



*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing.  
What song can we offer in honor and praise?*  
(Jane Marshall - UM Hymnal # 87 What Gift Can We Bring)

How do you express your gratitude to God for all your blessings?

For me, I feel an urge to give back to God for the blessings I have received from the Lord. My gifts (or offerings) to the Lord include the gift of time, talent, and financial resources. I do it because I have a spiritual need to express my gratitude for all I have received from God, including the gift of love, the gift of life, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of forgiveness and grace made available through Jesus Christ. My giving is a response to God and not an attempt to buy blessings.

I encourage you to consider how blessed you have been. Express your gratitude to God by lovingly sharing your service with others. This can be through missions of the church, by serving a meal at the Ronald McDonald House or the Lebanon Rescue Mission. It might be volunteering to teach Sunday School, help in the church office, or volunteer at Noah's Little Ark Christian Preschool. It might be using your talents to help maintain the church by painting, cutting grass, or pulling weeds. There are a variety of ways we can give to God.

Another way we can express our gratitude is by financially supporting the work of God's people through the ministries of the church. Some people give by placing an offering in the envelopes each week; others have the bank send checks. Others have given gifts of appreciated stocks or a check directly from a qualified retirement account.

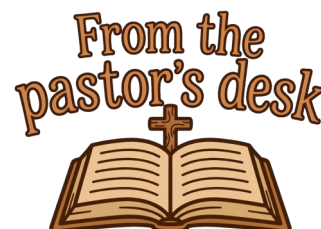
No matter how you choose to express your gratitude to God, the Lord will be thankful and will bless you to be a blessing. Consider the words of Samuel Longfellow:

*Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours in the faith,  
the will, the thought, the rest, O God, in thy hands.*  
(UM Hymnal #587 Bless Thou the Gifts)

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'James D. Anderman'.

James D. Anderman, Pastor





With the arrival of Labor Day weekend, public schools are already back in session, and Noah's Little Ark Christian Preschool is about to open. Most vacations have concluded, and life returns to what passes as "normal." But what does normal look like for you, and is it to your liking? Maybe it's time for a change in routines, time for something new.

As we begin a new season, take stock of your spiritual life. Are you spending time in worship, and are you spending time with fellow believers? If not, maybe it's time to get back to in-person worship. Online worship is good, but nothing beats gathering with friends and friends to be. Let's make September "Back to Church" month.

For September, we are still in "ordinary time" of Kingdomtide, so our liturgical color (the color used on the pulpit and lectern) remains green for growth.

Our worship themes for September and early October are as follows:

**September 6<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day Weekend:** How are we to fulfill the basic law of God to love our neighbor as ourselves? This week we will look at Romans 12:9-21, 13:8-14, and Matthew 18:15-20 for guidance. The message is simple: "Love." We will also be celebrating God's love as demonstrated in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>:** How do you make decisions? In Exodus 14:19-31, the Israelites have a decision to make. Will they be paralyzed in fear, or will they trust God and move forward? In Matthew 18:21-35, a servant asks for one thing, but his own actions are the complete opposite. How did he make his decisions? Our message will center on "Making the Right Decision."

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Some people think baseball is the national pastime. Others think football has replaced baseball. Actually, neither is correct! The real national pastime is whining and complaining. This is not a new pastime. It appears in both the Old and New Testaments. This week, we will look at examples of handling dissatisfaction in both the Testaments using both Exodus 16:2-15 and Matthew 20:1-16. Our message will be "A Still More Excellent Way."

**September 27<sup>th</sup>:** In Exodus 17:1-7, the Israelites tested the Lord, and in Matthew 21:23-32, the chief priests and elders test Jesus. Before we criticize the Israelites and temple leaders, we need to examine our own behavior because we too might be engaged in the same practice of "Criticizing God."

**October 4<sup>th</sup> – World Communion Sunday:** Christianity is a relatively simple way of life. It follows simple rules. On this World Communion Sunday, we will review the simple rules that were set out by God. Our scriptures will be Exodus 20:1-20 and Matthew 22:36-40. Our message will be "KISS."

