

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT
17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ Summit, NJ 07901

THE DIALOGUE

September 2015



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From the Pastor



My cat's name is Atticus.

I come from a family that generally chooses (what I think are) interesting names for pets. We had one cat in my childhood who was named Scheherezade; my brother's cats are Holmes and Watson... You get the picture. And so, Atticus: a strong, interesting name, from a powerful movie. A name that depicts wisdom and justice.

A cool name.

But now the novel "Go, Set a Watchman" has been released. And it has rattled the legacy of this wonderful name. Now, 'Atticus' is a name that also depicts the pervasiveness of racism and the innocence of childhood idealism. 'Atticus' is now problematic. And this makes me uncomfortable.

But as uncomfortable as this makes me feel, *it is important for me to be uncomfortable.*

It is important, so that I do not risk evading, denying, or ignoring the very real and very harsh reality of racism in our time. It is important, because it reminds me that there is an undeniable tension between how I wish the world were, and how the world truly is. It is important, because there is also an undeniable tension between the way I want to believe I live and my own unwitting complicity with racism as it continues in our society. I believe we must stay painfully open to discovering where and how we ourselves are partners with racism.

And it is also important, because discomfort prompts work that makes way for new possibilities.

You may recall that the Summit community developed "dialogue circles" this spring, for the purpose of interracial conversation specifically on the issue of race. On the last gathering of the dialogue circle in which I participated, we were each asked to offer one word for how we were feeling. The words varied greatly, as you can imagine.

The word I shared was "hope." For as difficult as this road is, as I could see the power of conversation and story. I could see the impact of painful honesty. I could see the difference that naming difficult truths makes in our shared life. And for that reason, my word was 'hope.'

We won't be changing the name of our cat. He remains Atticus. He is still beloved. And, in his name, he bears witness to the deep flaws of humanity, as well as our hope for what can be.

Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor

Prayer Service

Do you need a few minutes just to *breathe*?

Could you use a small corner of space to be *quiet and still*?

Do you hunger for the chance to be in prayer *with no expectations* on you?

Are your days full, rushed... do you have a lot on your mind?



If so, come at **7pm on first Wednesday night each month** (Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2) to the **Chapel** for a special time of quiet meditation.

On these evenings we will have a prayer service in the Taize tradition—which involves silence, prayer, and songs that are simple, rhythmic and soothing. Come and let the Spirit enfold you with peace.



image source: <http://www.cliparthut.com/volunteer-hands-up-clipart.html>

Just like projects in your home, church projects often benefit from an extra pair of hands.

The Property Committee is looking to increase our **“Building Buddy”** volunteer list.

Routine tasks like changing a light bulb are far more challenging in our sanctuary and unable to be completed by a single individual. Many additional tasks/projects benefit from someone holding the base of a ladder or helping to move a piece of furniture. No special skills or tools are required.

Adding your name to our existing list provides greater flexibility and improves the timeliness of project completion. If interested, please contact the church office and ask Polly to add your contact information to our file. Thank you for your consideration.



Each year every United Methodist Church reviews the details of its ministry in a Church Conference.

All are welcome, and all members have voting privilege as we share reports of our work, elect new officers into leadership, and celebrate our life together.

This year, our Conference is implementing ***clustered Church Conferences***, which means that we will gather with 7 other churches on **Saturday morning, October 24, at the Livingston UMC** for our annual business session.

Our church conference will be held at the
Livingston UMC on Saturday, October 24 from 9-12:

9:00-10:00: Devotions with music

10:00 – Each church goes to its assigned meeting rooms

10:05-10:15 Registration

10:25-11:25 Church Conferences

12 Noon Workshops for those interested



**Our second summer of
“Chalkboard Conversations”
was a resounding success!**

**Each week for ten weeks the
community responded eagerly
and vigorously to our diverse
questions. (One passerby even
left us extra chalk to use!)**

**If you have suggestions for
next year’s posted questions,
please let the pastor know.**



Meet Morgan the Methodist!

Morgan is middle-aged, a member of the “sandwich generation.” As such, Morgan has many responsibilities: work, family, children who need nurture, aging parents who need care...

