



The Grapevine

Our Mission: To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

Editor's Note:

*As summer winds down, I feel the need to get done what I have not yet accomplished during the past months. It is like a frenzy in my mind before the season changes and we need to settle into different weather and light patterns. It is something that happens to me **every year** and yet I am not sure I have learned to "slow down and smell the roses" before they wilt and dry. It is almost as if it catches me by surprise. Take time to relax,*

*take time out of your busy schedule to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of life. Will this habit of fast pace stop if I am more intentional? In order to do so I pray that I can lift my eyes and **pay attention with intention**. I pray for you all, my church family, that we may **pay attention with intention**. Find the time for Christ in our daily lives and live each day with fullness and pleasure and realize that flowers bloom in every season.*

In Christ's Love, Petra

Monthly Scriptures :

September 3:

Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Title:

"Want to save your Life?"

September 10:

Psalms 149:1-9 (NRSV)

Sermon Title:

"Take Heart"

September 17:

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Title:

"Forgive your Brother Or Sister in your heart "

September 24:

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon Title:

"The Last will be First and the first will be Last?"



BY ALL THESE LOVELY TOKENS, SEPTEMBER DAYS ARE HERE. WITH SUMMER'S BEST OF WEATHER AND AUTUMN'S BEST OF CHEER. —
HELEN HUNT JACKSON

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Pastor Ken's Corner

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Matthew 18:15–20 (NRSV) Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Labor Day is almost here and that generally means the end of our summer and the beginning of a new school year...though most schools have been back in session since sometime in August. The point being, we as a community are in transition again.

Vacations ending and returning to the normal fall routine means fewer boaters and summer vacationers in our community along with less traffic and a slower pace for the Middlesex area. Treasure the remaining moments of summer as they fly by too quickly.

What are your **expectations and anticipations** for this September?

I pray for safety for our teachers and students as they return to school and peaceful activities for all of us.

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As often as I've read this passage I see the process for putting into action the portion of the Lord's Prayer that covers “Forgive us OUR trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We are to forgive others as God forgives us -- plain and forthright.

The process of bringing witnesses and involving the Church in the process should occur only in very rare cases. We as Christians should be able to handle our differences between us as individuals.

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¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Jesus affirms to us again the authority He gives to all Christians. He also affirms that we should seek counsel and support from one another, or several in our faith community, when we pray about a need or a circumstance that concerns us and others and for world situations and circumstances. We can and SHOULD pray fervently and faithfully for "God's will to be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."

God is here among us **when we pray** and **as we pray**. What a powerful **promise**.

Remember from the Sunday, August 27, service: Christ has a **PASSION** (Love) for us, a **Plan** for us and a **PROMISE** to us.

Passion: John 13:34–35 (NRSV) ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another. Just as I have loved** you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another."**

Plan: John 6:38–39 (NRSV) ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And **this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.**

Promise: Matthew 28:18–20 (NRSV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. **And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

Jesus lets us know **His expectations and His anticipation** for us in His Passion, His Plan and His Promise that He has made to us in the above scriptures and others.

God sent Jesus to save us. In order for that to happen WE need to be convinced to have FAITH in HIM.

Jesus **creates** a new frame of reference for **expectations and anticipations** for all of us, not just the people 2,000 years ago.... **God's power is limitless and beyond our expectations.**

Healing, feeding, teaching, comforting...with Jesus this is only the beginning, He draws us into the family of God, makes us HIS children, the children of God, and SAVES us from SIN and DEATH.

Again, let me remind you.... Each of you is a member of the body, an integral part of the church and God's perfect plan of salvation. You may not realize right now at this moment how integral **ALL the individuals are in His ministries**. We may not all have the same gifts but

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we are all blessed with some for the Common Good to Glorify God.

Christ is Risen...Christ is Risen Indeed!

We are reconciled to God through Christ and our Faith in Him.

As we walk in the world **physically** following the footsteps of Christ, others will see us and what we do.

Use your Gifts of the Spirit to give Glory to the Father above.

We continue to lift up the health concerns of our Church Family as well as life events and even the routine daily events of our community around us.

We must continue to pray for all the agencies that work to improve the lives of those devastated by storms and other natural disasters.

Pray for our **local first responders** of Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue and Emergency

Medical Teams, as well as our Military (**and the recent losses in crashes and accidents**), National Guard and Coast Guard Responders at work around the world, and all the families waiting patiently for their safe return.

Our **Cryer Mobile Food Pantry has been scheduled for September 2 from 9 to 11 a.m.** We need willing hands and prayers for this event as we always do on the first Saturday of the month in partnership with the Cryer Center.

Our **Clarksbury FOOD PANTRY is scheduled for SEPTEMBER 23.** There is a **sign- up** list posted in the sanctuary, Fran has already sent out food shopping requirements to those who are picking up the food items. A work day will be scheduled for when we bag all the goods, and we will distribute them on Saturday, September 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. **Look for dates and guidance in the bulletins and the Grapevine.** If you have **any questions, call me or the Church.**

We pray for all of our community outreach services: food pantry, meals on wheels, and other ministries that we provide to our community through **our outreach.**

We pray for the hurting people of this world. We pray for those who are in the path of hurricanes and other storms. We pray for the victims of violence. We pray for our country and our leaders that they may be blessed by our Lord to do His will.

