

# CONNECTIONS

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



## Message from the Pastor



### UPCOMING EVENTS

9/6  
Parking Lot  
Communion

9/7  
Labor Day

9/8 & 22  
Zoom  
Listening  
Sessions

9/13 New  
Sermon Series  
Begins

9/16 Study  
7pm

9/17 Study  
10am

### Moments of gratitude

*But I do know that I love you  
And I know that if you love me, too  
What a wonderful world this would be*

These lyrics from the 1960 song by singer-songwriter Sam Cooke, kept singing through my mind. Why was I thinking of that song about not knowing much about anything but loving you, I do not know. Yet, the chorus of this song would not leave me alone.

We have been in the pandemic for almost five months now and I find my mind drifting to songs and thoughts like a bubble making machine. So why this song and this lyric in particular?

I tried to block the song out by reading our Bishop, David Bard's, blog article. In it he talked about small moments of gratitude. He referred to Diana Butler Bass' book on gratitude, where she writes: "Gratitude calls us to sit together, to imagine the world as a table of hospitality. To feed one another. To feast, to dance in the streets. ... Gratitude empowers us. It makes joy and love possible." (Gratitude, 186) And even though this is a book that I recommended to my Bishop and I completely agree with Butler Bass's

words, I don't think I agree with his interpretation, "small moments." What Butler Bass is speaking of is not a small moment, it's the glimpses of grace, the thinning of the layer between earth and heaven, it's the point of kenosis, emptying oneself out so that God's love can pour through us. They may be brief moments, but they are by no means small. Like seeing a monarch butterfly on the patio door the other morning...



Or receiving wonderful meals from members of the congregation as we moved into the parsonage. Or getting to know and appreciate the faith of those attending the small group studies on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

With Christ as our center, we are His extended family, compassionately sharing Jesus' love with all people. Our congregation is on a lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.

# Prayers and Praise



## PRAYER requests

### In the Hospital

#### Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities

Luanne Genga  
Novi Lakes Health Campus

Bobbie Winters  
Superior Woods

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**Stephanie Boltrick**  
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

**Christopher Stone**  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

**Michael Stone**  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

**Blake**  
Grandson of Betty Hughey

**Jared Stabnau**  
Grandson of Elaine Stabnau

**Cody Ford-Aimone**  
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

**Justin Renton**  
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

**Chad Koenne**  
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ron	Stansifer	3	Dawn	Stone	16
Dee	Groeneweg	4	Bernice	Baranowski	17
Cliff	Gurkin	4	Penny	Gierak	21
Mary	Hoff	5	Mary Jane	McCrory	21
Egwuatu	Ikpeama	7	Joyce	Murphy	22
Megan	Skelton	8	Joannie	Payne	22
Susan	Featheringill	10	Brandon	Johns	23
Deborah	Hazey	10	John	Dawe	24
Jackie	Deal	12	Gary	Held	24
Jennifer	Daigneau	13	Chris	Strickland	25
Chris	Stone	13	Christal	Johns	26
John	Cerone	14	Quinn	Keelan	27
Brian	Moore	15	Michelle	Pollok	27
Monica	Bournival	16	Michael	Moore	29
Alice	Payne	16			

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Dee	Stansifer	9
Jack & Micky	Keelan	10
Kristin & Mike	Rochon	13
Egwuatu & Nkechi	Ikpeama	23
Scott & Mary Jo	Zechiel	25

