

Acts 8:26-40 tells the story of a eunuch from Ethiopia and his encounter with Philip. Eunuchs were people with some sort of non-conforming gender or sexual identity. While this man had a position of great responsibility in the government, he would have been a social and religious outcast. Philip is urged by the Spirit to break down some walls. First, the Spirit nudges him to travel down a certain road. Then Philip sees this man reading from the book of Isaiah. Then Philip asks a question. Then they begin a conversation. In the end, the man comes to believe in the message of Jesus Christ and is baptized right there beside the road.

God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes, it is hard for us to discern where God is leading. Philip didn't know the whole story when he started out that morning. But he let God guide him step by step. During this month of October, we are going to spend our Adult Sunday School time thinking about where God is leading us. Hopefully, we will learn to listen more carefully as we think about God's ministry here in Miami and God's vision for our future.

Come explore with us as we hope and dream and pray.

*Pastor Ray*



### Special Guests

Sue Ellis was ordained for ministry in the United Presbyterian Church in our church in our Sanctuary in the 1926 building fifty years ago. September 17 she – Sue Ellis Melrose – worshipped with us along with her husband, Paul Melrose. They were happy to be here and see some of our older members. Sue and Paul both are enjoying retirement now. Their home is Madison, Wisconsin.



Ross has been hard at work redesigning a few things:

Church Pamphlet  
Deacon's Shut-in Cards  
2024 Church Directory

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### I appreciate my Church Family!

Cheryl Hartman just left after watering my flowers! And I began thinking of the many things my Church Family does to help me now that I am limited because of balance and strength. None of my children live in Miami which makes it difficult now that I am older. Kate or Ray come all the way across town for me to go to church. Different ones hold the door for me when I come-----whoever sees me approaching! And when I am leaving either Abby or Bill walks me to my car. And whoever is nearby carries my plate and Shawn always puts my coffee and juice on the table. I don't need to call Cheryl – she just comes to water flowers when she thinks they need it. Carole White comes by for me when we are going to the same place. And on and on and on!

Thanks to each of you and others who watch to help me and all who need it.

Nancy Gee

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- October 1** What Is God Doing?  
**October 8** Wine Presses and Watchtowers  
**October 15** The Secret of Contentment  
**October 22** Love Is Patient and Kind  
**October 29** Love Puts Others First



**OCTOBER**

#### **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:**

- October 4** The Screwtape Letters 23-25  
**October 11** The Screwtape Letters 26-28  
**October 18** The Screwtape Letters 29-31  
**October 25** To Be Announced

#### **Adult Sunday School**

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

- October 1** What Is and What Ought to Be  
**October 8** What About our Community?  
**October 15** What About our Congregation?  
**October 22** Bridging the Gaps  
**October 29** What Is God Calling Us to Do?

## 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. Each week since the 2023-2024 school year has started the number of students receiving backpacks for the weekend has increased. We started with 41 and the last week of Sept it was up to 47. So far for the year of 2023 we have delivered **850** backpack bags to Roosevelt Elementary School.

If you have not helped with this ministry before and want info please get a hold of Dave Foster or the office.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on June 20, 2023. They decided to give in Local Missions this month **\$300.00 to Center of Family Love.**

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to "Local Mission" or "Global Mission".

The Deacon's Shoe ministry has already given out **36** pairs of shoes since the beginning of the year.

Food Pantry: Since the beginning of the year the food pantry has handed out **370** bags of food through the end of August.





### **Sincerest Apologies**

I must ask for your forgiveness for the article, "Presbyterian" by Sean Dietrich, which was put in the September issue of the Open Door. A part of the article was found to be inappropriate, distasteful, and unthoughtful. Please know I would never intentionally put anything in the newsletter that would cause someone to be offended or hurt.

Please, accept my apology and hopefully grant me forgiveness for this article. In the future I will, try my best, to edit articles and other content that is put in the Open Door better.

Ross Tomlinson

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## 2023 Miami NEOK PrideFest

Once again First Presbyterian Church was a sponsor and had a booth at the Miami NEOK PrideFest. Thank You to Pastor Ray, Bill Hancock, and Tim Keith for volunteering to sit in the Church's booth and talk with people at the festival. We were the only church present at this year's pride event which speaks volumes about our congregation and our love for all of God's people.

Pastor Ray received the 2023 NEOK Pride Award this year. This award is given to an individual in recognition of his/ her contributions and service to the local and national LGBTQ+ communities.



Congratulations Ray  
it is well deserved!



# OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast</p>  <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p>	<p>2 Mental Health Awareness week</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p><b>2:30 Backpack packing</b></p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>Private Function in Fellowship hall</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>9:15 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 Choir</p> <p><b>11:30 Deacons</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p><b>2:30 NO Backpack Fall break</b></p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p><b>11:00 Mission Committee Mtg</b></p> <p><b>7:00 Session Mtg</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack packing</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>24 United Nations Day</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack Packing</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>9:15 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p> <p>10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>First week of October is Mental Health Awareness week</p>	<p>Oct 1 World Communion Day</p> <p>Oct 8 Pastor Appreciation Day</p>	<p>Oct 10 Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p>Oct 24 United Nations Day</p>	<p>Oct 29 Reformation Sunday</p> <p>Oct 31 Halloween</p>



- Jeff Stevens .....10/3
- Melissa Bekemeier .....10/11
- Kay Condren .....10/13
- De Maris Celeste Rector .....10/13
- Karissa Whalen .....10/15
- Linda Elmburg .....10/16
- James Stevens .....10/22
- Robin Goodiron .....10/23
- Meredith McQueeney .....10/24
- Ray VendeGiessen .....10/25
- John (CY) Elmburg .....10/27
- Patrick Carden .....10/28

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



Look who stopped in for a visit!  
We Love You Mary Kay!

