



The Connection

October 2024

A monthly publication of the

Millington United Methodist Church

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

October Scripture Readings

- 1—Job 23:12
- 2—Mark 11:24
- 3—Job 19:25
- 4—John 16:33
- 5—Psalm 34:14
- 6—Psalm 34: 14
- 7—James 5:13
- 8—1 Peter 5: 7
- 9—Romans 12:12
- 10— Matthew 11:28-30
- 11—Isaiah41:10
- 12—Psalm 27:10
- 13—II Corinthians 12:9
- 14—Psalm 55:22
- 15—Psalm 23
- 16—James 1:2
- 17—Galatians 6:9
- 18—Matthew 6
- 19—Psalm 91:1
- 20—1Peter 4:13
- 21—Romans 8:39
- 22—II Corinthians 1:3-4
- 23—Proverbs 24:10
- 24—Proverbs 3:5-6
- 25—Ephesians 3:20-21
- 26—John 10:10
- 27—Psalm 4:8
- 28—John 14:27
- 29—Psalm 29:11
- 30—Hebrews 4:16
- 31—James 5:10-11

October National Days

- 1—National Homemade Cookies Day
- 2—National Walk to School Day
- 3—National Techies Day
- 4—National Cinnamon Bun Day
- 5—National Do Something Nice Day
- 6—National Coaches Day
- 7—National Chocolate Pretzel Day
- 8—National Fluffernutter Day
- 9—National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day
- 10—National Walk to a Park Day
- 11—National Sausage Pizza Day
- 12—National Freethought Day
- 13—National Train Your Brain Day
- 14—National Be Bald and Be Free Day
- 15—National Grouch Day
- 16—National Dictionary Day
- 17—National Get to Know Your Customers Day
- 18—National Chocolate Cupcake Day
- 19— National Seafood Bisque Day
- 20—National Chicken & Waffles Day
- 21—National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day
- 22—National Make a Dog's Day
- 23—National Mole Day
- 24—National Bologna Day
- 25—National Greasy Foods Day
- 26—National Mincemeat Day
- 27—National Black Cat Day
- 28—National First Responders Day
- 29—National Hermit Day
- 30—National Speak Up For Service Day
- 31—National Knock Knock Joke Day



1—Jessica Cram

1—Charles Tanner

2—Debbie Norman

5—Chandler Rice

5—Austin LeVan

6—Konner Blackmer

6—Ashleigh Trato

8—Oakley Whitehead

13—Linda Sayles

13—Carol Blair Bouse

14—Lily Morrill

23—Lauren Olmstead

25—Ann Marie Tanner

26—Diana Slough

28—Connie Loveland

28—Larry Olmstead II

31—Melanie Truett Hurst

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Pastor David's Corner

Halloween.

What is it?

Its origins are varied, but the reality is that following the martyrdom of many Christians at the hands of the pagan Roman emperors, several "churches" began to celebrate an annual day of remembrance of their sainthood. It settles around the first day of November and it was called "All Saints Day", or All Hallows Day. The night before, the eve of All Hallows Day, became known as All Hallows Eve and it was softened to Hallowe'en.

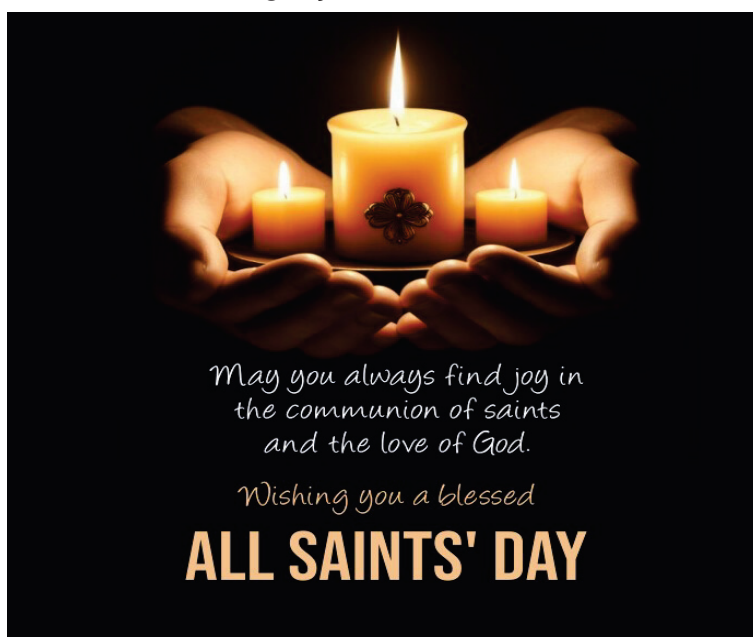
Since that time many traditions have formed around that day, including the Druids in Britain, and the pagan traditions that developed in America that celebrate the satanic rituals of the dead. This is the main recognition we find today with the ghosts and goblins and witches being accepted as the norm for Halloween in the United States today. We have fun with the kids and costumes and the passing out of candy as treats to forego the tricks that they would play if they weren't so well treated.

There are several who would denigrate this practice as being evil. And in many ways, it is evil. We seem to have lost sight of the holy origins of the date and have settled in on the practices of the day of the dead. Originally, the day of the dead was to recognize that "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment," (Hebrews 9:27) – that we all will die but those in Christ will live again in glory.

My point is this: have fun with the costumes and candy, but do not lose your focus on the All Hallows Eve...All Saints Day Eve... and worship the One for whom we live and move and have our being, to the glory of the Father Almighty.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David



Finance



Moment

As we welcome the season of Autumn and enter another beautiful time of nature's splendor, we remember God's continuing, creative gifts. We enjoy the beauty and variety of the world, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the love that sustains us. It is because of God's generosity that we are here.