Morgan is exceedingly kind and caring. Generosity comes quite naturally to Morgan, and once a need is known, Morgan responds eagerly and immediately.

At this stage of life, Morgan has a great deal of wisdom and insight, but, truth be told, Morgan enjoys doing things in familiar ways, and may struggle a little when it comes to trying new things.

A casual dresser with an occasional reason to get into business attire, Morgan works very long hours. On top of a full workload, any free time is already filled with multiple commitments, meaning that Morgan could use a bit of rest!

Morgan’s budget is stretched thin, more than thin to be honest, and that puts understandable limits on Morgan’s ambitions. If some extra money came along, it would surely be used to pay current bills, or, if feasible it would be tucked away for the future.

At a glance, Morgan appears pretty healthy, but the truth is Morgan could use some help getting in better shape. That would make Morgan stronger and even relieve much of the stress Morgan carries.

Morgan, like the surrounding culture, would benefit from opportunities to be refreshed and renewed.

You may not find Morgan on LinkedIn, but you will find Morgan in our pews, in our committees, in our coffee hours, in our outreach to the community, in our Sunday School classes, and in our planning!

“Morgan” is us! The UMC of Summit. If our church were a human being, we’d be Morgan.

You may recall that over recent months the Ad Council has been working on strengthening our church’s ministry through gaining deeper self-awareness and by making specific plans for action. Knowing who **“Morgan”** really is is an important first step—so that as we make plans and review ministry, we base our work on who we truly are and what is actually feasible.

Our plans for action are also underway. We have four areas of focus: our strengths, our obstacles, our ministry beyond ourselves, and our future ministry focus. The Ad Council has made important first steps in creating action plans for each of these focus areas, and we will be looking for your support as well to make this year of ministry a powerful one! More information will be coming! And in the meantime, say hello to Morgan the Methodist!

A “Thank You” Letter to the Knitting Ministry



Overlook
Medical Center

ATLANTIC HEALTH SYSTEM

July 28, 2015

Dear Summit United Methodist Church:

I want to thank you for the beautiful hand-made blankets that you donated to my palliative care team. They are so special and I want you to know that they are treasured affirmations of God's love for those who receive them.

I had one woman recently who was terribly distraught over the news that she was not going to receive any more chemotherapy. She had been abounded by her family and she was feeling completely alone. When I tucked the blanket around her cold trembling body, I told her that every stitch in that blanket was a prayer assuring her that Jesus was going to walk with her, every step of this difficult journey. She absolutely loved it and every time I went in or went by her room, I saw the blanket, stretched out and covering her. She died with that blanket over her body, holding her, assuring her she was beloved.

Another time I was walking by our caregiver's center and saw a family member of a patient who was sitting alone, with a hospital blanket around her shoulders. I went and got one of your blankets and when I gave it to her she burst into tears. She told me she had been sitting there praying and asking God to send her a sign that somehow she was going to make it through this.

Sometimes when people donate things, they wonder where they are going, and if they are appreciated. I want you to know that your blankets are clearly filled with prayer and they are touching hearts here at Overlook Medical Center.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Burniston".

Rev. Sharon Burniston, MDiv, BCC, CT
Palliative Care Chaplain
Overlook Medical Center

Palliative Care Team
99 Beauvoir Ave.
Summit, NJ 07901

908-522-2781
Sharon.Burniston@atlantichealth.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Wow! Things are really growing in our garden. Thank you to all who've helped to water and care for our garden this summer. It's amazing what we can do together, and there are more



opportunities for working and growing together coming soon.

Exciting things are happening here, seeds are being planted, and God is bringing growth in our community garden, in our lives, in our church, in our souls. Can you feel it? Can you see it? Be part of it! Please contact me for more information about how you can get involved.