While she was in town she was even able to do her Deacon duties and drop off a pair of Shoes to Nichols Elementary.

It was great to see you Mary Kay!

O C T O B E R



First week of October is Mental Health Awareness week



Sunday October 1st - World Communion Sunday



Sunday October 8th - Pastor Appreciation Day



Tuesday October 10 - Indigenous Peoples Day



Tuesday October 24th - United Nations Day



Sunday October 29th - Reformation Sunday

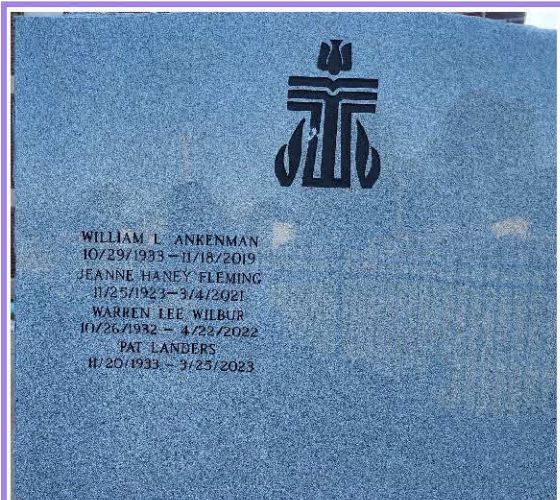


Tuesday October 31st - Halloween

## Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack
<b>October 1</b>	Dave Foster	<b>Oct. 4..... Chuck &amp; Kit Ulrey</b>
<b>October 8</b>	Open	<b>Oct. 12.....Fall Break</b>
<b>October 15</b>	Open	<b>Oct. 19.....Nancy Gee &amp;</b>
<b>October 22</b>	Open	<b>Oct. 26.....Open</b>
<b>October 29</b>	Open	

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



Pat Landers name was added to the Memorial Stone this past week.

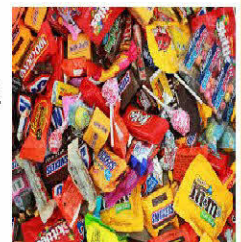
If you get a chance please take a moment to sit and relax in the beautiful garden and commune with God.

While you're there have a little talk with Jesus, Bill, Jeanne, Warren, & Pat.



*It's almost time for Sweet Street!*

Let's start bringing some candy in so we can make sure to feed all of the Princesses & Pirates that come by the 1st Presbyterian Tent.





## FOOD PANTRY



### Food Pantry

We have seen a marked increase in the number of households being served through our food pantry and the cost of food has nearly doubled in the last two years. Government food benefits have been cut, prices are up, people are suffering, and we are struggling to keep up! We are adjusting the contents of the emergency food bag and creating ways to increase donations. We appreciate your help and your prayers.

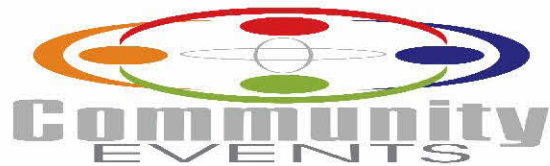
### Christmas Food Baskets



It's hard to believe how quickly this year has passed by. The new school year has already begun, and we have already started providing shoes to underprivileged children in Ottawa County. The Deacons have already delivered eight pairs of shoes even before the school started.



It also means that Christmas is only a few months away. Last year, the Deacon's Christmas Baskets cost us a little over \$3,000. This year, the projected cost is between \$3,500 and \$4,000. Currently, we have \$2,101 in the Deacons Fund, and we need your generosity to increase the amount so that the Backpack Families of Roosevelt School can have a Christmas dinner from the baskets that the Deacons provide.



### *Miami Chamber of Commerce*

October 6th - Miami Homecoming & Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

October 7th - USSSA Softball Tournament

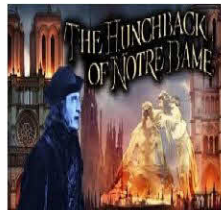
October 10th & 11th 7pm - "A Picher Project" at the Coleman Theatre (a new musical)

More information to all of the events listed above can be found on the Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce Website page under the Recourses link. (which then gives you a drop down choice of Community Calendar.)

### *Coleman Theatre*

Oct 14 7pm  
Oct 15 2:30 pm

Dennis James  
"The Hunchback of  
Notre Dame"



Oct 18 7pm

Illusionist  
Josh Farley  
Featuring DJ Panduh



To find out more about the shows listed to the left, as well as their cost, visit the Coleman Theatre's website.

Additional information on all events happening at the Coleman Theatre can also be found on their website.

<https://thecolemantheatre.org/>



**Romans 15:13**  
“May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy  
Spirit you may abound in hope.”



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