



# 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. 18

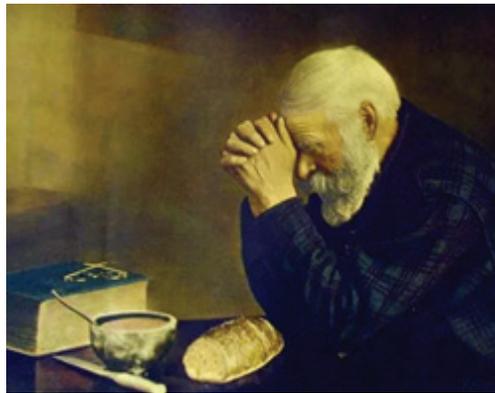
September 4, 2019

### Diligent in Prayer

My grandparents had a painting of a man, sitting at his table, head bowed in prayer. It is probably familiar to you. It was originally a photo taken by Eric Enstrom, later depicted in an oil painting done by Enstrom's daughter, Mrs. Rhoda Nyberg. It was entitled "Grace." Taken in 1918, Eric Enstrom wanted to remind people that even with all the world's troubles, there were daily blessings for which they could pray their thanks to God.

My grandmother never signed a card with the words, "Love, Grandma." Instead, she wrote, "I am praying for you." Is there any better way to say, "I love you"? For my entire life, I knew my grandmother was lifting me up to God in prayer. How many missteps did I avoid, how many decisions did I make with more wisdom because my grandmother was faithful to pray for me?

In 2005, I was introduced to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at a new church I was being appointed to serve. At the close of the meeting, Jim asked me for the names and ages of my children. He promised to pray for me and my family every day...by name. For fourteen years, Jim prayed for us. When I left Douglas Avenue, he promised to pray for us daily for the rest of his life. He is in his late 80's and I hope he lives a



long, long time. His prayers have meant the world to me.

Who are you praying for? Every day? By name? I've often felt sadness as I imagine the number of people who have no one to pray for them. Is our circle of prayer wide enough? Are the prayers we lift up big and bold enough?

Corrie Ten Boom, an inspirational writer who exhibited great faith and endured great hardship during WWII, wrote this: "The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love."

We are stepping into a new season at First UMC: a new worship time, new pastoral leadership,

new opportunities for the fall and new hope that we can be a church that invites people into a life-changing, heart-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

Will you pray?

Please pray for our church, giving thanks to God for our past and praying for the Spirit's power as we move into our future. Pray for the pastor and staff by name, lifting them up into God's care and creativity. Pray for church leaders that God reveals God's vision for our congregation. Pray for the people whose paths cross yours each day, offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their life, praying for God to protect them and asking that God would use you to reveal God's love and grace. You may be the only person praying for them! Pray for your families. Pray for yourself.

We are told regularly that church growth, especially in big, old downtown churches is impossible. I don't believe it! In Luke 18:27, we read, "What is impossible for people is possible with God."

Will you join me in praying for impossible, wild, unreachable goals? God is able.

Blessings,

♥ Rev. Julia Melgreen

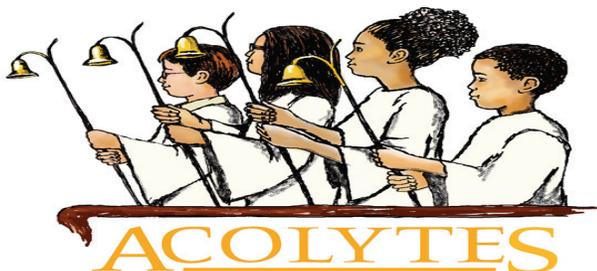
# Rally Day! Sunday, September 8th!

Please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share! Drop off in Fellowship Kitchen before the service!

Worship in Church: 10:30 am  
Free Lunch in Fellowship Hall: 11:45 am  
Bounce House in the Church Courtyard! Casual dress-come as you are!

## 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 the call the church office (356-9078).



## 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.

## Come to the Downbeat – your God-given gifts are needed!

Rehearsals for FUMC musical ensembles resume (or have already resumed) their regular schedules. All interested musicians (and wanna-be musicians!) are welcome to join. Invite your friends to join us. Contact Barbara Zachow for more information at 217-356-9078 or bzachow@comcast.net.