## Small Group Studies

### **The Blessed Misfits**

The *Blessed Misfits* is our Wednesday night study group, which meets year-round with only an occasional week off. The group uses short-term studies, so you can join the group for just a few weeks if you would like. The *Misfits* meet at 6:30 PM in the South Wing and via Zoom for those who can't make it in person. If you want to join, please contact Pastor Jim so he can add you to the email list and secure a book for your use. The Zoom link is sent each week, so it is easy to find if needed.

In September, we will be reading the biblical book of Daniel and using a study guide. For those unfamiliar with Daniel, he was a Jew taken captive and relocated to Babylon, where his faith was tested. There is more to the book than the well-known stories of the lion's den and the fiery furnace. There is much we can learn from the book.

In an era where our faith is tested, this seems like an appropriate study. You are invited to join the group and the lively discussions we have each week. If you let Pastor Jim know you are interested, he will make sure to have a book for you to use.

### **Sunday with the Wired Word**

What should a Christian think about the news of the day? The *Wired Word* discusses the news from a biblical perspective. The group meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. Lessons are emailed to participants on the Thursday before Sunday to give you a chance to think ahead. The material provides background information, links to the relevant stories, and ideas as to how some Christians are reacting.

Feel free to check out the group any Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Better yet, let Lee Smedley know you are interested so he can add you to his distribution list, giving you a heads-up on the topic of the week. Because the topic changes each week, this is an ideal study for those who can't commit to a weekly study.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

*Celebrate Recovery* (CR) is a 12-Step Christ-Centered program designed to help individuals overcome their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. The program is ideal for people dealing with a variety of issues ranging from grief to depression, to behavioral addictions, to chemical addictions, and just about anything in between. They meet every Friday starting at 6:30 PM.

If you would like to be a part of the program, or part of the team, let us know by calling the church, emailing the pastor at [pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org](mailto:pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org), or letting us know at the information desk any Sunday morning.



## Blessing of the Animals

It has become a tradition for *First Church* to remember St. Francis of Assisi on the first Saturday in October with a *Blessing of the Animals* service in the pavilion on the church grounds. This year, the date is **October 3rd** beginning at **10:00 AM**. In addition to the blessing, we will have a vet tech on hand to trim dog and cat nails, a chicken barbecue, and special treats from our own women. Invite your neighbors, friends, and relatives to join you in bringing the pets for this once-a-year event.

We would also like to have a few animal-related service providers and vendors on hand to enhance the day. If you know of someone involved with animals, ask them if they would like to participate. Ask your vet, pet groomer, or pet shop.

In the past, this has been a successful outreach. Let's make the 2026 Blessing of the Animals the best yet.

Tickets for the chicken BBQ are on sale for \$12 each and include 1/2 chicken, a potato, a roll, and drink. Without a ticket, chicken BBQ is available until sold out. Contact the church office at 717-838-2551 or stop in during regular office hours if you would like to purchase tickets. Proceeds benefit *Palmyra First UMC Missions*.



## New Pew Bibles

The Church Council has decided to replace the deteriorating pew Bibles with new ones. At the same time, we will be transitioning from the New Revised Standard Version, which was completed in 1989, to the Common English Bible, which was finished in 2011. The new translation is faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek texts but is easier to understand.

We have searched for a quality binding, which will stand up to repeated use over a number of years, has a large enough print to be easily read, and fits into the pew racks. The cost of each (including shipping) will be \$25.00 each.

To fund the project, we are asking you to consider donating one or more Bibles in honor or memory of a loved one. If you would like to dedicate one or more of the new Bibles in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form and place it in either the offering plate or Heidi's mailbox or drop it off in the church office.

### **Pew Bible Dedications**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to place \_\_\_\_ copies of the Bible in honor or memory as follows:

\_\_\_\_ Copies: in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Copies: in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Copies: in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Total dedications at \$25.00 each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_



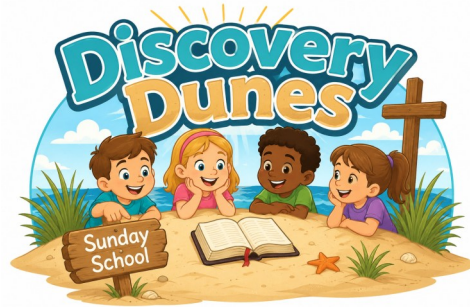
## Discovery Dunes September 2026

" God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. " Genesis 1:31

In August, we studied some parables and made a birthday card for Betty Miller's 100th birthday! In September, we will be studying God's Creation.

