



First United Methodist Church Champaign

Where connecting, growing, and serving are a way of life



The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to:

- **CONNECT** people with God and one another
- **GROW** as disciples of Jesus Christ
- **SERVE** others.

Messenger

Volume XXVII, No. 19

September 18, 2019

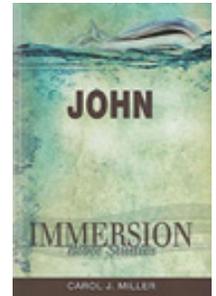


I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ---Ephesians 3:16-19

Dearly Beloved:*

As I continue to marvel at how strong Champaign First United Methodist Church is, in so many ways, I find that I am repeatedly giving thanks for the Wesley Covenant Groups.

Bible study is no new concept to churches. Many churches regularly offer Bible studies. That is common. What is uncommon is a small-group ministry that is offered twice a year, inviting a church-wide focus on the same book. This fall there will be seven different groups meeting each week. There are 89 people registered to participate in a study on the Gospel of John. Champaign First has sustained this small group ministry for many years. (If you are interested, it's not too late to sign up! Email Ruth Moore: ruth@champaignfumc.org)



Pastors regularly encourage bible study as people seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ. I do, too! In a book about discipleship, *Simple Church*, the authors write: **“Discipleship is not about information. It is about transformation.”** I'm sure our Wesley Covenant Groups have given the participants good information. I believe the Wesley Covenant Groups have brought transformation, as well.

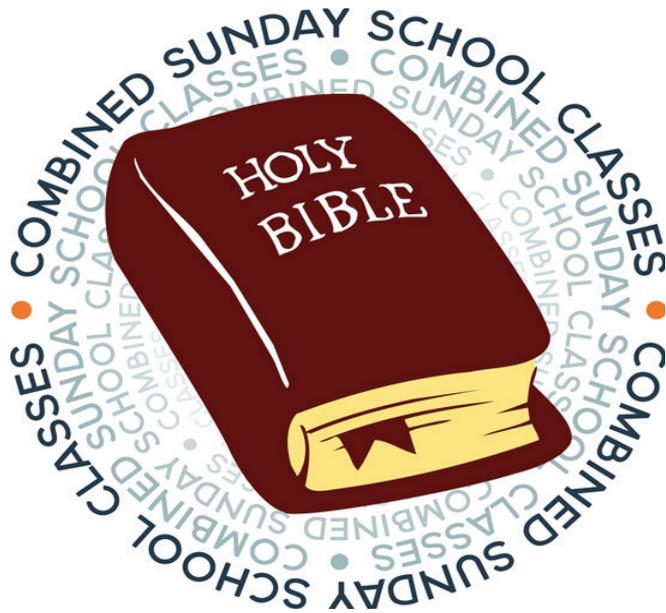
Transformed relationships as friendships are deepened. **Transformed courage** as groups create a safe place to share faith fully: doubts as well as insights, questions as well as certainties. **Transformed spirits** as the Holy Spirit does her work. **Transformed hearts** as God heals the dark places and love reigns more fully. **Transformed community** as we serve others. Small groups create the space for much of this transformation.

So, let me ask the most important question: as a disciple of Jesus Christ, **is your life being transformed so that you live, love and make choices that reveal the Christ who dwells in you?**



Love, First...
Julia

*Yes, “Dearly Beloved” is antiquated and a bit precious, perhaps. But what word better describes our relationship to God and to each other than “beloved?” I like it best written like this: BeLove[d]. It captures the whole message of who we are and what we are called to do. “Beloved” names us, “Be Love” challenges us. And yes, you are dear to me!



Classes meet every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

<u>Age/Grade</u>	<u>Room</u>
ARK Child Care	222
Pre-K – 5th Grade	E*
Middle & High School	H*
New Beginnings	Chapel
Discoverers	223

* Classes located on lower level.

BLAST on September 22

Join us on Sunday, September 22, for BLAST! BLAST stands for “Believe, Learn, And Seek Truth,” and is for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. We meet from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm for dinner, a Bible story, crafts, games, and more! This program is family-oriented and multi-generational, so bring the whole family on September 22! If you’ll be joining us, please RSVP to the church office by calling 217-356-9078 or emailing meredith@champaignfumc.org!