### First Regular Rehearsal:

- **Perceptions Praise Team - Thursday, August 29, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Sanctuary**
  - o Youth and adults of any age
  - o Keyboard, guitar, drum set, vocalists, other instruments
- **Chancel Choir – Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 – 8:15 pm - Adult Choir Room**
  - o Youth and adults of any age
  - o Provide choral music in a variety of styles for worship
- **Chancel Ringers – Tuesday, September 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm - Bell Tables**
  - o Youth and Adults of any age
  - o Intermediate or Advanced handbell experience
  - o Provide music in a variety of styles for periodic worship services
- **Angel Choir – Sunday, September 8, 4:00 – 5:00 pm - Room J**
  - o 3 years old through 5th graders
  - o Singing, tone chimes, beginning bells, Orff and rhythm instruments, foundational music reading skills
- **Youth Music – Sunday, September 8, 5:00 – 6:00 pm - Adult Choir Room**
  - o 6th through 12th graders
  - o Singing, intermediate bells, instruments, other artistic talents
- **Instrumental Ensemble – Rehearsals TBA – Adult Choir Room**
  - o Youth and Adults of any age
  - o Some previous instrumental experience (brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, keyboard)
  - o Several rehearsals, then help lead worship
  - o Stay tuned for exact schedule
- **Media and Technology Arts Team – Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings**
  - o Youth and Adults
  - o Enhance worship through wise use of audio, video and projection technology
- **FUMC also hosts Choral Union – Monday, September 9, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Adult Choir Room**
  - o Adults with willingness to sing in and contribute to the community chorus, the ability to match pitch, and the ability to produce a pleasing vocal sound
  - o Give periodic concerts throughout the community

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**

**United Methodist Women Turns 150 Years Old!**

**And we are having a birthday party!**



**September 11, 1:30 p.m.**

**Friendship Center North**

**(There will be cake!)**

**All Women of the Church Are Invited!**

### **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: canned chicken, canned pepper, salt, diced tomatoes, and spaghetti sauce. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.*

### **An Invitation To Help Illinois Mission Institutions**

The District UMW is seeking love gifts for the children and youth served by Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana) and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East Saint Louis. Lessie Bates Davis has requested adult diapers and 24-count boxes of crayons. CCH needs basic school supplies (#2 pencils, black pens, blue pens, composition books, and 2-pocket folders).

Anyone wishing to donate items, should leave them in the container near the UMW easel in Friendship Center no later than Friday, September 27. CCH has also requested gift cards to Walmart, Amazon, and McDonald's. These should be given to Sharon Johnson for safekeeping. As ever, we are grateful to our congregation for ongoing support of these two important Illinois mission institutions.



## Sunday Morning Markets Coming Soon!



Mark your calendars with these important dates: October 6 and October 13! United Methodist Women are gearing up for our annual fall fundraising events. At our Sunday Morning Markets, we will be offering baked goods—including pies, cookies, breads, and coffeecakes—beautiful gift baskets, two varieties of homemade soup sold by the quart, and our Sensational Silent Auction, featuring goods and services provided by members of our congregation! Watch for additional information in the next issue of *The Messenger*.

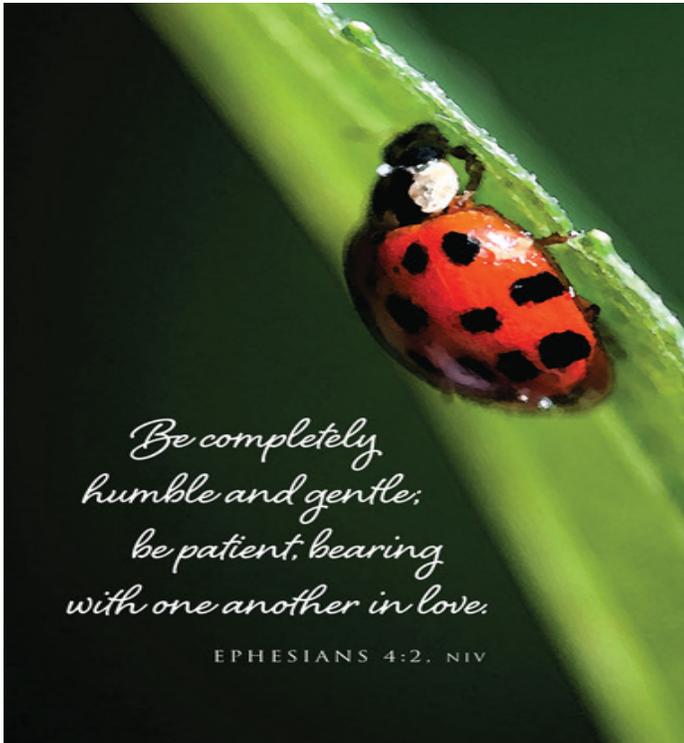
## What Can You Do To Help Now?