## Message from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Or watching the grass green as the rain falls. Or experiencing and appreciating Jack Keelan, BFUMC's trustee chair, and his handy crew as they care for and maintain the parsonage and the church. Or how Bruce, our custodian, continues to make the church shine even though we are not able to gather together there...yet. Or the way in which the worship committee and especially Michael Gross and the praise band worked together to create such a vibrant and professional online worship experience. Or the beautiful sunsets that I experience each night from the parsonage's front porch. Or witnessing the incredible vision and leadership of Abby Fleming, the Ad Council chair, as she leads the leadership of the church to look outside the four walls and into the community even while living through a pandemic. Or Barbara Moore, the Staff Parish Relations Committee chair, who has been so caring and gracious in her work with me and with the other staff members of BFUMC. Or being able to walk to church and enjoying the world's best secretary in Darlene Crawford and watching the social justice warriors in Marilyn Wood and the group of volunteers who run the Food Closet. Or the amazingly technically savvy Susan Featheringill who is not only BFUMC's treasurer, but has also rocketed the church into the 21st century with the My Church app and all the work she has done to launch it for our use. Or getting to know the creative Marlayna Keelan putting together a virtual VBS and personally delivering craft kits. Or Micky Keelan for her Brazilian attitude or multitasking. Or Mark and Dee Groeneweg for their willingness to serve whenever needed. Or Paul Smith for his great enthusiasm, and exuberant love. Or being able to meet many of you as you drove up to receive communion and especially the kids with their smiling faces. There are so many, many moments that I am thankful for since coming to Belleville First UMC.

As I began to think of all the gratitude upon gratitude I have for the people of my new appointment, I recognized why the lyrics of the Sam Cooke song kept running in my head. Read them again, but hear them from the voice of God.

But I do know that I love you  
And I know that if you love me, too  
What a wonderful world this would be

What I am discovering about you all is that you are a congregation who loves God and shows it through all the beautiful ways you have welcomed me and continue to welcome the community of Belleville. You sit together, you imagine the world as a table of hospitality. You feed one another. You feast, you dance in the streets together. ... Gratitude empowers you, empowers us. It makes joy and love possible...what a wonderful world you all create when you live the love of God in your daily lives.

I am grateful and I cannot wait to see what you're like when we're not living in a pandemic together 😊

Gratefully yours,  
Pastor Mary



## Zoom Listening Sessions

Beginning September 8th , Zoom Listening Sessions with Pastor Mary will occur. These sessions will give members an opportunity to meet with Pastor Mary and share input on a few issues. The dates and times are:

Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00am  
Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00am  
Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00am  
Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

Registration is required 5 days prior to session date. Maximum session capacity is 10. Reserve your selected session by calling the church office M-Thurs 9:00am-12pm.

Thank you!

### From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Mary has a new email for church use. [PastorMKL2020@gmail.com](mailto:PastorMKL2020@gmail.com)

If you need to contact Pastor Mary, please call the parsonage (734) 697-7398.



**Group:** [Entire Church Group](#)

**Posted by:** [Abby Fleming](#) Aug 3, 2020

Dear Belleville FUMC family,

I miss seeing you all in person, but I am very thankful for the work you are all doing to continue being the church even when we can't be in the church building.

We are working hard to make sure we have ways to stay connected while we are away from church and have some exciting things going on that will help us during this pandemic time, but also into the future, as we continue to look for new ways to reach out to our community.

With that in mind, I'm excited to let all of you know about our new Belleville FUMC app. With this new app, we'll be able to:

- Collect "Friendship Pad" information electronically since we are attending church online and won't be able to pass Friendship Pads when we are back in the church building
- Share upcoming events and upcoming sermon series details
- Collect Prayer Requests and Praises
- Allow for electronic giving via PushPay, our new e-giving platform

The opportunities to use this platform will continue to evolve as we learn more about what works for our church and gather feedback from all of you.

To get the app:

- 1.Text "BELLEVILLE APP" to 77977 or search for "My Church by Pushpay" in the App Store.
2. Connect to your church - In the My Church app , enter church keyword "BELLEVILLE APP"
- 3.Confirm your church - Click "Connect"

We know that not everyone is comfortable with new technologies. Susan Featheringill has graciously offered to host a couple of Zoom sessions to assist with downloading the app and learning about its functionality. (She's probably also available for private coaching if you ask! You may contact Susan at 734-552-8741.) Information on times for the upcoming Zoom sessions will follow shortly.

I want to especially thank Susan Featheringill for all of her work in setting up this app. As I mentioned above, the app will continue to evolve but Susan has been instrumental in getting it set up. I hope you are as excited about it as we are. If you have any questions, please let me know.