Blessings, Sherri Shumate,
Director of Christian Education
sherri.shumate@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am-10:15am

Age	Teacher	Helper
Children Pre K-3rd	Shanotte Smith	Dan Smith
Tweens 4 th - 7 th	Alison Johnson	Volunteers Welcome
Teens 8 th - 12 th	Sherri Shumate	Volunteers Welcome

"There are many members, yet one body." 1 Corinthians 12:2

We are blessed to have a wonderful, committed, and spirit-filled group of **Sunday school teachers** returning to spend this year growing in service with our children and youth. This year all Sunday schools will be using Cokesbury's *Grow, Proclaim, & Serve* tailored to their specific age groups and development learning needs.

In a commitment to providing the highest standards of **safe space for our children** we require two adults in each room, every Sunday morning. Would you be willing to be a regular or rotating Sunday school volunteer? Let me know. I promise you'll be blessed.

While the structure and activity will differ in each classroom, **scripture lesson, theme, and content** will be the same for all ages and will attempt to coincide with Pastor Hogan's Sunday morning messages. The hope is that we can reinforce and continue our learning all week. Parents can then go home and instead of asking, "What did you learn in Sunday School?" discuss things like, "How did you feel when David in the Bible story made that bad choice?" Families can apply the common Bible stories we are studying to what's going on in their family's life asking questions like, "Did you have any times today that you weren't proud of, what did you do, how could we work together to help each other make good choices and God choices?" Families will be able to engage and continue growing in faith around common themes throughout their week and home life. ***Sunday school resumes at 9:30am on September 27th.***

SACRED SPACES:

Sharing the Spiritual Journey



This year we will be offering a number of opportunities for people to experience God together.

Sacred Spaces will be a place to listen, learn, and grow in faith. We will meet for dinner, listening, worship, and sharing resources. We will learn tools to empower us to share God's love outside the church and create a community of support for wrestling with tough life and faith questions with no easy answers.

If you're interested in being part of this kind of work of growing in faith together, contact Sherri for more information. Our first gathering will take place in early September. Date & Time: TBA

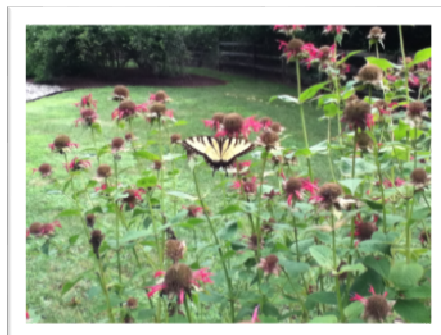
GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Worship Together

We believe the body of Christ includes all of us, bringing our gifts and growing in faith together. Sunday morning all children are invited to remain in worship with their families. Worship buckets with coloring and activities for children connected to the messages are available in the front and rear of the sanctuary. Bathrooms and a changing table are located in the back of the sanctuary.

Beginning, September 27, staff childcare is available in the nursery on Sundays from 9:00am-10:15am and in the Hospitality Room in the rear of the Sanctuary from 10:20-11:30! The Hospitality Room is a quiet but more active space for young disciples to listen for God. There is a live video showing the worship service, but more room for kids to move and wiggle than in our pews. Parents are welcome to sign in and drop off their child or to stay with their child. Our staff nursery caregivers are paid, experienced, childcare professionals: Heather, Luz, and Christa.

Please contact me if you have questions at sherri.shumate@gmail.com

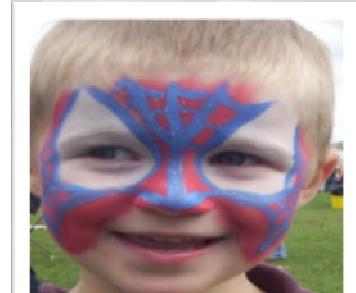
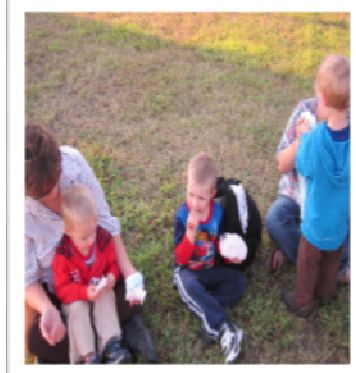


UMC OF SUMMIT FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 27th 9:30am-1:30pm

17 Kent Place Blvd. Summit, NJ 07901

For more information contact: sherri.shumate@gmail.com



Join us for *FREE food, fun, face painting, pumpkin painting, crafts, games, music, and more!*

All are welcome!