In the meantime, here's what you, your family, your ministry team, or your Wesley Covenant Group can do to help:

- If you are a baker or a soup maker, please stop at the UMW table in Friendship Center North on September 22 or 29 to let us know what you plan to make (soup recipes provided)
- Begin gathering items to include in a small or medium gift basket focusing on one of these themes: Fall, Christmas, U of I Sports, Senior Citizens (stamps, Word Search, tea), Spa (e.g. shower, bath, relaxation CD), Cooking (e.g. measuring cups, cookbook). We plan to price the baskets between \$15 and \$25, so please keep that in mind as you plan and shop.
- Once you've decided on a theme, gather items and place them in a plastic bag (one bag per gift basket). Leave the bags in the red container in the Resource Room by no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, September 16. We'll decorate the baskets for you!
- Remember why we do this! 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. We will be grateful for your help!



## Youth News



Recently, the Youth Group went to an escape room. If you've never been to one, an escape room is similar to a live-action board game where you work together with a team to uncover clues and solve puzzles. The youth had actually asked to go the past couple of years, but this was the first time I had taken them, as I was initially a little worried how everyone would work together. You only have one hour to complete the escape room--would they be patient with their teammates? Would they speak to each other with respect, even if their teammate came up with an idea or theory that seemed nonsensical to them? Would everyone get along?

I ended up having absolutely nothing to worry about. All the kids worked amazingly with each other and exercised patience and kindness. That ended up getting us far--we actually completed the room so quickly that we went up on their current leaderboard! When we left, all the kids commented on how fun it was and that we should go again. When we treat each other with respect and come together as a team, there's no telling what God can help us accomplish.

Meredith

[meredith@champaignfumc.org](mailto:meredith@champaignfumc.org)

### Coming Events:

**Sunday, September 8, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - First Youth Group of the School Year!!!!**

**Tuesday, September 17, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Middle School Dinner at Meredith's** - All the middle 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 September 15!

**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 hay ride, 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 (beginning September 8), 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.

## Prep help needed for empty tomb Christmas GiveAway

The 2019 empty tomb Christmas GiveAway, held in December, will be here before we know it. As you can imagine, it is no small task to prepare for this event. 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.



## 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](mailto:terylpigott@gmail.com).



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



**We want you here to worship!!**  
Call Bruce Hemminger  
at 356-2576.

## 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](http://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](mailto:sjohnson@champaignfumc.org), or 356-9078.

## Name Tags Are Important

Name tags are important for the benefit of our guests and newer members; actually, even some of our older members appreciate name tags. So, please wear yours at Sunday worship or whenever working at a church event. If you don't have a name tag, contact Sharon at [sjohnson@champaignfumc.org](mailto:sjohnson@champaignfumc.org) or at 356-9078.

**"That's a lesson we're always learning,  
that God loves us just as we are, but he  
loves us too much to leave us that way."**

SCOTT HAHN  
Taken from *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*



# 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](http://thesteelmagnolias.com) [debbiedaniel@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiedaniel@yahoo.com)



[thesteelmagnoliastx](https://www.facebook.com/thesteelmagnoliastx)

On 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. Some of the flash mobs were presented at Radio City Music Hall in New York, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Liberty Island Ferry, and the new One World Trade Center. Their Pacific Northwest travels took them through four fires in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and California as they presented concerts in Churches, Community Centers, VA hospitals, Prisons and Flash Mobs. Nothing has stopped these ladies yet – they are truly on a mission.

This year's theme is **“Joy in the Journey,”** from the scripture John 15:11. 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.

For more information, visit [www.thesteelmagnolias.com](http://www.thesteelmagnolias.com) or [www.facebook.com/thesteelmagnoliastx](https://www.facebook.com/thesteelmagnoliastx) or contact the Steel Magnolias' music director, Debbie Daniel at (512) 757-4901.