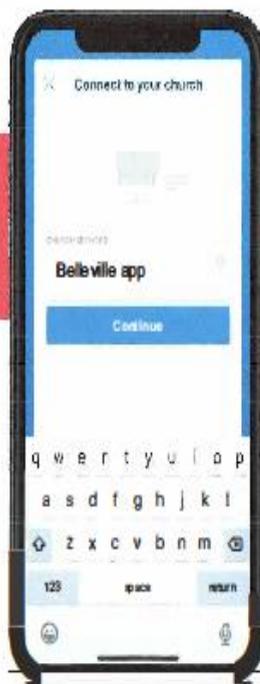
In Christ,  
Abby Fleming



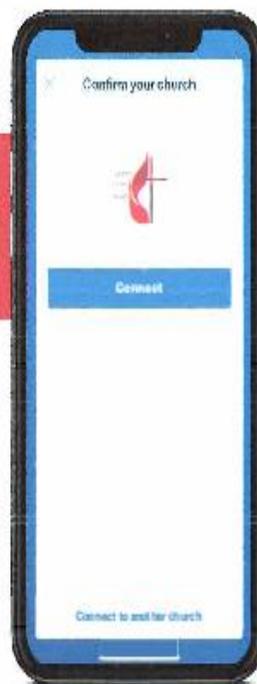
## BELLEVILLE APP screen shots.pdf



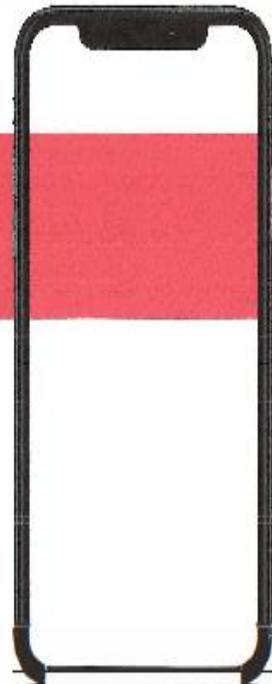
text: **"BELLEVILLE APP"** to  
77977 or search for  
MyChurch in the App Store



in MyChurch, type:  
**"BELLEVILLE  
APP"**



click 'Connect'



stay connected with  
Belleville First UMC!



## **\*New Sermon Series:**

## **Change Happens: Now What?\***

Johnny Rivers once famously sang, "The only thing that's permanent is change." What are the changes effecting our lives, the Church, the culture and what will we do about it? What should we embrace, and what should we not? How do we tell the "old, old story" in a way that is attractive and effective in this changing world?

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Series is based on "Who Stole My Church" by Gordon MacDonald (Study begins Wednesday, September 16th)

### **September 13, 2020**

Scripture:

Matthew 23:37-39

Sermon Title:

**Why is Change so Hard?**

Synopsis:

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's unwillingness to accept him and the change he was bringing to their lives. The people failed to see that something "new" could be good...are we guilty of the same mistake?

### **September 20, 2020**

Scripture:

Matthew 24: 3-13

Sermon Title:

**Masters of Change**

Synopsis:

The disciples and those leading the early church were masters of change. We, too, need to have this quality as 21st Century Christ followers. We will look at why we shy away from such mastery and why it's important that we grow in this area of spiritual development.

### **September 27, 2020**

Scripture:

Acts 16 & 17

Sermon Title:

**Changing Times & Changing Methods**

Synopsis:

Paul famously molded his message to fit the people he was trying to reach. Who do we want to reach for Jesus, and what changes are we willing to make to do it?

