

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Rebecca's Reflections
September Birthdays and Anniversaries
Upcoming Events
August Worship
West Branch Food Pantry
VBS
In Gathering
Conference & Circuit News
Reflection - We are the Church together
Ministry Reports

REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of
Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit,
love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously
in local communities and worldwide connections.

Welcome to September! Time to start new things like school and activities. Time to shift priorities and try new habits. One of these might be to focus on worship and to consider attending church. Fall is a great time to begin anew and to restart. Join us for worship—you will be glad you did.

When I was in seminary in Washington, DC, the school had an artist in residence. She was a potter and sculptor, creating many beautiful pieces on her wheel and in her studio. It was always fascinating to walk by the door of the art studio and to see her at the wheel, molding and creating something out of nothing. There were times when a piece of clay would go from a blob to a vase in one smooth process but there were also times that something did not work, the clay quickly dissolving into a blob once again. She would then pick it up, mold it into a ball in her hands, plop it back on the wheel and begin again. Re-working the clay until it became a finished piece. Our theme throughout this month will focus on this image of being re-worked and re-formed by God. Take time this month to reflect on the image of God molding you and your life—what do you need to do to re-focus, to be re-worked by God?

It is good to take vacation and also good to come back. Thanks for covering everything while I was away. I am rejuvenated and ready for another fall and winter season.

Happy September!

Rebecca

BIRTHDAYS

2 - Ben Maxson
10 - Mckenzie Griffin
 Jamie Kober
12 - Dawn Johnson
 Amanda Budreau
13 - Gordon LeDoux
14 - Maggie Grandt
15 - Shelley Barnhart
18 - Cole Lacina
19 - Leo Lacina
 Ann Nash
 Avery Rogers
20 - Troy Shanker
21 - Rhoda Barnhart
22 - Elian Dzangue
 Austin Richards
23 - Sharen Hartz
24 - Maddox Stoolman
26 - Stephen Blayer
22 - Jim Blayer
27 - Dawson Brick

29 - Phil Carver
27 - Mark Cook

ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Larry & Kathy Grace (53)
3 - Russell & Diane Heick (32)
10 -Tom & Iona Reid (64)
25 - Christian & Courtney Laing (4)
 Mike & Amanda Tisinger (21)
29 - Ben & Jenna Maxson (13)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7 Grandparent's Day
September 8 UMF Salad Supper Guest Night - 6 p.m. - WBUMC
September 10 UMW Meeting 6 p.m. - SUMC
September 12 Pre-Football Game Pulled Pork Dinner - 4:30-6:30 p.m. - WBUMC
September 17 West Branch Homecoming Parade & Dinner Grab @ WBUMC -
4:30 - 6:30
September 20 District UMW Meeting
September 22 BINGO @ Crestview 2:30 p.m.
September 28 Blessing of the Animals 5 p.m. - SUMC
September 30 Ad Board 7 p.m.
October 5 World Communion Sunday
October 8 UMW Meeting 6 p.m. - SUMC
October 12 UMW Soup Supper - SUMC
October 16-19 Walk to Emmaus (Women)
October 26 Pack College Cookie Buckets
November 2 All Saints Sunday and Charge Conference @ St. Marks
November 9 Veteran's Sunday
November 12 UMW Meeting 6 p.m. - SUMC
November 23 United Methodist Student Day Special Offering
November 30 First Sunday of Advent
December 13 Bake Sale at Cedar County Lions Expo

Adult Sunday School begins September 7 at 9 a.m.
Wednesday Night Discipleship begins September 4 @ 5:30 p.m. - WBUMC

YOU'RE MISSED:
A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN AT CHURCH LATELY

By Laura Buchanan

If you haven't been to church in a while, that's okay. We understand. With the changes and challenges we've been facing in the past half-dozen years, we all have needed to take time to process and reevaluate.

While we understand, we also invite you to reconnect, rekindle your relationships and get involved once more.

Chances are things are different than when you were last at church. Pastors have changed appointments, ministries have evolved or shifted their focus, and the community might have grown. Get curious about the new things God is doing and how God might be calling you to take part.

All Christians are vital to the faith community. As Paul says in [Romans, chapter 12](#), "In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other."