Mark Your Calendar



Our church’s scheduled work day at Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) is Thursday, November 14. At this time we have reserved places for 12 people to serve. Due to new rules at MMDC we would like to have some idea of those who would be interested in joining us for a day of service and fellowship by mid-September. For any questions, you may call Bernie Chamberlain at 217-398-5974.

WORLD

Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 6, is World Communion Sunday. On this day, Christians throughout the world will receive communion, that special gift from God.

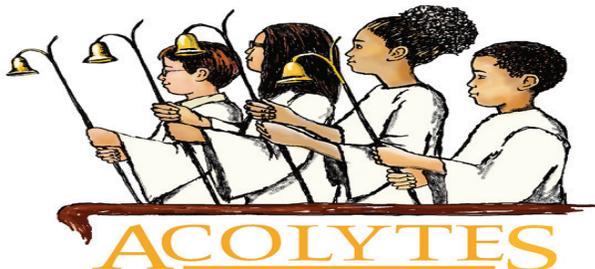
The Local Outreach Ministry Team would like our congregation to give thanks for this blessing by bringing 1 can of vegetables, fruit, or meat products on that day. There will be baskets in which to place the items before you receive communion. The canned goods will replenish our Food Pantry which serves those in need in our community. Please join us in this special offering.

Thank you for your generosity!
Local Outreach Ministry Team

World Communion Sunday is also a church-wide Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Envelopes will be in the bulletin on October 6. Make checks payable to FUMC with World Communion Sunday on the memo line.

Acolytes Needed

If you are interested in being an acolyte to help take the light of God from the sanctuary into the world at the end of the worship service, contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) or call the church office (356-9078).



Consecration Sunday is coming October 20, 2019

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in First United Methodist Church, our community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We strongly encourage members to attend, even though you might not feel comfortable completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to pledge at this time.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our "guest" speaker, Rev. Julia Melgreen, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, leading to members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and supporters. We will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

In preparation for Consecration Sunday, you will have an opportunity to share your visions and dreams for First United Methodist Church, Champaign.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic and prayerful participation in our upcoming Consecration Sunday events.

Gary and Edna Spear
Consecration Sunday Chairs

The Steel Magnolias

In
Concert

Joy in the Journey

"To be filled with God is to be filled with Joy!"



These things I
have spoken to
you, that my joy
may be in you,
and that your
joy may be full.
John 15:11

Friday, September 20 6:00 pm

First United Methodist Church Champaign

210 West Church Street, Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 356-9078

Directing Pastor, Reverend Julia Melgreen

thesteelmagnolias.com debbiedaniel@yahoo.com  [thesteelmagnoliastx](https://www.facebook.com/thesteelmagnoliastx)

The Steel Magnolias are coming! Friday, September 20, at 6:00 pm The Steel Magnolias from San Marcos, Texas, will present *Joy in the Journey* in the FUMC sanctuary. This fully choreographed program of high energy and deeply inspirational gospel music is part of an 11-day tour through thirteen states. This one-of-a-kind gospel singing group has sung throughout America and Canada over the past thirteen years, and has presented concerts and flash mobs through 15 states.

The members share their joy in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Come join in an evening of joy on September 20! All are welcome and there is no admission charge.

Stock the Food Pantry Early & Often



First United Methodist Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to the church on the first Sunday of each month to stock our food pantry. These items are used by the volunteers to provide food for the families in need. There's a desperate need for more volunteers. Please call Sue Bachman at 359-4390 for more information.

Especially needed are: soup, Jell-o, canned pepper, salt, diced tomatoes, and spaghetti sauce. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

There's Still Time to Help!

Donations of school supplies for the children and youth at Cunningham Children's Home may be deposited in the box near the UMW easel in Friendship Center, as well as packages of adult diapers for the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. Last day to donate: September 27! On behalf of those in need, we thank you!