### **October 4, 2020**

Scripture:

Mark 11: 15-19

Sermon Title:

**The Seldom Used Why Question**

Synopsis:

In church we seldom ask the question, "Why?," even Jesus had to ruffle some feathers to awaken the temple authorities to their complacency. This week we will ask that question, "Why?" in the hopes "To turn our eyes out the front door into the larger world and see who needs to be touch with the saving love of Christ." (MacDonald, 88)



## Missions Update

The missions committee has been busy during the Covid-19 shutdown. We took 300 lunches to the NOAH project in late spring and plan to take lunches again in the fall. Also, we took 200 homemade cookies to NOAH twice each month. Mike Skelton was taking fruit to them until the NSO homeless shelter reopened at a different location and he resumed his homeless ministry there. We have provided 60 personal care bags so far to NOAH to be distributed as needed. Mark and Dee Groeneweg provided us with a mini food pantry on the church property across from the new library. We also are providing the salary for the only nurse at John Dean Town in Liberia for six months and hope to have a fund raiser toward the end of the year to cover more of her salary.

We invite the congregation to get involved in several ways:

- Homemade cookies individually packaged in sandwich bags for NOAH are greatly appreciated Call Julie Skelton at 697-8915 for pickup.
- We need assistance with sandwich making, filling lunch bags and making cookies for the next NOAH project lunch date. We will send out a church wide email with details when they are available.
- We need donations of items for more personal care bags. Items needed include travel size items such as shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, toothbrush and toothpaste, razor and shaving cream for men, deodorant, comb, crew socks (size 5- for women and 6-12 for men), small granola bars, and gallon sized storage bags. Contact Mike or Julie Skelton at 697-8915 for details or pickup of items.
- Please take an opportunity to check out the mini food pantry outside the end of the education wing. We may be asking for donations for this pantry at a later date, but we are still figuring out what the right items are for the pantry.

# Food Closet



The Emergency Food Closet continues to operate as a drive thru pantry as COVID 19 continues to plague our nation. We have had 63 new clients since March 17th with 75% being age 60+.

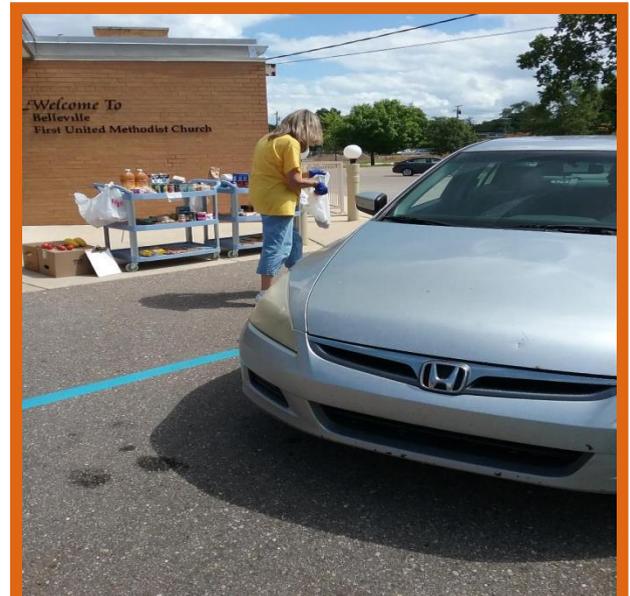
We continue to receive monetary as well as food and personal care donations every week. It is wonderful and a blessing to see such caring community members!

If anyone has an abundance of garden produce and would like to share, we will gladly accept any to give to our clients. It can be dropped off before 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Anyone who may be interested in volunteering to work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.– 1 p.m. or pack weekly bags, please call me 734-751-4985 or email me at woodm50@comcast.net.

Thank you for your continued support to feed the hungry in our community!

Marilyn Wood





The next study will begin Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Here are the links for the next **WEDNESDAYS** study.