Community nourishes faith

The United Methodist Church is a safe space to be your authentic self, the unique and beautiful individual that God created you to be. You can ask challenging questions and wrestle with difficult decisions. You can thrive in a community where everyone is trying to figure out their purpose and live as faithful disciples of Christ.

While a strong faith is not dependent upon church attendance, being part of a body of believers is an essential aspect of mission, worship and celebration. Together, we pray, grow, celebrate communion and baptisms, and share joys and heartaches.

Church families offer support in times of distress, refuge in times of fear, healing in times of pain and a place to anchor during life's storms. They'll also join you in giving thanks when you are celebrating good news or exciting life events.

The outpouring of care that comes from your congregation comes directly from God. God moves among us and asks us to use our time and talents to serve each other. Don't miss an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ – and to accept this gift when you are in need.

Too much? Start slowly.

If participating in a worship service feels like too much right now, remember that Sunday mornings are not the only time churches are active. Follow nearby churches on social media and subscribe to their e-newsletters so that you are aware of opportunities to engage. Consider these ideas:

- **Fellowship events:** Attend a fall festival, Advent cookie swap, Easter egg hunt, ice cream social, chili cook-off, craft night or pancake breakfast. These gatherings present an opportunity to see familiar faces, meet new people and catch up on congregational news.
- **Bible study or small groups:** Small groups are the perfect places to ask questions and learn from others' perspectives. Perhaps your pastor leads a weekly study, or groups gather throughout the week to pray together. Joining a smaller group can be a solid first step back into the larger community.
- **Mission efforts:** Volunteering at the food bank, Vacation Bible School, community garden days or similar events are excellent times to nurture relationships. Serving alongside those who share your passions will help you find commonality and build friendships.

You belong here

God calls us to lean on each other, to ban together in mission and to grow, both in personal relationships with Christ and as a faith family. These facets of God's grace and love can only be found through communal worship, prayer and fellowship. Don't miss out on the many blessings that God has waiting in a [United Methodist congregation near you](#).

Theme for the Month: Counting the Cost

September 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Communion

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Sermon: "Re-working"

September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sermon: "Life Changing"

September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Birthday Sunday

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Sermon: "Giving All"

September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

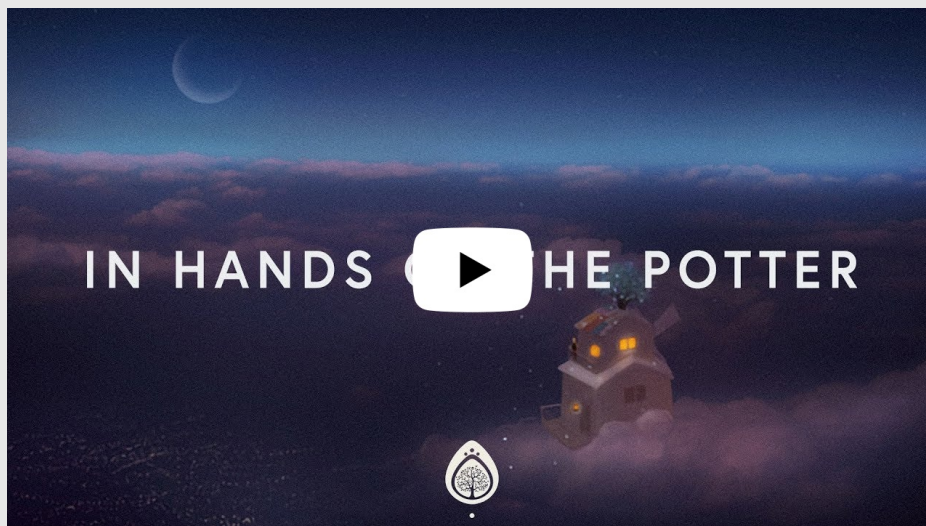
Sermon: "The Great Divide"

August 31

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Steven Preaching

SONG OF THE MONTH



WEST BRANCH FOOD PANTRY

This year, the COME committee will be collecting non-food items for the West Branch Food Pantry. Collections will continue through the entire month and you can find the collection bin in the foyer of the church. Any items collected will be distributed to the pantry after the 4th Sunday of the month.

September - Baking Items

Flour, Sugar, Baking Soda, Baking Powder, etc.

October - Back to School Snacks

Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, juice boxes, granola bars, etc.