May we be a loving witness to our community to **demonstrate God's love for us.**

May God richly bless all of you and your loved ones.

Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken

LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

Thoughts about Labor Day

I think **Labor Day** is a kind of strange holiday. While we call it "**Labor Day**," we try to do as little labor as possible and most working people have the day off. I don't recall anyone wishing me a "Happy Labor Day" or sending me a **Labor Day** card. We don't give corsages, decorate the house, or give **Labor Day** gifts. Even the florists and greeting card manufacturers haven't found a way to capitalize on it. Of course, it's a boon to resorts and tourist centers and a bad weekend for the Church because everyone wants to travel.

Like most things, **Labor Day** is different things to different people. To the factory or office worker, it may be a day off. But, for mothers who have both Dad and the kids to deal with, it's a tough day. For policemen, who must deal with extra heavy traffic and alcohol abuse, it's a tough day. To farmers and ranchers, it's just another day to feed the cattle and work in the field doing things that allow no holiday.

For Christians it is an opportunity to talk about work and its rewards. Work is a very important part of God's revelation and will for people. God has always honored and provided work. God is a worker Himself and appreciates rest as he tells us in Genesis. 2:2. He created us in His image and gave us work to do. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Even from the beginning, God gave men work to do, Genesis. 2:15. When Jesus came to earth, God honored work: He announced His birth to working shepherds. Jesus Himself learned a trade and worked with His hands. Jesus chose working men as His apostles and called them from their labors to His side. Jesus preached His message to the working class and common people.

So you see we do carry our Christian principles into the work world, our work becomes a Christian ministry. This gives work new meaning and dignity.

We can't, on the other hand, claim to be Christians if our Christianity is only a one day a week affair. God does care what you do Monday through Friday whether you are an employee or employer. There is great encouragement in knowing this.

2 Thessalonians 3: 10- "For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat".

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Ministries:

UMM

The Clarksbury Church Men will meet on Monday September 25th at 7 PM. At this meeting we will make our final plans for the October 13th barbeque fund raiser. Remember there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

RECOVERING

Betty Johnson Connie Robertson Carl Tate

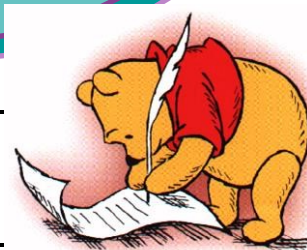


Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

Our committee will have a meeting on Sept. 10th after the morning service. We will be making plans for the fall for our friends at FBE. If you have any suggestions, please share them with someone on the committee. Also, if you have any ideas for other community projects for N&O please, share them as well. We look forward to hearing all of your ideas.

"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

Rose Kennedy



Myrtle Clark (10/2)
P.O. Box 302
Deltaville, VA 23043

Mickie Crittenden
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Betty Johnson (804) 384-3618 (4/26)
Dockside Health & Rehab Ctr
74 Mizpah Road Room 504
Locust Hill VA 23092

Lewis Musick
6023 Dixon Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

Marion Miller (08/06)
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Connie Robertson (7/28)
Dockside Health and Rehab. Ctr.
74 Mizpah Road, Room 107
Locust Hill, VA 23092

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24
26306 Mattaponi Trail
Milford, VA 22514

Ann Tompkins
7402 Walker Ave #8
Gloucester, VA 23061

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Ministries and ETC:



Mobile Food Pantry -
Clarksbury United Methodist
Saturday, September 2, 2023
9:00am -11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043



Church Service Assistants for the month of *September*

Ushers:

Diane Faulkner and Cacky Guill

Liturgist:

Warren Wright

Counters:

Polly Van Benschoten & Cacky Guill

*Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors*

Deadline for the September newsletter is Friday, September
 Please send your emails and articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.



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[Website](#)

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| Annual Budget 2023 Operating Funds | 118,440.00 |
| Total Received for Operating Funds 08/27/2023 | 87,162.52 |
| Total Needed by end of August | -87202.52 |

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Ministry and Notices:



FALL FOOD PANTRY



WHERE: Clarksbury UM Church-
Rte. 33, Deltaville

WHEN: Saturday, September 23
9-11 a.m.

WHO: Anyone who needs to
supplement their weekly
food supply

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Bake Sale and Nursing Home Visits



Church Leadership:

Spiritual Leader:

Ken Cleveland
(276) 224- 4935
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Church Council Chair:

Lee White
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Ministers of Music:

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Lay Leader:

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Financial Secretary:

Suzanne Ramsburg
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ssramsburg@va.metrocast.net

Trustees Committee Chair:

Don Bartz
(804) 338- 4872
dbartz@gmail.com

Nurture & Outreach Chair:

Jerry Dant
804-229-9051
jerryd1935@msn.com

Recording Secretary:

Becky Foster



The Grapevine

September 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

Cryer Center
Food Pantry
9-11am

3 *Simon Funk*
Sierra Funk

4

5

6

7

8

9

Wondra
Thorton

10

Nurture &
Outreach
Meeting after
service

11

12

13

14

Ashley Moore

15

Petra Walian

16

17

Linda Bartz

18

Alyssa Miller
Randy
Crittenden

19

Charlie
Townes

20

Wayne Toney

21

22

23

Bobby Weis

24

25

26

27

Jerry Dant

28

29

30

September Birthdays (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)