MARY LORING is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Who Stole My Church

Time: **Sep 16, 2020 07:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, until Oct 14, 2020, 5 occurrence(s)

Sep 16, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 23, 2020 07:00 PM

Sep 30, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 7, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 14, 2020 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZERC-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZERC-iupjgrGNHbgzMvT6rzhd1KvPcseMYM/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqD8rHNyWsRuCRpwMBI-gd-7xiHZcjY11nhj_LjZnNBHsPuYTGaRPE8vV)

[iupjgrGNHbgzMvT6rzhd1KvPcseMYM/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqD8rHNyWsRuCRpwMBI-gd-7xiHZcjY11nhj\\_LjZnNBHsPuYTGaRPE8vV](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZERC-iupjgrGNHbgzMvT6rzhd1KvPcseMYM/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqD8rHNyWsRuCRpwMBI-gd-7xiHZcjY11nhj_LjZnNBHsPuYTGaRPE8vV)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641683125?pwd=SVhESStT3h3eTRYZHFQTXhIOVhsQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4168 3125

Passcode: 625106

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,85641683125#,,,,,0#,,625106# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85641683125#,,,,,0#,,625106# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 856 4168 3125

Passcode: 625106

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641683125?pwd=SVhESStT3h3eTRYZHFQTXhIOVhsQT09>

A book entitled "Who Stole My Church" by Gordon Mac Donald is accompanies the study. The book may be purchased for \$11.00 F from the church office.

Please save this information and use it **to join Zoom each meeting**. Separate invitations for each week will not be distributed.



Here are the links for the next **THURSDAYS** study.

MARY LORING is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Who Stole My Church

Time: **Sep 17, 2020 10:00 AM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thurs, until Oct 15, 2020, 5 occurrence(s)

Sep 17, 2020 10:00 AM

Sep 24, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 1, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 8, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 15, 2020 10:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAqcu6gqDwvGdN8DFXGNpWeKmlK--R7iHCQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsqT4tEtKStRqARpwIB4\\_4KPzwpmZYjadzxDvDOwd9cjTzHe9OGf8ylo\\_Z](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAqcu6gqDwvGdN8DFXGNpWeKmlK--R7iHCQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsqT4tEtKStRqARpwIB4_4KPzwpmZYjadzxDvDOwd9cjTzHe9OGf8ylo_Z)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84757867537?pwd=cTczVjYxZ2h4SXdCcC9GWECzUW0xUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 5786 7537

Passcode: 503746

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84757867537#,,,,,0#,,503746# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84757867537#,,,,,0#,,503746# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 847 5786 7537

Passcode: 503746

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84757867537?pwd=cTczVjYxZ2h4SXdCcC9GWECzUW0xUT09>

A book entitled "Who Stole My Church" by Gordon Mac Donald is accompanies the study. The book maybe purchased for \$11.00 from the church office.

Please save this information and use it to **join Zoom each meeting**. Separate invitations for each week will not be distributed.



Attention Interested Members, the following position is available for hiring:

Job Title: Director of Spiritual Formation

Part time position: about 20 hours a week

Description: The Director of Spiritual Formation will be responsible for planning, empowering, and implementing a comprehensive program of Christian education including, but not limited to, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Small Groups, and other opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship for adults, youth, and children.

Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement a spiritual formation plan for children, youth, and adults.
- Report to and work collaboratively with the Spiritual Formation Committee and Pastor.
- Recruit and select teachers, volunteers, and program leaders for spiritual formation programs in accordance with established church guidelines and criteria, including background checks.
- Assess and provide periodic training to improve skills for all teachers and volunteers.
- Update the Child Protection manual as needed and provide training for all teachers and volunteers working with children and youth.
- Order curricula and all educational materials needed to implement a Spiritual Formation program.
- Publicize and promote Spiritual Formation activities in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Utilize CCB, church social media, church app, etc. as needed.
- Update the church calendar with events related to the Spiritual Formation program.
- Oversee and participate in Spiritual Formation programs as needed to ensure quality and consistency.
- Coordinate special programs such as teacher and volunteer recognition, camp, Bible presentation, etc.
- Attend workshops and personal/professional growth conferences to enhance Spiritual Formation programs.
- Support Youth Director in developing and implementing strategies for outreach to community youth.
- Assist the Pastor as needed for confirmation classes and children's moments during worship.
- Maintain all required records and files.
- Provide monthly report to the Administrative Council.
- Provide an annual report to the Charge Conference.
- Participate in monthly church staff meetings.

