

# The Spire Lite

September 2023



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

## Back to the Sanctuary & Welcome Back BBQ

On Sunday, September 10, 2023, we will transition from Church in the chapel back to the sanctuary. As is our tradition, we will have communion at this service rather than our usual first Sunday.



Following worship, we will celebrate with a Welcome Back BBQ in the chapel. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the chapel. If you are watching online and wish to come, please call the office so we have an accurate head count.

If you're able to contribute food, please sign up on the sheet at the table and tell us what you plan to bring.



## Directory Update Reminder

We're in the process of collecting information to update our online directory. Additionally, we want to take this opportunity to get your permission for how we use this information. *(Please note that the directory will still be password-protected. Only people with the password will be able to see your personal information on the website.)*

Included with this month's Spire, you'll find a Contact Information form. You can also find a link to the form on our website. Even if your information hasn't changed, we still need you to fill out a form for every member of your household to ensure we have the permissions.

Thank you to those who have already sent your forms in. We appreciate your help in streamlining this process for the office staff!

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Nursery Supervision

Consider signing up for the hour of nursery during church services as we welcome back the little ones from our congregation. The sign-up sheet is available at the back of the church.



Contact Priscilla Mills after church or by phone at (410) 378-0713 for more information.

## Communion Preparation

We still need people to prepare Communion for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and for Christmas Eve. It's your opportunity to participate in the life of our church. Please sign up at the back of the church. For more information or instructions, see Priscilla Mills.

## The Bells are Back!

After a rejuvenating vacation, the bells are back with us, gleaming and ready for playing. Many of the bells received new parts, and all of them were cleaned and polished. They look brand new! Thank you to all who donated for their refurbishment.

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir will resume practices on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 8:30 am. We are looking forward to playing together.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries for September and October

### September Birthdays

- 11 Louise Sauk
- 15 Monica Manerchia  
Rosemary Richardson  
Marsha Scott
- 16 Colin Levi
- 25 Brigid Levi
- 18 Dave Miskowic



### October Birthdays

- 2 Parker Ferguson
- 7 Joanne Long
- 9 Everett McGonigle  
George McGonigle

### October Anniversaries

- 10 John and Jane Kofroth

### September Anniversaries

- 7 Akky and Hans Geveke
- 14 Charlene and Dan Miller
- 21 Stephen and Kimberlee Kalichak
- 26 Kevin and Makenzie McGonigle

Let's Celebrate!

## Sunday School

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll begin Sunday School lessons once again. Students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet with Jane Kofroth for a lesson after the Children's Sermon.

We're excited to offer a new program for middle schoolers. They will meet twice in September (9/10 and 9/24) after the Children's Sermon. Using the Blueprint series, they'll discuss Jesus' death and resurrection and how we should live as believers in Christ.



## Join Us for Small Group

Small Groups begin again on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. These groups are a great way to grow in your faith and connect with other people.

This fall, we will be reading Hebrews 1-7. The first seven chapters of the Book of Hebrews explore topics like the identity and work of Jesus, security in our salvation, and the call to persevere as followers of Christ.

Small Groups will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month. One group meets at the church at noon. (Please bring a sack lunch.) The second group meets at 7:00 pm at the Shaw's house.

Sign up on the sheet in church or let Pastor Brenda know you are interested!

## Food Bank

The item of the month for September is  
*Oatmeal*

Please donate anytime during the month.



On Sunday October 8, 2023, at noon, we will be holding a Blessing of the Animals Service. You are encouraged to bring your furry friends. All animals are welcome to join us for the service, though we ask for carriers or leashes to be used.



"I brought a friend today.  
Just call me *The Great Commissioner*."

## Devotional Thought...

**“So, I say to you: Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” ~Luke 11:9**

For the last year, I have been learning yoga and practicing mindfulness. In mindfulness, you learn to focus on your breathing, to be present in the moment, to let go of all distractions and concerns about things to come in the rest of your day. It's good for your brain and can help lower your blood pressure. What I have found is that it is also a good way to be present with God when you need to have a conversation about a complicated problem or need direction and guidance in a decision you need to make.

Find a quiet place. Focus on your breathing, counting in for 4 as you inhale and out for 4 as you exhale. With each exhale, let yourself relax more and more, perhaps with a sigh. After a minute or two, your mind clears itself as you let your thoughts drift away. Now, you can talk quietly with God about your concerns. Ask for help. Then, sit silently and listen. Is He nudging you in a particular direction? Is He asking you to wait on what you want? Does He want you to spend more time with Him? Being quiet in the present moment—not distracted—allows you to focus on what you are looking for and what door may be opening in your life.

A good way to end a mindfulness session is with gratitude. Maybe your mind takes you on a walk through the woods or to the beach to watch the beauty of the ocean. Maybe you hop on a cloud and float over God's Kingdom, thankful for all he has provided. Or maybe

*May I quiet my words and listen*

*May I calm my thoughts and be*

*May I soften my heart and open*

*May I still my soul and receive*

*~Mary Davis*

you just envision all the people in your life who bring you joy. It is good each day to let the noise of the world drop away long enough to hear God's voice of love.

~Priscilla Mills

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