Saving Box Tops for Cunningham Children's Home



If you've been clipping Box Tops for Education for Cunningham Children's Home, please turn them in before September 27. Place them in an envelope or small baggie and give them to our UMW Secretary Sharon Johnson! This is an ongoing effort, so you can (and should!) continue to clip and submit the box top emblems throughout the coming year. And beyond!



Coming Soon! First Sunday Market: October 6



We'll feature small cakes, as well as all kinds of baked goods (cookies, quick breads, cupcakes)!



A selection of very classy gift baskets will be available for you to purchase!



Our Sensational Silent Auction begins at 8:45 a.m. on October 6!



Look forward to the Second Sunday Market on October 13! Watch this space!



Attention Soup Cooks, Goodie Bakers, and Cake Makers!

Bakers: Please stop at the UMW table on September 22 or 29 to let us know what you plan to bake! We're featuring small cakes, but we also need donations of quick breads—especially pumpkin, banana, cranberry, and date-nut. And cookies of all kinds! For packaging and delivery information, contact Anne McKenney (arockymac@aol.com; 356-4728).



Soup Cooks: Visit the UMW table on September 22 and 29 to pick up recipes, instructions, and quart-sized Mason jars, lids, and rings. We'd also like to know which variety of soup you plan to make (Chicken Rice or Beef Vegetable). You can also contact Sharon Johnson (sjohnson@champaignfumc.org; 356-9078).

Don't Miss Our Sensational Silent Auction! Friendship Center October 6 and 13 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Hosted by United Methodist Women

Our Sensational Silent Auction will begin on October 6 at 8:45 a.m. and conclude at 12:15 p.m. on October 13. We are excited to announce the following items:

- A basket of products donated by Columbia Street Roastery
- 3-hour home repair/minor construction work (Pete Beyler)
- An airplane ride for up to three in a Cessna 172, details to be arranged (Neil Fotzler)
- A lovely glass blown pendant created by Jason Mack, complimented by a hand-made scarf (Karen Wood), Sak handbag, and small jewelry box
- Lawn mower tune-up and repair (Ron Lyman at Abel & Reddy Small Engine Repair)
- Holy Family and Nativity wood "puzzles" designed and crafted by Norm Starr (auctioned separately)
- Two tickets and a parking pass for two early season Illini basketball games; and, auctioned separately, two tickets and parking pass for the Illini vs. Nebraska basketball game (Tim and Sue Bachman)
- Two hours landscaping consultation with Mike Weber, along with six hostas and six day lilies chosen from his garden by winner
- A gift basket of items from Checkered Moon

As United Methodist Women, we pledge annually to mission work that helps improve the lives of women, children, and youth globally, nationally, and locally. Our annual fall fundraiser, along with our personal pledges, enables us to fulfill that very important promise.



Youth News



We had our first Youth Group of the school year a week ago. We discussed the passages about mustard seeds in the Bible. We started with Matthew 13:31-32: "He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown, it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'"

The kids discussed how Jesus can use all of us, no matter who we are, to do something great for him. Did you know mustard trees grow from 6-20 feet tall?! I didn't before doing a little research into this lesson. One small seed can make a huge tree, just like one small person can make a giant impact.

We also read Matthew 17:20: "He replied, 'Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'"

When we place our faith in God, the impossible becomes possible. We may not be literally moving mountains, but we move the figurative mountains in our life with God's help. I wanted the kids to remember this--to keep placing their faith in God--so we made small key chains with a mustard seed and a verse in each one.

May we all remember that no matter how small we feel or our faith may seem, God can use us and will help us through our battles.

Meredith

meredith@champaignfumc.org

Coming Events:

Sunday, September 29, 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! - We're heading out to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! Come participate in the hayride, cookout, maze, and go karts! Cost is \$10 a person. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm and arrive back at the church at 8:30 pm. If you would like to join us as a parent volunteer, we would also love to have you at this event. Please let me know if you will be attending by Monday, September 23, so that I can have an accurate headcount for Hardy's!



Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - High School Dinner at Meredith's - All the high schoolers are invited to dinner at Meredith's house! We'll eat, get to know each other better, and have fun! RSVP by calling or texting 217-369-1841 by October 7!