Schedule:

9:30am Sunday School Celebration: 2nd and 3rd floor Sunday school rooms

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

11:30am Lunch & festivities on the church lawn



EQUINE LEARNING EVENT

All ages are welcome to join us for a spiritual learning experience assisted by horses. Alison Johnson will guide us in an unforgettable experience of learning more about God, ourselves, and each other. All are welcome!

You must RSVP to sherri.shumate@gmail.com

Event will take place in early September.

Date & Time: TBA

WOW IT'S WEDNESDAY

4:30-6:00pm, Wednesdays

Beginning October 7th

Wow It's Wednesday is an intergenerational Christian Education & music experience. All are welcome to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. This year we will be advertising our WOW program in the community, at the YMCA, Library, and local schools. Please contact Sherri Shumate if you'd like a flyer to distribute in our community. WOW resumes Wednesday, Oct. 7th and follows the Summit Public School Calendar. We do not meet on days the Summit public schools do not meet, have early dismissals, or have weather closings.

Our WOW program will be a hands-on, interactive way to engage the themes and stories we are learning in Worship and Sunday school. We will be making healthy snacks related to our theme together each week. Please alert me if your children have food allergies. There is no staff supervision available before 4PM or after 6PM. Please plan accordingly. All are welcome and we'd love to have you join us! Contact me for more information.

WOW Schedule:

- 4:30-4:55pm Story, Snacks, & Sharing
- 5:00-5:15pm Devotions Together in the Chapel
- 5:15-6:00pm Adult Conversations in the Fellowship Room
- 5:20-6:00pm Singing Praises Together in the Chapel

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Next event will take place in **October**, date TBA

Drop off your children for an evening of *themed activities* designed and lead by our tweens & youth. We will do a mix of fun and worship activities. We will also make sustainable lunches for Bridges. We will provide a light dinner & snack or you may pack your own.

Friends and guests are welcome, just please RSVP so we have enough supplies, food, and helpers. Suggested donation \$10/child. This money goes to purchase supplies for our Bridges lunches that we donate to homeless families. Students may volunteer to help with these events for community service hours.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year we make an effort to attend our children and youth's concerts, plays, and special events. If your child has an upcoming event you'd like us to be part of, please let Sherri Shumate know. We also try to plan our youth ministries around our young people's passions, interests, and needs. We will have a *youth planning meeting after worship on Sunday, September 13.*

All teens ages 10 and up are welcome to join us!

Upcoming Youth Events

September 27: *Fall Festival*, 9:30-1:30pm.

October 2 - Sunday, October 4: *Ignite Conference.*

October 4: *The Church has Left the Building.* 10am-6pm in Somerville, NJ. All ages welcome.

October 4: *Youth Manhattan Bagel Trip*, 9:30am.



We are Growing in Faith & Service Together

Mark your Calendar:

September 6: Worship time changes back to 10:30am.

September: *Equine Event*, All ages, date & time TBA.

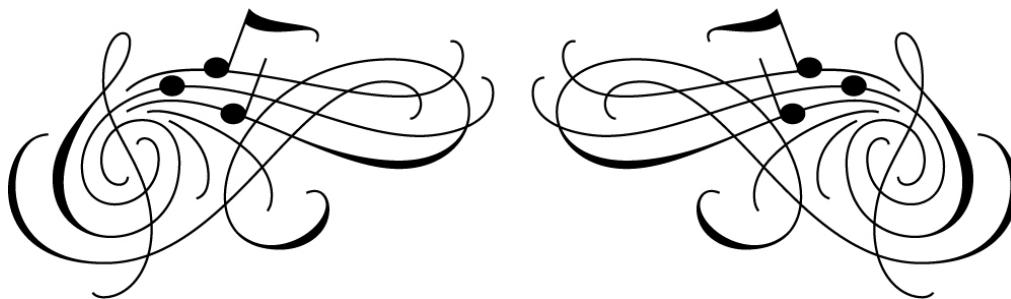
September 13: *IHN Guest Room Set-up* at 9:30am.

