

SEPTEMBER 2022

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412.828.5770  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)

## Mending Wall

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.... Robert Frost



Beloved in Christ,

Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" still speaks today when citizens of our country are mightily divided. Our two political parties most often take party-line votes. You can choose which tv news is aligned with the party of your choice. And some people are calling for acts of political violence. We have good reason to worry about our country.

We Christians dare not be self-righteous or judgmental about current divisions. Churches have long struggled with division. We read of it in Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.' (1 Corinthians 1:11-12)

However, as we read in the Letter to the Ephesians (2:14), we have reason to be hopeful.

For [Christ Jesus] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Community-with-differences is one of the gifts the followers of Jesus have to offer to the world – the realization that, although we are different, in Christ we are more siblings than enemies.

Each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper I look into the congregation and I am aware of the differences among us. Differences of age and stage of life, income, employment, as well as political party although real are secondary to our oneness in Christ. We give witness to that at each communion celebration when we gather together around one table. As we have sung "We are One in the Spirit, We Are One in the Lord".

While Frost doubts that "good fences make good neighbors" he mentions "spring mending-time" when he and his neighbor would repair the stone wall that the groundswell and the hunters had damaged. Perhaps each Sunday can be something of our mending-time when we reach across to someone, not that we will easily repair any breach, but perhaps God will use our contact to reduce the division lest the distance become great.

Because of our oneness in Christ we may still sing "America the Beautiful" while we also pray, *may God thy gold refine.*

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Several Worship Notes:

- **Early worship will resume Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 am.** See information on newsletter page 3.
- I will lead **Vespers in the Longwood Chapel** from 4:00-4:30 pm, the first Thursday of every month beginning Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome!

Steve



**Become Part of Our Church Family** **Becoming a Part of the OPC Family of Faith New Member Gathering** – We at OPC are a diverse group of people who find meaning in gathering together for worship, study and service. Gatherings for those interested in becoming a part of the OPC family of faith will be **Sundays, SEPT 18 through OCT 2 from 9:30 am**

– 10:30 am in the Marie Berg Chapel. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, OCT 2 during the 11:00 am worship service. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Steve Wilson at [swilson@oakmontpresby.org](mailto:swilson@oakmontpresby.org) or call church office at 412.828.5770.

Oakmont Presbyterian Church

# HOMECOMING PICNIC

Sunday, September 11

*Extended family and friends are welcome!*

Join your OPC family for food and fellowship on the side lawn, immediately following worship. Feel free to wear picnic attire to worship on picnic day!

Bring a dish to share, labeled with the dish name and your name, to the church kitchen before worship. Last names A-O bring a side dish, last names P-Z bring a dessert. In the event of inclement weather, the picnic will be in the church dining room. Main course and beverages will be provided.

RSVP to the church office 412-828-5770 with the number of picnickers; or sign up at worship on Aug. 28 and Sept. 4.

**RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS**

**AAs**

Mondays at Noon  
Multi-Purpose Room

Saturdays at 8:30 pm  
Dining Room

**Women's AAs**

Wednesday at 10:00 am  
Dining Room

**NAs**

Thursdays at 8:00 pm  
Dining Room

**EYE GLASS COLLECTION**

The Lions Clubs collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Recycling Centers where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription strength and packaged. Most are distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact. The Lions Clubs accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed. For your convenience, there is a drop box located in the church office.

**OPC STAFF**

- |                             |                                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson | Senior Pastor                             |
| The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco | Associate Pastor                          |
| Michael P. Frank, III       | Director of Music Ministries/Organist     |
| Ronnie Bailey               | Education Director for Children and Youth |
| Maureen Stecik              | Program Staff Assistant                   |
| Buster Harper               | Custodian                                 |
| Tracy Messenger             | Financial Secretary of Accounting         |
| Marge Kuhn                  | Financial Secretary of Contributions      |
| Roberta Erickson            | Handbell Choir Director                   |
| Ron Burkert                 | AV Team Coordinator                       |

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139  
412-828-5770 (Office)

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Your OPC Family Cares About You! Because there are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don't know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member (mstecik@oakmontpresby.org) so we may support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412-242-1028.

Your Worship Committee and Session have been diligently working to bring back the early Sunday morning worship service. **Beginning in October, (Sunday October 2nd) we will start a 3-month trial of a worship service beginning at 8:30 am.** and ending at approximately 9:15 am. This service will not be livestreamed. This service will retain all important liturgies to our Faith but will change some of the format to a streamlined liturgy with communion by intinction, piano music only with one opening and one closing hymn and cares, concerns and announcements moved to the end of the service.

During this 3-month trial, your comments and reactions will be much appreciated as we seek to determine what we may like to change about the service and whether the service itself is serving our congregation well. Thank you for your support and your prayers for the early morning service as we seek to determine future necessary plans.

**PLANNING FOR CELEBRATION OF STEVE IN HIS LAST YEAR AT OPC**

As you know, our beloved Senior Pastor, Dr. Stephen Wilson, will be retiring August, 2023. Steve has led us so faithfully for over 30 years, and we all know we will miss him greatly. We have a year to get used to the fact that he will be leaving us for his well deserved retirement.