# Congregational Life of FUMC

October 1-15, 2019



- 1 Harriette Clinebell
- 1 Dan Carlier
- 2 Robert Atkins
- 2 Pamela Christman
- 2 Larry Fredrickson
- 3 Kelli Kemper
- 3 Ginny Menzer
- 3 Rachel Tshomba
- 5 Brandon Kauffmann
- 6 Tim Burgener
- 6 Emily Hershenson
- 7 Rita Gentry-McCartney
- 8 Edna Spear

- 9 Donna Jones
- 9 Arika Sides
- 9 Christine Stover
- 9 Kari Wietzke
- 10 Grace Chrisman
- 10 Edwin McCartney
- 11 Hannah Burgener
- 11 Susan Butt
- 12 Jordan Bargmann
- 13 Carolyn Kelley
- 14 Amy Shreve
- 14 Michael Thompson
- 15 Rachel Berner

- 3 Joe & Lauren Duncan
- 6 Stan & Jennifer Olson
- 7 Chris & Gwen Uppinghouse
- 11 Todd & Elizabeth Boehm
- 13 Jim & Lori Palmer
- 14 Dike & Roxanne Stirrett
- 15 Howie & Jeanne Kemper

## Hospital Report

**Hospitalized in the past two weeks:** Diana Elder.



## 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

## Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Benny Barham and family at the passing of Benny's brother, Theron "Jerry" Barham, on July 23, 2019; to Chris and Susan Hinesly and family at the passing of Chris's mother, Frances Hinesly, on August 16, 2019; to Mary Lou Gannaway and family at the passing of Mary Lou's brother, William Wilson, on August 24, 2019, in Cloverdale, Indiana; and to Rob Beldon and family at the passing of Rob's wife, Dorothy "Dot" Beldon, on August 25, 2019.



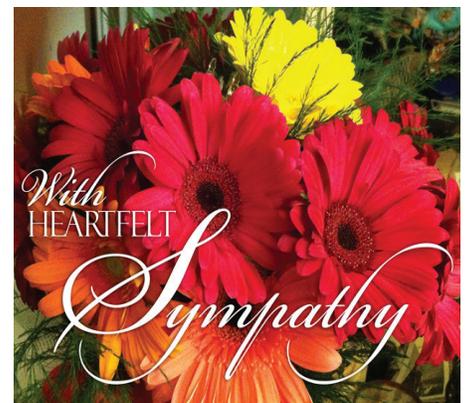
If you have a need for prayer, please call the Church Office at 356-9078.

## NEXT

**Messenger Deadline,  
September 12, 2019**

**published on September 18**

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



# Congregational Life of FUMC

## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, September 4

8:30 *Messenger* Assembly  
 9:30 UMW Executive Board  
 1:30 WCG Leadership Team  
 5:00 Wellspring Committee  
 7:00 Chancel Choir  
 7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Thursday, September 5

10:00 Minds in Motion  
 2:00 Helping Hands  
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

### Sunday, September 8

#### Rally Day

9:00 ARK Child Care  
 9:30 Perceptions Praise Team Rehearsal  
 10:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 Worship Service  
 11:45 Rally Day Potluck in Fellowship Hall  
 3:00 WCG Leaders  
 4:00 Angel Choir  
 4:30 LIFT (Leading In Faith Together)  
 5:00 Youth Music  
 6:00 Youth Group  
 6:05 Doll WCG

### Monday, September 9

7:00 Choral Union  
 7:00 Garreau WCG  
 7:00 Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### Tuesday, September 10

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 11

1:30 UMW Special Program  
 1:30 WCG Leadership Team  
 6:30 Carlier WCG  
 6:30 FUMCCC Committee  
 7:00 Chancel Choir  
 7:00 Mattingly WCG  
 7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Thursday, September 12

8:30 *Messenger* Deadline  
 1:30 NDFL Committee  
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team  
 7:00 Wrapped in His Love

### Saturday, September 14

7:00 Iroquois River District Lay Servant Ministry Advance Course

### Sunday, September 15

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

### Monday, September 16

5:00 UMW Basket Workshop  
 5:15 Board of Trustees  
 7:00 Choral Union  
 7:00 Garreau WCG

### Tuesday, September 17

9:30 Program Staff Meeting  
 1:30 Wiggs/Corum WCG  
 6:00 Chancel Ringers  
 6:00 Middle School Dinner at Meredith's  
 7:00 Bachman WCG  
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1  
 7:15 Finance Committee



### Wednesday, September 18

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

### 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 Youth Music  
 6:00 Youth Group  
 6:05 Doll WCG

### Monday, September 23

7:00 Choral Union  
 7:00 Garreau WCG

### Worship Attendance

**Sunday, August 25, 2019**  
 10:30.....175

**Sunday, September 1, 2019**  
 10:30.....133