The following are the lessons for September.

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| September 6th:  | Earth          |
| September 13th: | Living Things  |
| September 20th: | In God's Image |
| September 27th: | Adam and Eve   |



Sincerely,

Discovery Dunes Staff

## United Women in Faith News

Our next gathering is **Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM** at the church outdoor pavilion (south wing if rain.) Join us for fellowship, refreshments, a craft, and an update on upcoming activities. Bring a friend if you'd like. Mark your calendar and plan to join us! After the meeting there will be sign-up sheets in the *United Women in Faith* table in *Fellowship Hall* to participate in autumn events.

## Knit, Crochet, and Pray

On **Wednesday, September 9th**, *Knit, Crochet, and Pray* will meet at **1:30 PM** in the South Wing Library. New needleworkers who enjoy knitting and crocheting for charity are invited to join in this activity.

## T.E.A. (Through Eyes of Another ) Book Club

The *T.E.A. Book Club* will meet in the South Wing Lounge on **Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 PM** to discuss our first book of the coming year. A complete list of books chosen for coming months is on the *United Women in Faith* table in the Fellowship Hall. If you like reading and discussing books, plan to become part of T.E.A.

## United Women in Faith West District Fall Celebration

**Saturday, September 26th at 8:15 AM**, *United Women in Faith* members will leave from our church parking lot to carpool to *Grandview Church* in Lancaster for The West District Fall Celebration. This event goes from **9:30 AM to noon**. The speaker will share news about *Soup Angels*, a feeding ministry, which started recently by a Lancaster UMC. We'll collect canned chicken through September 20th. Sign up is at the *United Women in Faith* table in the Fellowship Hall and the deadline to sign up is September 20th.

## Spaghetti Supper

**September 26th from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM**, we will be having a spaghetti dinner at *Palmyra First* in the *Fellowship Hall*. All of the proceeds will benefit *Rise Against Hunger* and our annual packing event on November 7th. Tickets are on sale NOW. \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 10 and under. The meal includes spaghetti & 2 meatballs, salad, bread, and a drink. Dine-in or take-out. Desserts are available by donation. For more information or to get tickets, check with Karen Douds, Judy Delvernois, Bonnie Parks, Sue Geiger, or Sue McKelvie, or call the church office at 717-838-2551. Sign-up sheets will be available in the *Fellowship Hall* if you are interested in volunteering.



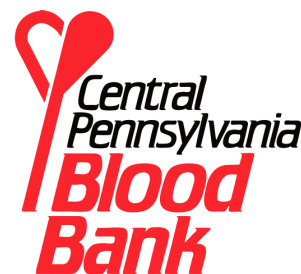
## Boscov's Friends Helping Friends



It's not too early to think about Christmas shopping! The *Mission Team* at *Palmyra First UMC* is selling coupons for the Boscov's shopping event, *Friends Helping Friends*. Coupons will be available at the Welcome Desk in the church Narthex. The coupons are for up to 25% off any purchase, all day at Boscov's on **October 21st**. They will be available for a donation of \$5 each and the proceeds benefit *Rise Against Hunger*. The coupon is good at any participating Boscov's store from **8:00 AM – 11:00 PM** on **October 21st**. This is good for in-store use only, not online.

## Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is **Saturday, September 19th from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM** and will be located in the *Fellowship Hall*. Each donor will receive a \$15 Entrée certificate to *The Texas Roadhouse* in Palmyra and a free t-shirt. An appointment is recommended, but not required to donate. Please visit the *Central PA Blood Bank* to schedule for donation at [717giveblood.org](http://717giveblood.org) or call 1-800-771-0059.



Your Community Blood Bank

## Trick or Treat Night



Once again, *Palmyra First Church* will be offering treats by participating with our neighbors in Trick or Treat on **Thursday, October 29th**. We will open the Birch Street Tower Doors and the Green Street Accessible door for the neighborhood kids who come by for a treat. You can help us with this simple act of hospitality by being at the church from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** to pass out the treats (coming in costume is optional)! You can also help by supplying some of the candy we will pass out. There will be a bin in the Narthex to put the candy in. Each year, this has been a fun time for everyone and a chance to meet the neighbors.