November - Simple Meals

Manwich, All-in-One Pizza Mix, Hamburger Helper, Canned Spaghetti, All-in-One Mexican Meals, etc.

December - Soups

Chili kits (beans, tomato juice, hamburger, ground turkey, etc.), Beef Stew, Canned Soups, etc.

*Total donated through July \$1,134.47**

**Price determined by a Google search of average costs*

Blessing of the animals

Sunday, September 28 @ 5:00 p.m.

*All companion animals (furry, feathered,
winged, and otherwise) are welcome.*



EXPLORING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The 20 gifts below are those listed within the Pauline epistles to Rome, Ephesus, and Corinth (Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12–13), and recognized by the first-century church. While all of life is a gift from God, these twenty gifts are lifted up within Scripture as the gifts of the Spirit, given specifically for the upbuilding of the body of Christ.

[Use our spiritual gifts assessment tool to learn about your gifts.](#)

ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration allows a person to organize people and resources for greater efficiency, effectiveness, and success. [Read More](#)

APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship compels people to reach out to new and unfamiliar groups and individuals to invite them into relationship with God and community. [Read More](#)

COMPASSION

The gift of compassion moves people to action on behalf of those in need. [Read More](#)

DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a gift of deep intuition and insight. [Read More](#)

EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the gift of faith-sharing and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to those we meet. [Read More](#)

EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is manifest in people who offer encouragement, wise counsel, unflagging support, and empowerment. [Read More](#)

FAITH

The gift of faith is more than belief in Jesus Christ, but an abiding foundation of confidence that God works all things together for good, and that they people of God can rise above any obstacle. [Read More](#)

GIVING

The gift of giving is the deep commitment to provide whatever resources are needed to support God's will and plan. [Read More](#)

HEALING

The gift of healing is not about transferring spiritual power to eliminate suffering and disease, but the ability to channel God's grace and healing love to those who suffer physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. [Read More](#)

HELPING

Helping is a gift of support and behind-the-scenes effort that make groups, families, and congregations more effective. [Read More](#)

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Those who are gifted to interpret tongues help build bridges across cultural, generational, and language divides. [Read More](#)

KNOWLEDGE

The gift of knowledge allows people to automatically convert facts, data, and information into useful and important knowledge. [Read More](#)

LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is a visionary, and forward looking gift that enables people to stay focused on where God might be leading us as individuals, congregations, and communities at any given time. [Read More](#)

MIRACLES

Those gifted with miracles never doubt the power and presence of God in creation, and are able to help others see and believe in God's power. [Read More](#)

PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is the ability to speak God's word to others, or more appropriately to be open for God to speak God's word through us. [Read More](#)

SERVANTHOOD

Servanthood is the gift of doing for others, sometimes to the exclusion of meeting personal needs. [Read More](#)

SHEPHERDING

The gift of shepherding is the gift of mentoring and providing spiritual guidance to others to help them develop in the discipleship and faith formation. [Read More](#)

TEACHING

The gift of teaching allows people to transform data and information into life changing knowledge. [Read More](#)

TONGUES

The gift of tongues is a communication gift that allows people to speak foreign languages and convey concepts they never formally studied. [Read More](#)

WISDOM

The gift of wisdom allows people to understand deeper meaning and apply knowledge, beliefs, and experience to every day situations. [Read More](#)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

Beginning September 4, WND will meet every Wednesday during the school year. The schedule has changed a bit this year as they are adding in a Family Worship time! Classes are held for PK-12th Grade- please encourage your children and grandchildren to participate.

5:30 p.m. - PK-6th grade classes meet in classrooms

6:10 p.m. - Family Worship

6:30 p.m. - Family Supper in Fellowship Hall

(Parent/Guardian required for students in 5th grade and under)

7-8 p.m. 7-12 grade Youth Group

No WND on September 17 for Homecoming

Contact Katie or Paula to ride on the WBUMC/SUMC Float! Go Bears!

SUMC is looking for volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up for the Family Supper the Third Wednesday of every month. We also need volunteers to provide baked goods (6 dozen). Please contact Rebecca or Paula for more information and to sign up.

