

 **SEPTEMBER**

Open Door

2022

A few months ago my son invited me on a walk at a state park near his house in North Carolina. It was a beautiful day to drive to the park. We got out of the car and started down a broad, smooth path. And then there was a sign. “Danger! Beyond this point people have experienced injury and death.” I laughed and took a picture. Then the path narrowed, became rocky, and the incline became steep. After a couple of miles of steep, rocky, slippery path, we ended up at the top of a mountain that offered us spectacular views for many miles in all directions. It was difficult, but I would do it again in a minute!

In Matthew, Jesus teaches that, “the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:14). Here is the truth. Following Jesus isn’t easy.

Jesus continues to challenge us to a completely different set of values and actions than that of the rest of the world. Following Jesus doesn’t mean showing up in worship on Sundays when there’s nothing else to do. Following Jesus doesn’t mean feeling like we’re better than everyone else. Following Jesus doesn’t mean hurting or oppressing people who believe or think differently than we do.

All through September we are going to be thinking about some of the difficult teachings of Jesus and how they relate to our lives. I’m calling it, “I Wish Jesus Hadn’t Said That”. These sayings of Jesus challenge me, and I hope they challenge you, to rethink many of my dearly-held assumptions.

The gate might be narrow, the road might be hard, but the reward is worth the effort!

Pastor Ray



Backpack

Pastor Ray already did the first backpack shopping for the 2022-2023 School year. Please make sure that, if you are able, you sign up to help with Backpack Packing. Please continue bringing in donations of food, monetary donations, and plastic bags

If we all do a little we can accomplish great things!



September 4 Put Jesus First
September 11 The Self-Righteous Son
September 18 Dishonest Friend
September 25 The Great Chasm

September

Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.

Kum Ba Yah topics:

September 7 James 1
September 14 James 2
September 21 James 3
September 28 No Kum Ba Zoom

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!

September 4 The Shorter Catechism
September 11 The Larger Catechism
September 18 The Declaration of Barmen
September 25 The Confession of 1967

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving 47 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food.

From January 1 to the end of School (May, 20 2022) we gave out 783 backpack bags.

I would like to express my appreciation for the support we have received from the congregation. These are the folks that do the job of packing 10 food items into each of 47 bags that we are delivering to Roosevelt school on a weekly basis: Janice Johnson, John and Melinda Thiesing, Nancy Gee, Betty Lou Ankenman, Kathy Prince, Cindy Holt, Frank Denny, Charles, Kit, and Berkeley Ulrey. Thanks also to our stalwart community partners who provide food items and financial assistance: Quapaw Tribe, Community of Christ church, and Friends church. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Dave Foster

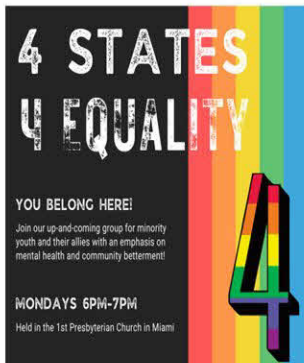


The Mission Committee met on August 16, 2022. Those present discussed some different places and organizations that may benefit from our donations. This month the committee decided to donate \$300.00 to Teachers Toolbox and \$300.00 to Goodland Academy.

For the entire year, the Mission Committee has made gifts of \$1,100.00 to Global Missions and \$900.00 to Local Missions. In addition to a founding bequest from the Meyers Sisters, other church members supplement these gifts each year. Consider a gift to the Mission giving of your local congregation!

FPC Miami Church ministries of the Backpack program and the food pantry have been a blessing to our community. 185 food pantry bags and 783 backpacks have been handed out so far this year.





4-State Youth 4 Equality

A group has formed to provide a safe place for area teens to explore their uniqueness as created and loved by God. First Presbyterian is happy to offer space for this group. The first vision for this group came from the story of a young gay man who has experienced bullying in an area school and rejection by his local church. We look forward to learning and growing together.



The name “September” comes from an old Roman word, “septem,” which actually means 7. That’s right – September was the seventh month of the year on the Roman calendar – It did not become the ninth month until the advent of the Gregorian calendar.

The Romans believed that September was looked after by the god of fire. So they always expected fires and volcanic eruptions to occur during this month

This September “Harvest Moon” is the fullest moon of the year. When you gaze at it, it looks very large and gives a lot of light throughout the entire night. No other lunar spectacle is as awesome as the Harvest Moon.

September is known as Harvest Month. It’s a great month to harvest in preparation for the coming winter months. In fact, in Old England, it was called “Haervest-monath”, meaning Harvest Month. Some of the best crops to harvest are onions, apples, raspberries, and tomatoes.

The first newspaper to ever be put into print in the US was published on September 25, 1690. The paper was called Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick and was published in Boston. The newspaper was to be rather short-lived, as the British were displeased with its contents and put a stop to it straight away.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 1 - World Letter Writing Day