Our gifts to God have everything to do with our spiritual focus, our spiritual maturity and our spiritual discipline of giving. We give from our need to be generous, as God has been generous to us. *(Resource-Holston Conference)*

True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love.
No strings attached. No expectations. 1019 ~ *Suze Orman*



October Mission and Outreach Notes:

The next outreach on the agenda will be the yearly CROP WALK on Sunday afternoon, October 13, in Vassar, to raise money for countries where people are desperately in need of clean water, good food, and more. Please pledge our walkers, as 1/4 of the pledges stay in Millington for the food bank.

Next is the distribution of dictionaries to all 4th grade students in Millington. This includes public school, home school, the Amish, and St. Paul 4th graders. The distribution will take place on October 16, National Dictionary Day (Thanks, Barb!).

After that, please remember to donate either money or bags of candy or novelty items to help those of us who will decorate our trunks for Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 25. Weather not prohibiting, it promises to be a good night for Halloween critters, super heroes, and princesses to reap a sweet harvest from 5-6 o'clock on Schell Drive.

*Sharon Trato
Mission and Outreach Committee*



Things to know:

Finance Meeting
Monday, October 21st
5 pm

Charge Conference
Tuesday, October 22nd
5pm -

SPRC meeting
6pm Tuesday, October 22nd
Meet with DS for Charge Conference

Trunk—or—Treat
October 25th—5 to 6pm
Millington High School—Schell Drive

Trunk or treating
at MHS

Schell Drive

On October 25th
from 5 to 6pm





Let's make a
commitment to support
our Church Community
with our: prayers,
presence,
gifts,
service
and witness



True Christian religion does not begin at the highest as all other religions do, but at the lowest. Therefore whenever you are concerned to think and act about your salvation, you must put away all speculations about the Majesty, all thoughts of works, traditions and philosophy — indeed, of the Law of God itself.

And you must run directly to the manger and the mother's womb, embrace this Infant and Virgin's Child in your arms, and look at Him — born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society, teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above all the heavens, and having authority over all things.

—Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

Total immersion

In college, I took an American Sign Language class from a Deaf instructor who couldn't speak. On the first day, another staff member explained that we'd be experiencing total immersion. She left, and the classroom remained silently engaged for the rest of the semester.

Creatively, the instructor began by writing "same" and "different" on the whiteboard and demonstrating those signs. Then he took us through several examples where we were to use the signs to identify what was the same or different. That's how he taught ASL, graciously guiding us without audible voices. We embraced a brand-new approach to communicating.

The church can do that too. We can use "all that is within" us to praise God's holy name (Psalm 103:1). We can get creative and harness everything — all our senses — to worship.

This might mean removing distractions, learning a new style of music, using visual arts or engaging with a different culture — all while offering praise. Instead of feeling bound by what's familiar and comfortable, try to be immersed and all-in while worshiping the Lord!

—Janna Firestone

Parable of the pufflings

As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent puffins — black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks — stop bringing fish to their chicks. These “pufflings,” whose first few weeks were lived in burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, “fall out of the sky.” Because pufflings can’t yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during “puffling season” people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander’s help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: It’s being saved.

We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We’re misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we’re irredeemably trapped in the worst of circumstances. We can’t perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can’t sense it at this moment, you are held in God’s care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don’t publicize. It’s an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God’s people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they’d like or what they need, most would probably reply, “Pray for me.”

That’s what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, “Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company” (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you’re doing so!

Pumpkin prayer

In *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, Liz Curtis Higgs uses kid-friendly analogies for the Christian life. Many parents now use a Pumpkin Prayer while carving jack-o-lanterns in October. What a great reminder about everything God has done for us! While cutting off the pumpkin top, pray, “Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.” (See Proverbs 1:7.)

While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, “Remove the things in my life that don’t please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me forgive others.” (See Matthew 6:14-15.)

- While making eyes, pray, “Open my eyes to see the beauty you’ve made in the world around me.” (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, “I’m sorry for the times I’ve turned up my nose at your many gifts.” (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, “Let everything I say please you.” (See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, “Lord, help me shine your light to others through the things I do.” (See Matthew 5:16.)
- Display your carved pumpkins as examples of how God’s love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

October 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October is Pastor Appreciation Month		1 8:30am Women's 4th Day	2	3	4	5
6 10am Worship World Communion Sunday	7	8 8:30am Women's 4th Day	9	10	11	12
13 10am Worship CROP Walk 1:45 pm	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	15 8:30am Women's 4th Day	16 Bosses Day	17	18	19 Sweetest Day
20 10am Worship Laity Sunday Children's Sabbath	21 5pm Finance mtg.	22 8:30am Women's 4th Day Charge Conference 5pm SPRC meet with DS @ Charge Conference 6pm	23	24	25 Trunk or Treat @ MHS Schell Drive 5 to 6pm	26
27 10am Worship Reformation Sunday	28	29 8:30am Women's 4th Day	30	31 Reformation Day Halloween	Coming November 7th American Red Cross Blood Drive noon to 5:45pm Pre-register early to beat the crowds!	

A Note from Barb...

Here we are in October again. It's one of my favorite months. I love the changing of the leaves on the trees to the beautiful reds, yellows and oranges. It's fun to collect nuts that the squirrels have missed and use them for baking during the winter months. I love campfires and roasting marshmallows with my grandkids. October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book. I love watching the gorgeous sunrises and sunsets that we have had lately that are phenomenal, reminding us that God is great and he has blessed us with this beauty.

The end of the summer is not the end of the world. I hope you all have pleasant memories of Autumn and are glad that we live in a world where there are Octobers.



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Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

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