Sundays, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Group - Our middle school and high school youth meet every Sunday evening at the church! Come join us for an evening of activities, fellowship, and fun! We meet in the youth room and dinner is provided.



Looking for Help



The middle and high school Sunday School class is looking for funds with which to purchase fleece for use in making tie blankets for our home-bound church members. Monetary donations may be dropped off in Friendship Center North between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, or in the church office by Monday, October 7. Direct any questions to Chad Beyler (cbeyler1023@gmail.com). Our youth thank you for your support of this mission project.

Clothing Room Volunteers Needed at empty tomb

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 6:10, *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.* (NIV) A wonderful opportunity to help people is available at empty tomb when you volunteer in our Clothing Room. Morning volunteers receive donations, sort items, and display them in the Clothing Room. Afternoon volunteers have the added opportunity to greet and interact with Clothing Room visitors who come to select items free in Jesus' name.

empty tomb is in need of volunteers who attend church regularly to help on the following mornings in the Clothing Room: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Afternoon volunteers are also welcome. Please contact us by calling 217-356-2262 and asking for the Volunteer Coordinator, or by emailing volcoor@emptytomb.org



empty tomb[®], inc.

To Our Guests and Visitors . . .



Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Champaign. We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us, and we invite you to visit the Hospitality desk in the Friendship Center, adjacent to the Sanctuary. Or you can visit us on our website, www.champaignfumc.org, to learn more about the many opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service available through the ministries of our congregation.

How do I become a member...?

If you are considering membership in the congregation of First United Methodist Church, you are invited to attend an orientation group: "Connecting@First." This is an opportunity to learn more about the ministries of the Church.

If you would like to register for the next group, please contact Sharon Johnson, Administrative Assistant to the Directing Pastor, sjohnson@champaignfumc.org, or 356-9078.

Flower Calendar Sign-Up for 2019

The 2019 Flower Calendar Sign-up is available on the bulletin board outside the Resource Room. You can choose the dates on which to celebrate special people and/or special events among your family and friends. The flowers are ordered for you by the chairman of the month. It is a simple way to beautify the chancel and remember the special people in your life. For questions, call Teryl Pigott at 621-2744 or email terylpigott@gmail.com.





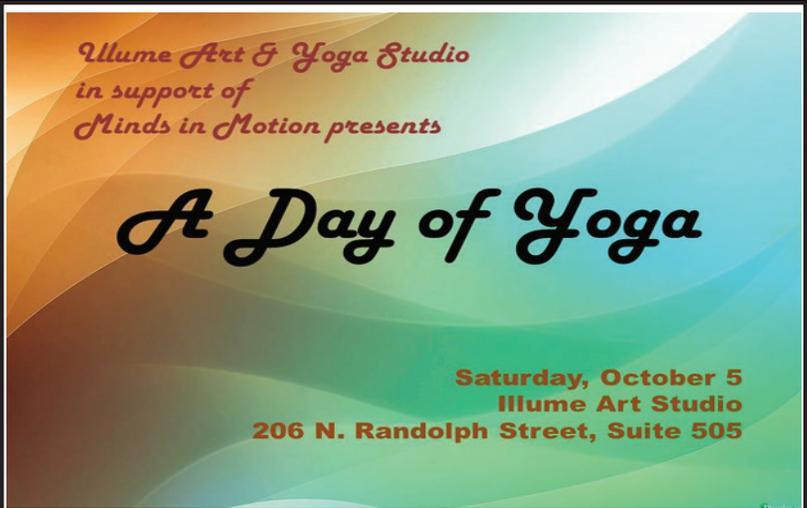
The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a large Electronic Message Center sign installed on Church Street. This is a double-sided, illuminated state-of-the-art sign that will bring our message to thousands of people in our community every day.

The Board of Trustees invites any donations toward this project with checks made payable to FUMC and "Church Sign" indicated on the memo line.

**Parish Nurse
Blood Pressure Screenings**



On September 22, Diane Fish will conduct a blood pressure screening for interested congregation members. The blood pressure screening will be held during the Coffee Connections. To allow for privacy, the screening will take place in the Library. Blood pressure screenings will occur regularly, usually on the fourth Sunday of each month. Please contact Diane at the church (ask to leave a message for the Parish Nurse) if you have any questions about the screening.