Sept 2 - National Food Bank Day

Sept 3 - World Beard Day

Sept 4 - National Wildlife Day

Sept 5 - Labor Day

Sept 6 - National Read a Book Day

Sept 7 - National Beer Lover's Day

Sept 8 - National School Picture Day

Sept 9 - Teddy Bear Day

Sept 10 - World Suicide Prevention Day

Sept 11 - Patriot Day

Sept 12 - National Day of Encouragement

Sept 13 - International Chocolate Day

Sept 14 - National Cream Filled Donut Day

Sept 15 - National Online Learning Day

Sept 16 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

Sept 18 - National Cheeseburger Day

Sept 19 - International Talk Like a Pirate Day

Sept 20 - National Pepperoni Pizza Day

Sept 21 - World Alzheimer's Day

Sept 22 - Fall Equinox

Sept 23 - Native American Day

Sept 24 - National Punctuation Day

Sept 25 - Rosh Hashana Begins

Sept 26 - National Pancake Day

Sept 27 - National Day of Forgiveness

Sept 28 - National Drink Beer Day

Sept 29 - VFW Day

Sept 30 - National Love People Day





SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3
4 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 10-12 Food Pantry	7 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	8 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	9 10-12 Food Pantry	10
11 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 choir 11:30 Deacons mtg	12 10-12 Food Pantry	13 10-12 Food Pantry 1	14 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	15 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	16 10-12 Food Pantry	17
18 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 choir	19 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	20 10-12 Food Pantry	21 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	22 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	23 10-12 Food Pantry	24
25 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	26 10-12 Food Pantry	27 10-12 Food Pantry	28 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	29 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	30 10-12 Food Pantry	



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Niehaus.....9/2 Gene Waylan.....9/18
Sherry Hiebert.....9/3 Davina Aguilar-Avila.....9/21
Meredith Carden.....9/3 Ileana Aguilar-Avila.....9/21
Jack Liwai.....9/6 Kim Good9/22
Maika Liwai.....9/11 Ashlie Roberts.....9/24
Bill Giffhorn.....9/15

Should your name be here?
Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!

Servers in the Lord's House			
	Coffee Host	4 States Youth 4 Equality	
September 4	Open	September 5	No Youth
September 11	Open	September 19	Open
September 18	Open		
September 25	Open		

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!

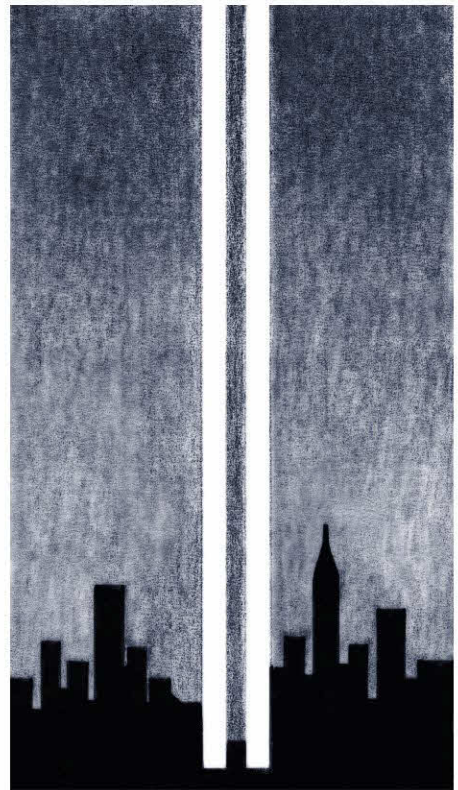


Labor Day
September 5th



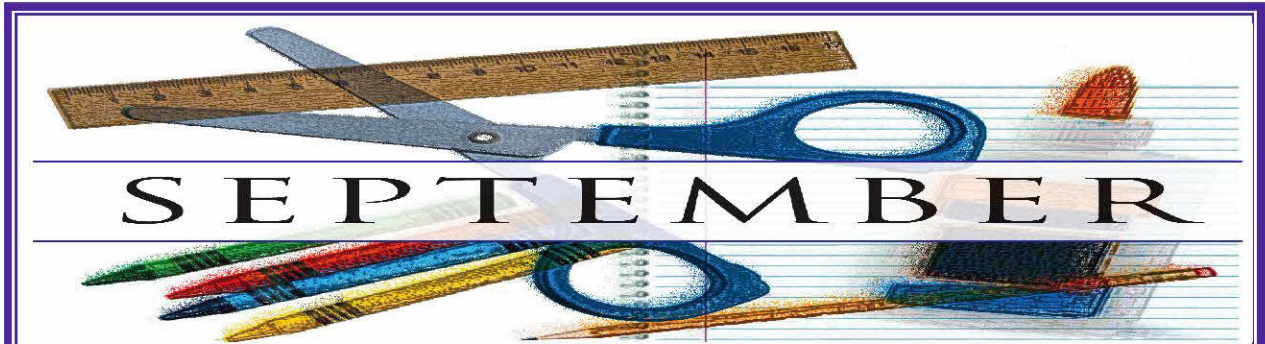
Patriot Day
September 11th

Remembrance
September 11th



IN REMEMBRANCE OF

SEPTEMBER 11



School Is Back in Session

August 18th, was the first day of school in Miami. I had a message on the answering machine that morning, before 9am, that a child was in need of shoes.

I would like to give a great big THANKS! to the Miami Elks Lodge for donating about 50 pairs of shoes, and several packages of socks, to the church. And Another THANKS! To Cari for finding and buying new shelving units for shoes and socks.





In the Spring Shawn Spencer had a number of sunflowers come up near his bird feeder where he had fed seeds to the birds. When they got about 12 inches tall, Shawn put them in pots individually and brought them to worship to share.

I took three to special girls who are home schooled by their grandmother who is my neighbor I took one for each girl and they planted them in grandmother's garden.

This is a picture of the girls - Elizabeth, Annalea, and Hanna. Thank you, Shawn for sharing.
Nancy Gee



PRAYER TREE

Hanging on the wall just outside of the sanctuary is a new "Prayer Tree". We are offering people an opportunity to post prayer requests for themselves and others. And if you are led to pray, we invite you to take one of the requests from the tree and lift up the person and/or the situation in prayer.

As a part of our "Matthew 25" challenge from the presbytery, we are making a commitment to congregational vitality by urging one another to pray and to share our burdens with one another. Please join us on this prayer adventure.



*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed,
for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I
will help you, I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10



*The First Presbyterian Church
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.
Miami, OK 74354*