



# The Connection

September 2024

A monthly publication of the

**Millington United Methodist Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to  
Make Him Known**

## September Scripture Readings

- 1—Exodus 14:14
- 2—Psalm 4:8
- 3—Psalm 23:1-6
- 4—Psalm 34:3
- 5—Psalm 46:5
- 6—Psalm 145:18
- 7—Proverbs 16:24
- 8—Isaiah 40:31
- 9—Isaiah 41:13
- 10—Isaiah 43:1-2
- 11—Lamentations 3:22-23
- 12—Acts 9:26-28, 31
- 13—Acts 20:1-3
- 14—Romans 8:18
- 15—Romans 8:28
- 16—Romans 8:37-39
- 17—Romans 15:4-6
- 18—Romans 15:13
- 19—2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 20—Galatians 6:2
- 21—Galatians 6:9
- 22—Ephesians 3:20-21
- 23—Philippians 1:3-6
- 24—Philippians 2:1-4
- 25—1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 26—2 Thessalonians 2:15-17
- 27—Philemon 4:7
- 28—Hebrews 6:19-20
- 29—Hebrews 12:4-6
- 30—Hebrews 13:8

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## September National Days

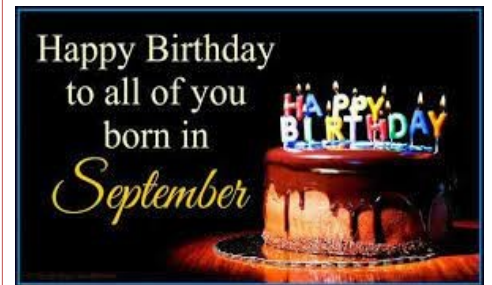
- 1—National Forgiveness Day
- 2—National Hummingbird Day
- 3—National Cinema Day
- 4—National Wildlife Day
- 5—National Be Late for Something Day
- 6—National Read a Book Day
- 7—National Tailgating Day
- 8—National Pet Memorial Day
- 9—National Share Your Care Day
- 10—National Swap Ideas Day
- 11—National Make Your Bed Day
- 12—National Hug & High Five Day
- 13—National Positive Thinking Day
- 14—National Parents Day Off Day
- 15—National Neonatal Nurses Day
- 16—National Working Parent's Day
- 17—National Apple Dumpling Day
- 18—National Cheeseburger Day
- 19—National Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 20—National Care for Kids Day
- 21—National Cleanup Day
- 22—National Ice Cream Cone Day
- 23—National Great American Pot Pie Day
- 25—National Autumnal Equinox Day
- 26—National Johnny Appleseed Day
- 27—National Day of Forgiveness Day
- 28—National Good Neighbor Day
- 29—National Family Health & Fitness Day
- 30—National Love People Day

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4—James Rehil

8—Tammy Roselles

9—Olivia Rehill

13—Destany LeVan

15—Charles Koski

17—Sue LeVan

18—Ann Marie Atkin

20—Leah Burns

24—Marguerite Aulbert

26—Jacob Bouse

27—Pastor Pete Crawford

28—Mel Ayotte



## Pastor David's Corner

And so another school year begins for the students and teachers and administrators. I remember looking forward to school. I enjoyed it. I got to see friends and classmates I hadn't seen since the previous year ended. I got to learn. I got to play sports. Life was good.

I remembered Don the other day. He was a nearly-sixteen year old forced to stay in school until it was legal for him to quit. We had some good conversations about life back there in that 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. All Don wanted from life was to be a farmer, and back then you didn't need much education to be a farmer. School was not fun for Don. It was a chore. I helped him as much as I could and he made it through the year.

There are others, like Don, for whom school is not enjoyable. I learned last year of some classmates in high school who had been tormented by teachers and classmates and it is only by the grace of God that they didn't commit suicide. One even told me that a teacher had encourage her to do just that. Why anyone who would encourage another human being to kill herself was allowed to be in a classroom is beyond my scope of understanding. And following her admission I also heard from others for whom school was a time of terror and not joy.

This is our world today. For example, I enjoy working. Others do not. Whether it was a factory job or helping on the farm or leading worship, I like to be useful. I learned at a young age while cleaning toilets on Saturday mornings every Saturday morning that there is no task not worth doing and doing well. Paul used a phrase often in his letters to the churches he guided — "as to the Lord."

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving* —he wrote in Colossians 3.

