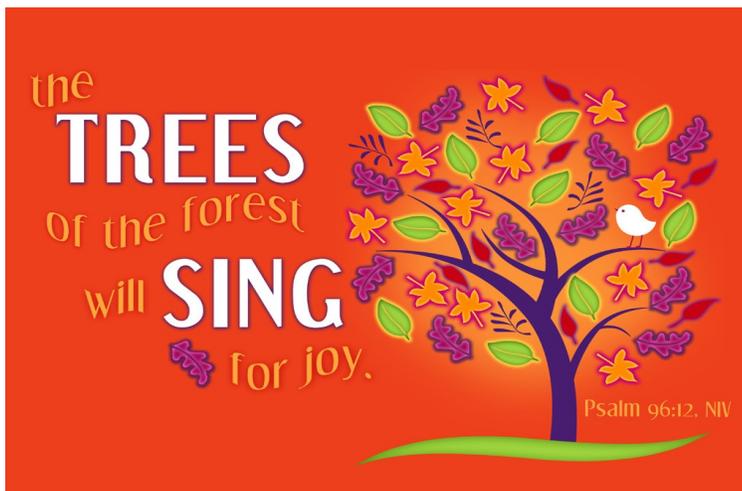
Basic class: Lay Servant Ministries by Sandy Zeigler and Brian Jackson - usually about \$11  
 Preaching class: From Pew to Pulpit by Clifton Guthrie - usually about \$10.79

**Registration Information:**

Phone: (608) 648-2528

[pastor@driftlessministry.org](mailto:pastor@driftlessministry.org)

Please register by October 11, 2019



# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—September 2019



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:00 a.m.—Worship Services  
10:30 a.m.—Meet & Greet With the Pastor

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

LABOR DAY  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:00 p.m.—PreCon

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir  
7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group Meeting

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.—Meet & Greet With the Pastor

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting  
5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith at Mocha Mouse

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting  
6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:00 p.m.—PreCon  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice  
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
Communion Sunday  
9:05-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.—Meet & Greet With the Pastor

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:00 p.m.—PreCon  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

5:30 p.m.—The Daniel Prayer Study  
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice  
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:00 p.m.—PreCon  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

5:30 p.m.—The Daniel Prayer Study  
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice  
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.—A Firm Foundation Study

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



# September