Looking for other ways to support this ministry? Visit the following supply wish list links: [Walmart](#) [Amazon](#)

INGATHERING

November 1, 2025 Mt. Pleasant, First UMC- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

(Please items in the foyer to be donated)

3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"

1 Ruler - 12" long with metric

6 Pencils - unsharpened

1 Pencil Sharpener

1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger

1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils

1 Box of 24 Crayons

1 Pair of Student Scissors

1 Handmade One-Handled Bag

(pattern at midwestmission.org/patterns)

CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS

SE District Monthly Prayer List

7 - Iowa City, St. Mark's

14 - Kalona, Sharon Center

21 - North Liberty, First

28 - Solon and Springdale

For More News Visit:

[Iowa Conference](#)

[Southeast District](#)

[United Women in Faith](#)

PRAY AND GROW ALONGSIDE THE WESLEYS

By Laura Buchanan

“Prayer for the Wesleys is really the bedrock of the Christian life,” says Paul Chilcote, author, pastor, theologian and Wesley scholar.

“One of my mentors, Mark Gibbard, always said, ‘God is just always waiting eagerly to be with us.’ If we approach time with God not out of duty or obligation, but the idea that God just can’t wait for me to show up – he wants to be with me, to help, guide, forgive, reconcile and restore me – it becomes a place you really want to be.”

Nearly 25 years ago, Chilcote began a journey to distill the essence of John Wesley’s sermons into accessible prayers. He brings the original 18th-century English into contemporary language so that readers can better engage with Wesley’s teaching and encouragement.

“Most of his sermons, Wesley never preached. They’re really sermonic essays and were meant to be read,” he explains.

With the help of Chilcote’s books, [Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit and Transformed by Grace](#), readers can pray alongside both John and Charles Wesley.

Prayer is central to everything

“I think if you were to ask John or Charles, ‘Why is [prayer] so central?’, they would say that the essence of the Christian life is abiding in Christ,” says Chilcote. “And that abiding has a sense of intimacy connected with it. It has a sense of rest, as well as of resting in God and being in a direct relationship with God through the power of the Spirit in our lives.

“So, prayer becomes for them the heartbeat of their faith. Everything they do is saturated with prayer.”

The Wesleys learned prayer practices from their parents, Samuel and Susannah, who would gather their ten children for family prayer each morning and evening, using the [Book of Common Prayer](#).

“Maybe all of life is bookended in that way with prayer, but the middle is also surrounded and encouraged by prayer. I love the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the so-called breath prayer, where you pray with your breathing. I think this is how prayer was for the Wesleys, it was like their breath, and it was all related to intimate relationship with God,” shares Chilcote.

Hymns invite a different connection

While John Wesley’s sermons are vital to our denomination’s heritage, Chilcote didn’t want readers to forget about the important contributions of Charles Wesley, who wrote 9,000 hymns and poems. A related hymn accompanies each sermon in both devotional books.

“Prayers provide a particular kind of medium to be in dialogue with God. Hymns, on the other hand, engage a different part of our brain. They’re more emotive, they’re poetic. They provide an opportunity to be with God, to walk with God in a way that’s different from reading or praying a prayer.

“I think song is at the very heart of life. There’s a poetry to it that excites, challenges and inspires a part of us that the other doesn’t, and I wanted to provide something for different kinds of learners,” explains Chilcote.

A growing focus on love

Chilcote has been able to observe John Wesley’s spiritual growth through his research. He says, “The more I worked with this material, the more I discovered it seemed to be oriented increasingly toward love and happiness.”

A Ph.D. student that Chilcote supervised at Cambridge University found that the five Wesley sermons in which happiness is most dominant come from Wesley’s later years.

Chilcote observes, “The older John Wesley becomes, the longer he’s been engaged in his pilgrimage of faith with Christ, the more important love and happiness – meaning blessedness – becomes for him.

“And if you’re going to summarize Charles Wesley’s huge body of poetic material, the central theme there from beginning to end is ‘love divine, all loves excelling.’

"I think [the centrality of love in Methodism] is increasingly unique. What if we made the decision to become known as the most loving community? So that if people who are struggling, and just need to be loved, knew the place to go is The United Methodist Church?"

"Part of my creating these kinds of resources is the hope that they might shift our trajectory in that kind of direction. That by praying, and by figuratively singing our story as Christians, love gets more and more deeply embedded in our lives."

The lifelong journey of faith

While selecting sermons and hymns for the books, Chilcote saw confirmations of insights he'd made over the years.