Don enjoyed his farm. He was a good farmer. School was not his calling. If you enjoy what you are doing it is not work, it is your calling. *"Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling,"* the author of Hebrews writes, *"fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest."*

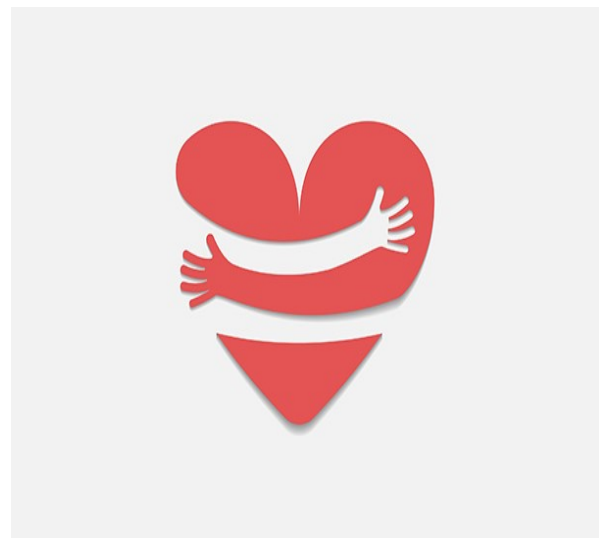
What is it that God has put in your heart for you? Can you share that gift with others?

Out in the highways and byways of life,  
many are weary and sad;  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife  
making the sorrowing glad.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love;  
Tell of His pow'r to forgive;  
Others will trust Him if only you prove  
true ev'ry moment you live.

Give as 'twas given to you in your need;  
Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed;  
Unto your mission be true.

Make me a blessing,  
Make me a blessing,  
Out of my life  
May Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O savior, I pray,  
Make me a blessing to someone today.



Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor David

# Finance



# Moment

## Why Does It Matter That We Give?

- Giving changes us inside. Giving moderates our drive for acquisition. We live in a materialistic society that pressures us to pursue many things that do not lead to real happiness. Giving resets our internal compass in the right direction, helping us to draw closer to God.
- Giving mirrors God's nature. We are created with God's nature imprinted on our souls; we are hard-wired to be social, compassionate, connected, loving, and generous.
- Giving encourages intentionality. The practice of generosity opens us to deeper reflection about wealth and how it relates to our purpose and happiness.
- Giving deepens our relationship with God. When we give generously, our beliefs and trust in God rise to tangible form. We become doers of the word and not hearers only. Generosity feeds our love for God.

The practice of generosity stretches us to offer our utmost and highest to God rather than to give in a manner that is haphazard, unplanned, reactive, or mediocre. People who are generous make giving a first priority, and they go the second mile. They do not give from the '*what's left over*' place, but from a '*what comes first*' priority. From "Five Practices of Fruitful Living, by Robert Schnase"

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We make a living by what we get;  
we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)<sup>0819</sup>

### Adopt-a-Highway Roadside Pick-up

Millington United Methodist Church has adopted the portion of M-15 from Birch Run Rd. to Murphy Lake Rd. The next roadside pick-up will be on **Saturday, September 21st at 9am**. Meet at the church parking lot. In case of inclement weather, it will be Saturday, September 28th. Come join us and bring family, friends, neighbors (anyone over 12) The more help, the shorter the time it will take.



# Things to know:

Trustee Meeting  
Monday, September 9th  
5 pm

American Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
Friday, September 6th  
Noon to 5:45pm

Mission and Outreach Meeting  
Monday, September 16th  
5pm

Adopt-a-Highway  
Roadside pickup  
September 21st-29th

## September Mission and Outreach Notes:

I have been enjoying Pastor Collins' messages. I particularly like the way everything ties in together, and how he manages to convict me or give me food for thought at the end of each one. It might be a question that pierces my consciousness and makes me reflect and challenges me. If you would like to participate in not just going to church, but in BEING the church outside our walls, that's called OUTREACH. Many hands/hearts make light work. Our church picked up the Dictionary Project from the Rotary when it disbanded in Millington. Maury Chapin does all the ground work for this endeavor. He gets the numbers of 4th graders from Meacham Elementary, St. Paul elementary school, the Amish/Mennonite school, and even home schooled students. Each 4th grade child will receive his/her own dictionary with a sticker from MUMC inside the cover. If you would like to support that mission, we always welcome assistance and monetary gifts.

We will also need your help at this year's TRUNK OR TREAT on Schell Drive beside the Kirk building on Friday, October 25. That is the last home varsity football game and our team plays Birch Run. Please consider decorating your trunk and passing out treats to the little superheroes, goblins, critters, and princesses who might cross our path, OR start picking up some treats (pace yourselves \$\$\$), OR consider donating money a little at a time toward purchasing for those who will pass them out. You can pass out any variety of age-appropriate items besides candy. Now that you're thinking ahead, stay tuned for future outreach projects.

So let your light shine . . . that if you were put on trial for being a Christian, there WOULD BE enough evidence to convict you!!!!