September 20: *IHN Guest Room Take Down & SS Set-up*, 9:30am.

September 27: *Sunday School Resumes*, 9:30am & *Fall Festival* 9:30am-1:30pm.

October 7: *WOW It's Wednesday Resumes*, 4:30-6pm.

We plant the seeds... God brings the growth. -1 Corinthians 3:6



MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity
as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Romans 15:5*

Endurance and encouragement -- isn't that something we all need to strive for? Let us encourage each other to share our gifts and glorify our Lord and our fellow worshipers.

Our fall season begins! After prayerful thought, please come and share your gifts in the music ministry of our church.

Wesley Choir

Singing is so much fun! We learn songs about Jesus and how to follow his teachings in our lives. Our first rehearsal for this fall season will be on **October 7th at 5:20pm** in the Chapel.

Singing Believers

Come and sing the joyful songs to God. Let us grow together in our faith through music. Rehearsals are at **12:45pm** on Saturdays in the Chapel for youth grades 3 through high school. Our first rehearsal this season will be on **Saturday, October 10th**.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble of singers, guitarists, drums, recorders, bass and piano are studying music from the contemporary hymnals “The Faith We Sing” and “Worship and Song”. Rehearsal begins on Sunday, **October 4th at 12:45pm** in the Sanctuary. Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith.

Bell Choir

Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. This is a good time to come and try ringing hand bells and hand chimes with your friends at church. Our first rehearsal of the season will be **Sunday, October 4th at 11:45am** in the Sanctuary.

Chancel Choir

Won't you come and join us as we sing joyful songs to our Lord? It's a joy to work together and lift your voices in praise. Our first rehearsal will be on Sunday, **September 20th** following worship in the Music Room. This practice time will be to prepare for Homecoming Sunday, September 27th, the “Fall Festival”. Our regular rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Music Room.

Come! There is power and importance in sharing your faith through music.

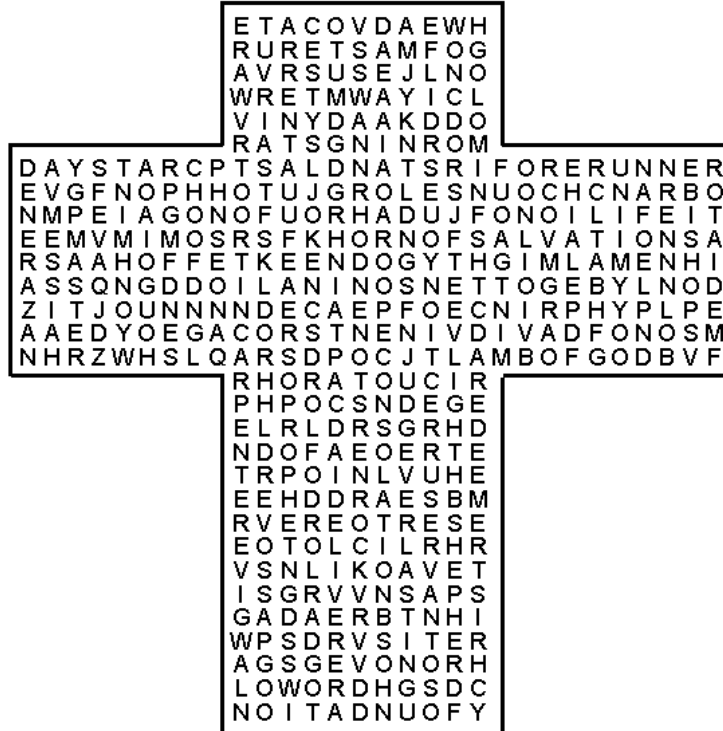
*Thank you to our summer soloists,
vocal and instrumental,
who shared their gift of music
so willingly (even on some very hot
Sunday mornings).*