"Wesleyan theology is very broad, it's drawn from multiple sources," he shares. "There is nothing new, in a sense, in Wesley. It's all old, solid spirituality and theology, but it's the way he combines things and holds it together that makes Wesleyan theology unique."

"The Wesleyan way is a both/and way, not an either/or way. Their theology, their spirituality, is holistic, it's not segmented. Always holding things together and building bridges was a central theme."

Many Christians today see salvation as a point in time, a decision that was made, but that is not what the Wesleys believed. Chilcote explains, "For the Wesleys, the [Christian faith] is an adventurous journey. That's what the Christian life is all about. And the destination is the fullest possible love of God."

MINISTRY REPORTS

Springdale UMC Leadership Board meeting—8/26/2025

Full Leadership Board: 7 p.m.

Attendance: Steven, Jessica G, Manda, Julie, Joe, Lynda, Paula

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer
2. June 24, 2025 Minutes
 - a. Manda moved to approve. Julie seconded. Motion carried.
3. Trustees
 - a. Farm Ground sale
 - i. Steven spoke with Rob Herring and he thought about \$300/acre would be a fair rental amount.
 - ii. Paula will pull a termination notice to give to Jim as well as research fair rental rates and prepare a lease for Rob.
 - b. Gutters
 - i. Leaking still—need to possibly put some silicone to seal the seams
 - ii. Larry G. wondered if we should check on quotes for larger gutters to better handle volume. The board decided we should try other options to fix the current gutters rather than spend the money for new.
 - c. Time Capsule
 - i. It was suggested by Josh & Katie that we consider opening the time capsule given our 150th anniversary. The board discussed opening in October and will discuss with Rebecca whether she would prefer the 12th or 26th during worship.
 - d. Accessibility
 - i. Discussions continued
 - e. Water spigot was completed before VBS - YAY!!
4. SPRC
 - a. Upcoming Dates
 - i. SPRC Annual Form
 1. We will be requesting that Rebecca stay if she'll have us.
 - ii. Charge Conference is November 2 @ St. Marks
 1. Forms to begin reviewing. Will discuss/fill out in Sept/October as well as review our goals at the October meeting.
5. Stewardship
 - a. Treasurer's Report (Through 7/31/25)
 - i. Lynda moved to accept. Manda seconded. Motion carried
 - b. Stewardship Campaign [ideas](#) (late [October](#)/early November)

- i. Year Round ideas ([LINK](#))
 - ii. Rebecca with some suggestions
 - 1. Three main categories: General, Money, Time & Gifts
 - 2. Run Nov. 2-16 or Nov. 9-23?
 - iii. Apportionments next year will be \$5,100.00 (down from \$6,200.00 last year)
 - iv. Yearly giving has dropped nearly \$10,000.00 over the past five years.
 - 1. College Cookie Buckets
 - a. We will be packing cookie buckets on October 26
 - 1. COME
 - a. Homecoming
 - i. West Branch Homecoming Parade is September 17. WBUMC has invited us to ride along with them on their float. If you would like to participate, please plan on being at line up that evening.
 - ii. We have leftover Goldfish crackers, shirts, pencils, and bracelets that we can throw.
 - b. Blessing of Animals
 - i. September 28 @ 5 p.m.
 - ii. Shelter drive?
 - iii. Honey Den or Tipton Bakery provide pet treats?
 - iv. Paula and Lynda will work with Rebecca on formulating this plan
 - c. Cedar Co. Winter Expo
 - i. The Cedar County Lions are putting on a Winter Expo in December and they've asked area churches to participate.
 - ii. SUMC will host a bake sale table on December 13 as well as decorate a Christmas Tree which will be displayed during the 3 day event.
 - d. Food Pantry updates/ideas
 - i. October - Back to School Snacks
 - ii. November - Quick and Easy Meals
 - iii. December - Soups
 - 2. Other
 - a. Wed. Night Discipleship
 - i. Begins September 3 @ 5:30 p.m.
 - ii. SUMC will assist with meal prep, serving, clean up and dessert the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We will need 4 volunteers to prepare the meal and 6 dozen baked goods each month.
 - b. Water Testing
 - i. Discussion is tabled until further notice
 - c. Upper Room piano was able to be tuned and that work has been completed
 - 1. Next Meeting:
 - a. September 30, 7 p.m.
 - 1. Closing Prayer
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