Sharon Trato

Mission and Outreach Committee



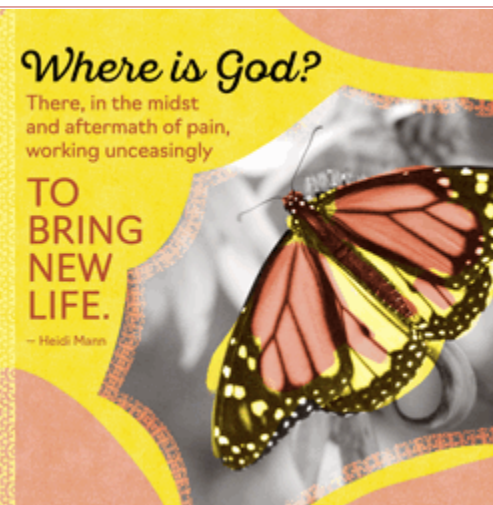
## Second fiddle

A fan once asked conductor Leonard Bernstein what instrument is hardest to play. “Second fiddle,” he quickly replied. “I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm ... now that’s a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony.”

The church certainly needs both leaders and followers. And everyone should be flexible and ready to pivot quickly.

It’s also important to have other arrows in our quiver — something biblical figures often demonstrated, according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. Although Amos was a high-profile prophet, he probably intended to return to being a shepherd and tending sycamore trees. Nehemiah, the emperor’s cup-bearer, had a second chapter helping to restore Jerusalem’s walls and greatness. The apostles also had multiple roles, with careers in fishing and tax collecting before they left to follow Jesus.

What might your next life-chapter look like? How can you use it to bring glory to God?



## Being Christ amid pain

In December 2023, a tanker truck carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline tipped on its side in Totona, Liberia. For two hours, a party atmosphere ensued as people living in poverty rushed to gather gas dripping from the vehicle. But then, the tanker suddenly exploded. Dozens of people died instantly or were severely burned. Thousands have endured deep trauma and grief. How could life go on? Where was God?

Yet, life did go on — not easily, but in this way: Medical staff and others rallied to care for all who were suffering physically and emotionally. A nearby church held comforting worship services, and its choir went to homes to sing messages of hope. Parishes and disaster-response ministries sent teams from near and far to support people through post-traumatic stress, income loss due to disability, the birth of babies whose young fathers had died in the blast, children’s transition back to school and more.

These Christian caregivers and comforters couldn’t bring instant, perfect healing. But by connecting with people who were grieving and struggling, they have become the presence of Christ.

Where is God? There, in the midst and aftermath of pain, working unceasingly to bring new life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann (source: *Living Lutheran*, May 13, 2024)



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

## The extraordinary amid the ordinary.

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an ex-

## Young at heart

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their steps are short like mine.  
They don't say, "Now hurry up."  
They always take their time.

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their eyes see things like mine do ...  
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,  
Half-hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,  
They do not stop and see.  
I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma  
Unrushed and young like me. -Unknown

## Back-to-school laughs

Why was the arithmetic book so sad?  
*It had too many problems.*

What school supply is in charge of the classroom?  
*The ruler*

What does the English teacher make for breakfast?  
*Synonym rolls*

Why doesn't the school library have a clock?  
*It tocks too much.*

What is the blackboard's favorite drink?  
*Hot chalk-olate*

September 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship Communion	2 <i>Have a safe Labor Day</i> 	3 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	4	5	6 Noon to 5:45pm Blood Drive 	7
8 10am Worship 	9 5pm Trustee mtg.	10 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	11 	12	13	14
15 10am Worship  Hispanic Heritage Month begins	16 5pm Mission & Outreach mtg.  6pm SPRC mtg.	17 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	18	19	20	21 9am -Adopt-a-Hwy Roadside Pickup
22 10am Worship  First Day of Autumn!	23	24 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	25	26	27	28 9am Adopt-a-Hwy Roadside Pickup (Alternate Date)
29 10am Worship	30					

## A Note from Barb...

Here it is, already September. I told you last month that August just flies by, and indeed it did again this year. And September is usually about the same because we are so busy, what with harvesting our gardens and fields, canning our produce, school is in full swing, and with that comes football and soccer games, and getting things ready for that "W" word. Our neighbor has already closed their pool for the season. And yes, here we are with the warmest weather yet. I am totally NOT giving up on our summer yet. After all, Autumn doesn't even start until September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

And even though many of us are in the Autumn (or W- - - -) of our life and haven't accomplished all that we have wanted to do in our lives, we are so fortunate that our heavenly Father has not given up on us either. In Psalm 86: 15, he tells us: My friend, when people give up on you, and even when you give up on yourself, I want to assure you that God has not given up on you! He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for your sins and this God of grace will never give up on you.

Whatever season you are in, in your life, know that God will be with you wherever you go, and whatever you do.



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