*Your music deepened
our worship experience.*

*Thank you, again!
Joanne Teubner Prussak*

CHILDREN'S

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



Advocate
Almighty
Alpha and Omega
Amen
Apostle
Beloved Son
Bishop
Branch
Bread
Captain
Carpenter
Chosen
Christ
Consolation
Cornerstone
Counselor
Day Star
Deliverer

Door
Emmanuel
Everlasting
Faithful and True
First and Last
Forerunner
Foundation
Governor
Head
High Priest
Holy and Just One
Horn of Salvation
I AM
Jesus
Judge
King
King of Kings
Lamb of God

Lawgiver
Life
Light
Lion of Judah
Lord
Lord of Lords
Master
Master
Mediator
Messiah
Mighty God
Morning Star
Nazarene
Only Begotten Son
Passover
Priest
Prince of Peace
Prophet

Redeemer
Resurrection
Rock
Savior
Servant
Shepherd
Son of David
Son of God
Son of Man
Vine
Way
Wonderful
Word

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PAGE

CHILDREN'S



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PAGE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:



CAUSE

Like all "**first Sundays of the month**" we collect nonperishable food items for CAUSE, the United Methodist food pantry in Jersey City. Drop off your items on your way into worship; feel free to leave them on the sanctuary pew near the entrance.



FACEBOOK

Do you follow our Church's Facebook page? There you can find reminders of church activities, links to national and global articles of interest, thought -provoking articles, and educational materials. [Join us in our Facebook conversation today!](#)



WESLEY PRE-SCHOOL

The **Wesley Center Pre School** is enrolling for the *2015-2016 school year*. We offer 2 ½, 3 and 4 year classes. Church members receive a 10% discount and the enrollment fee is waived. *Please contact MaryEllen DeJohn at 908-277- 3686 or medejohn@verizon.net for more information.*



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:



MORGAN'S CLOSET SALE October 10, 2015

*Only clothes, jewelry and toys
will be sold at this sale.*

PRE-SALE:
October 9, 2015
Time: TBA

BIRTHDAYS and *Anniversaries* in September:

2	Theodore Burns	14	Bob Koernig
3	Matthew Dietzel		<i>David & Maria Hughes</i>
	James Goldman	15	<i>Faye & Chris Cunningham</i>
	Meri-Beth Robertson		Marty Miles
5	Macklin Dunnder	21	Max Mansilla
	Elizabeth Lopez	22	Brian Edwards
6	Owen Wilkins	23	Leighton Andersen
7	Chris Cummings	24	Richard Keating
9	Robert Hugin	25	Dan Smith
10	Leslie Koernig - Goetzl	26	Laura Wilkins
	<i>Chris & Rica Vida</i>	27	Hudsen Kreiger
11	Norma Dowe	30	Chris Dunnder
12	Chloe Mansilla		Bill Glancy
			<i>Bob & Carole Reed</i>

September

"To Do" List:

MEETINGS:

Worship Committee – 9/20

MINISTRY:

CAUSE - donations every first Sunday

Prayer Warriors – Wednesdays

Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays

Taize Prayer Service – 9/2

IHN Guests – arrive 9/13

Family Promise Fundraiser – 9/20

AND MORE:

Equine Event – TBA

Chancel Choir Rehearsal begins – 9/20

Fall Festival – 9/27

Sunday School Resumes – 9/27

SEPTEMBER 2015

Summit United Methodist Church ▪ 17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ 908-277-1700

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship		1	2 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm Taize Prayer Service 7pm (<i>Chapel</i>)	3 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	4 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	5
	6	7 LABOR DAY- Office is closed	8	9 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	10 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	11 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>
12	13 IHN Guests arrive	14	15	16 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	17 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	18 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>
19	20 IHN Guests leave Worship Committee Meeting - 11:30am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal – following worship Family Promise Fundraiser 1-3pm	21	22	23 Prayer Warriors – 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	24 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	25 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>
26	27 Sunday School resumes Fall Festival 9:30am-1:30pm	28	29	30 Prayer Warriors – 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	CHOIR START DATES: Chancel – 9/20 Contemporary Ensemble – 10/4 Bell – 10/4 Wesley – 10/7 Singing Believers – 10/10	