Minds in Motion is a not-for-profit program offering activities for older adults that are designed to improve or maintain:

- Cognitive (mental) functioning
- Physical abilities and functioning
- Mental outlook (decrease or allay depression and anxiety)

Now beginning its 15th year, the Minds in Motion program has served hundreds of older adults wishing to maintain their mental and physical fitness in a fun, safe, and relaxing environment, including persons with early memory loss.

The yoga classes will be led by experienced yoga instructors, and include the option to participate in several different types of yoga, including:

9:30 a.m.: Gentle Yoga: Appropriate for all levels, this class moves at a slow steady pace with most postures seated or reclined on the mat with a few standing postures.

10:45 a.m.: Chair Yoga: This practice is done while seated in the chair or using the chair as support. Traditional poses are modified to make the practice accessible to all abilities.

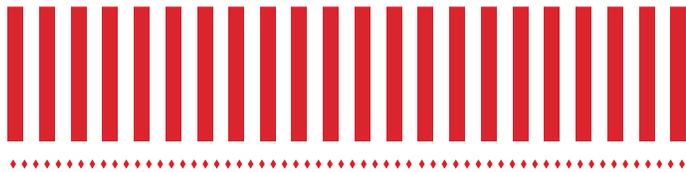
12:00 noon: Yin Yoga: A slow deep practice targeting the deeper connective tissue of the body, leading to greater flexibility. All postures are seated or reclined.

1:30 p.m.: Slow Flow Yoga: A gentle practice synchronizing breath with movement, appropriate for all levels.

Class sizes are limited! Please register for the desired class at: www.illumartstudio.com

We look forward to seeing you on October 5! 100% of the donations go directly to the Minds in Motion program. Checks and cash donations are accepted.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Terri Decker, Illume Art & Yoga Studio, at terri@illumartstudio.com or Sandy Burgener, Director, Minds in Motion, at: sburgener@illinois.edu; Cell: (217) 898-4251.



Portillo's® for GOOD

FUNDRAISERS

Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone
and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

AUSTIN'S PLACE: AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR WOMEN

September 25, 2019

4:00pm - 8:00pm

at the Portillo's located at:

2306 N. Prospect Ave
Champaign, IL 61822

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us
to serve up a better tomorrow, visit
portillos.com/good



Not valid with online orders. Promoting on Portillo's premises is strictly prohibited.

Prep help needed for empty tomb Christmas GiveAway

The 2019 empty tomb Christmas GiveAway held in December will be here before we know it. Cindy Sturgeon oversees the GiveAway and she needs your help. Toys (selected by parents/guardians for their children) need to be cleaned and organized; gift baskets (selected by children for their parents/guardians) need to be put together using donated items like candles, decorations, DVDs, books, toiletries, etc. Can you help with some of the preparation? Volunteers are needed on Saturdays. To set up a time when you can assist her, please call Cindy at 217-356-2262.



"You are the hands of God in the world. Go now and make him something beautiful."

PAUL HESS
Beautiful Hope



"Wow, Mrs. Hoover — 40 years of teaching Sunday school. You were in it for the long haul!"

Congregational Life of FUMC

October 16-31, 2019



- 17 Jo Ann Curtis
- 17 Curt Gidding
- 17 John Woods
- 18 Meghan Uppinghouse
- 19 Brian Jackson
- 19 Rachele Waibel
- 20 Bonnie Berner
- 23 Chad Beyler
- 24 John Alsop
- 24 Zach Sides
- 25 Vivienne Hershenson
- 25 Tom Maryan

- 26 Caleb Bradbury
- 26 Sarah Bullock
- 26 Robert Sweikar
- 27 Ron Fields
- 27 Dorothy Shirley
- 27 Oliver Tshomba
- 28 Carleigh Hebbard
- 29 Harris Choo
- 29 Clark Roberts
- 29 Linda Whited
- 30 Gloria Buhrmester
- 30 Bryson Patterson
- 31 Carol Petersen

- 16 Jeff & Amy Rients
- 17 David & Susan Eades
- 18 Eric & Lisa Robeson
- 25 Daniel & Rhonda Proctor
- 26 Bill & Diana Williams
- 27 Craig Gehrke & Maggie Weber Gehrke

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the past two weeks:



GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL?