Skills and Responsibilities:

- Teaching experience with children, youth, and adults
- Knowledge of the Bible
- A high degree of organization and interpersonal skill
- Learn and become proficient in using the church database system (CCB)
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office



## Communication Information **\*\*UPDATED!!!\*\***

We want to make sure that you are receiving information about all the exciting happenings at Belleville First UMC. Our doors may not be held open and we aren't worshipping in person yet, but we still have opportunities to share our mission and vision. So check out all of our communication options.

CCB (Church Community Builder) Online Community - Have you signed on to <https://bellevillemethodist.ccbchurch.com> lately to update your profile? Check out your account to verify your information. Make sure your family photo is updated. Don't remember your sign on - click forgot password and follow the prompts. Don't have a computer or don't want to sign in or just need help, contact Susan Featheringill (734-552-8741) with questions or to update your info. **\*\*UPDATE - Want a directory? We are preparing a virtual directory now. It will be available in CCB soon as a pdf file with all the smiling faces. Watch for an email that will let you know it is ready.\*\***

Web Site - Have you visited Belleville First UMC Web site? Check out <https://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/> for what we are currently doing at Belleville First. **\*\*reminder - The newsletter is posted on the website along with notices about our reopening plan.\*\***

Facebook - Do you have a Facebook account? Have you joined our Belleville First United Methodist group? This is a great place to connect with members of our church who are also on Facebook.

YouTube - Want to watch the entire service? You now can! It is posted each week on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB8rc-UUYpHeGcmHLruZ33Q>.

Giving Option - See website for Pushpay button to donate online - one time or set up recurring. You can set up recurring tithes and give one time for special projects. **\*\*\*UPDATE - there is now a note box for memorial gifts or special projects. \*\*\*** Can't find what you are looking for? Contact Susan Featheringill or Micky Keelan for options.

**\*\*NEW option\*\*** The church now has an app that can be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet using the App Store or Google Play. Text keywords "BELLEVILLE APP" to 77977 or search for My Church by Pushpay and use the keyword "BELLEVILLE APP" to connect to our church. Find all the information about our church in one location! Need help downloading or using the app - contact Susan Featheringill for assistance.

Remember ...

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: With Christ as our center, we are His extended family, compassionately sharing Jesus' love with all people. Our congregation is on a lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.



Attention Families of Military Personnel:

Please assist us by providing updated contact information (email and mailing address) of your loved ones in the service. If available, pictures are welcomed and appreciated. Information should be forwarded to Barbara Moore @ [4barbieannsdogs@gmail.com](mailto:4barbieannsdogs@gmail.com).

Thank-you

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the church building is closed; all in-person meetings have been modified. If you would like to schedule a meeting with 10 or less attendees, please contact the church office Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm. If you are scheduling virtual meetings, we can also schedule and place these meetings on the calendar.

WHEN WE PUT  
OUR PROBLEMS IN  
GOD'S HANDS,  
HE PUTS HIS  
PEACE IN OUR HEARTS.



# Autumn Word Search

B U G U N T L C Z M A D A O F  
M Q A E A T Y I Q U R P E A L  
E T A U H S P S T K P E M G F  
A C N A N A N U E L O I W N E  
Y J N Z Y R M I E R L I G F T  
S K G V O N D C P Y O G Z U A  
S M X C M Y I D S U X M B V T  
H Y A K S D S C D A M O S E X  
J E R Q E H A G B L E P U C U  
C K G R L R W S I L M A K S W  
K R U X E J I K K E B V E I J  
J U M C V V D D C A O Q S P N  
S T R K A C D P D V T J O S X  
O O B O N F I R E E L U T A I  
W E D I R Y A H R S S O M D U

ACORN  
APPLE CIDER  
AUTUMN  
BONFIRE

FAMILY  
HAYRIDE  
LEAVES  
PUMPKIN

SCARECROW  
SMORES  
TURKEY  
THANKS



## Autumn