If you are scheduled by your physician to be hospitalized, please indicate "**Champaign First United Methodist Church**" on your admission form.

Privacy guidelines will not allow hospitals to notify the Church without your permission. If you can, call us before you are admitted, or have a family member or friend let us know.

We don't want to miss you when we visit.

Rev. Julia & Rev. Jerry

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If you have a need for prayer, please call the Church Office at 356-9078.



Do YOU need a ride to 11:00 Sunday Morning Worship Service?



We want you here to worship!!

Call Bruce Hemminger at 356-2576.

NEXT

Messenger Deadline, September 26, 2019 published on October 2

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: bberner@champaignfumc.org or brought to the Church.

Congregational Life of FUMC

Church Calendar

Thursday, September 19

10:00 Minds in Motion
 10:30 NDFL to Gibson City
 for Lunch
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 6:30 Stephen Ministry
 Supervision

Friday, September 20

6:00 Steel Magnolias Concert

Sunday, September 22

9:00 ARK Child Care
 9:00 Lyman/Badt WCG
 9:00 Sunday School
 9:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 Rehearsal
 10:00 Blood Pressure Screenings
 10:00 Coffee Connections
 10:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 Worship Service
 3:00 WCG Leaders
 4:00 Angel Choir
 5:00 BLAST
 5:00 Youth Music
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:05 Doll WCG

Monday, September 23

6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
 7:00 Choral Union
 7:00 Garreau WCG

Tuesday, September 24

10:30 Staff Meeting
 1:30 Wiggs/Corum WCG
 6:00 Chancel Ringers
 7:00 Bachman WCG
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Wednesday, September 25

1:30 WCG Leadership Team
 4:00 Austin's Place Fundraiser
 at Portillo's
 6:30 Carlier WCG
 7:00 Chancel Choir
 7:00 Mattingly WCG
 7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, September 26

8:30 *Messenger* Deadline
 5:30 Local Outreach
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 7:00 Wrapped in His Love

Sunday, September 29

9:00 ARK Child Care
 9:00 Lyman/Badt WCG
 9:00 Sunday School
 9:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 Rehearsal
 10:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 Coffee Connections
 10:30 Worship Service
 3:00 WCG Leaders
 3:15 Youth Music
 4:00 Angel Choir
 4:30 Youth Trip to Hardy's
 Reindeer Ranch
 6:05 Doll WCG

Monday, September 30

6:30 Austin's Place Meeting
 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
 7:00 Choral Union
 7:00 Garreau WCG

Tuesday, October 1

9:30 Program Staff Meeting
 1:30 Wiggs/Corum WCG
 6:00 Chancel Ringers
 7:00 Bachman WCG
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
 7:15 Worship Ministry Team

Wednesday, October 2

8:30 *Messenger* Assembly
 9:30 UMW Executive Board
 1:30 WCG Leadership Team
 6:30 Carlier WCG
 7:00 Chancel Choir
 7:00 Mattingly WCG
 7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, October 3

10:00 Minds in Motion
 6:30 Christian Formation Team
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30 UMW Sunday Market
 9:00 ARK Child Care
 9:00 Lyman/Badt WCG
 9:00 Sunday School
 9:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 Rehearsal
 10:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 Coffee Connections
 10:30 Worship Service
 12:00 New Member Class
 3:00 WCG Leaders
 4:00 Angel Choir
 5:00 Youth Music
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:05 Doll WCG

Monday, October 7

6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
 7:00 Choral Union
 7:00 Garreau WCG
 7:00 Troop #1 Meeting

Tuesday, October 8

10:30 Staff Meeting
 1:30 Wiggs/Corum WCG
 6:00 Chancel Ringers
 7:00 Bachman WCG
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Worship Attendance

Sunday, September 8, 2019

10:30.....190

Sunday, September 15, 2019

10:30.....177