A team has been formed to begin the planning for honoring, celebrating and saying farewell to him in the coming year. Team members are Nancy Sloan, Lin Ewing, Chris Little, and Sherry Geis.

We are sure you have thoughts and ideas as to what we could do and how best to celebrate Steve as he leaves this phase of his life and moves on to the next. Feel free to reach out to any of these members to share your thoughts and ideas as they come together to do the planning.

## We're Here to Help

Are you or someone you know struggling with emotional, relational, or spiritual pain? **Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, Consulting** offers compassionate, spiritually integrated care that helps you heal, gives you hope, and allows you to change. Licensed and highly skilled, Samaritan therapists are people of faith who are driven by their passion to help others.

Samaritan offers telehealth and in-person counseling, complying with COVID mitigation guidelines. We accept most major insurances and offer aid to those who qualify. Samaritan welcomes all people without discriminating on any basis. You can make appointments on a weekday, evening, or Saturday.



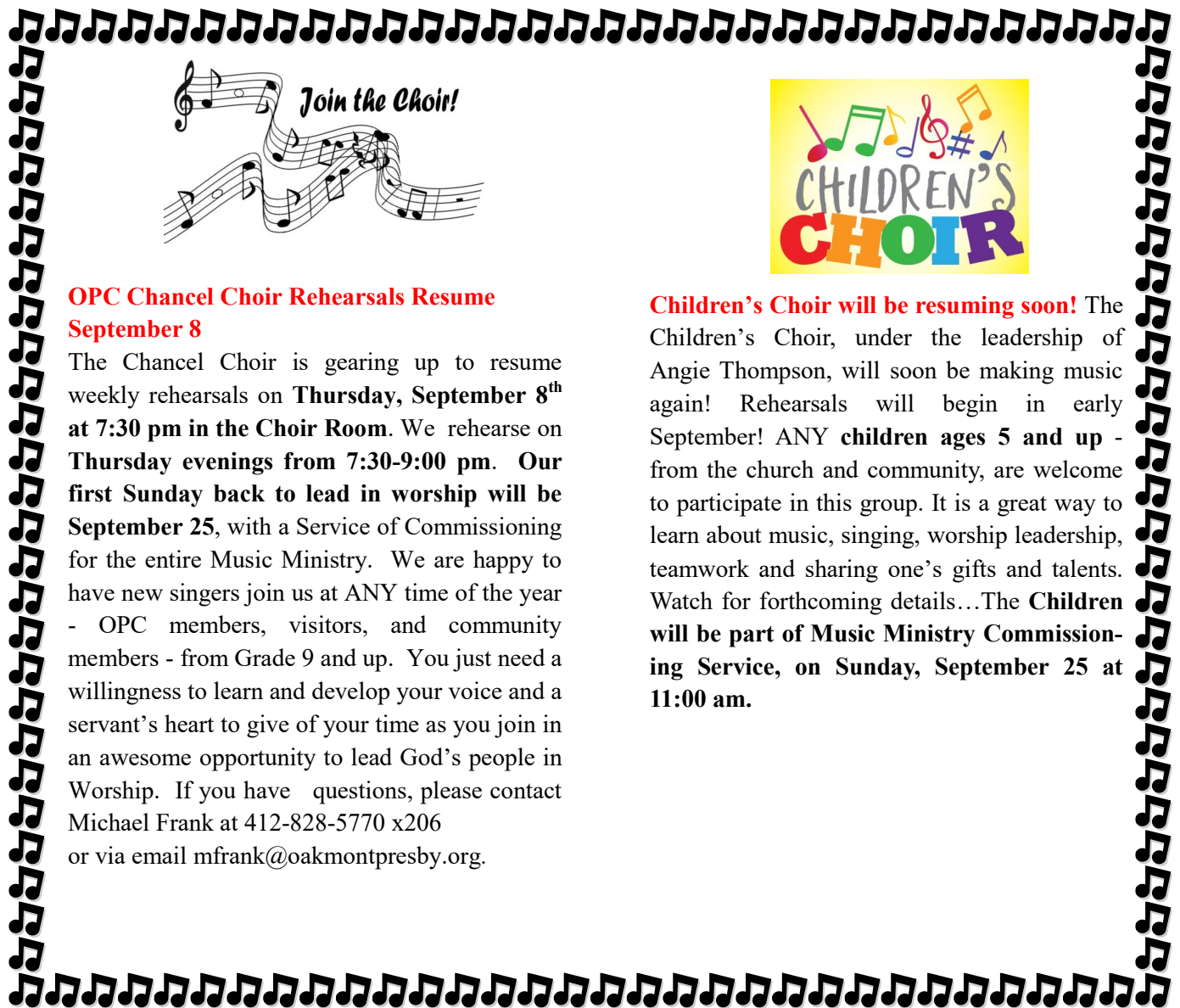
**SAMARITAN**

Counseling • Guidance • Consulting 412.741.7430 • samaritancounseling.net



The PW Bible Circle is starting our new study on **Wednesday, September 7 at 1:30 in the Lona McCrea Room**. Our new study is entitled *Celebrating Sabbath; Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. God offers us a gift that could change our lives if we accept it. The first lesson is "Sabbath and Celebration". As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus invites all of us who are weary to celebrate a Sabbath that is more about "yes" than "no". Each lesson focuses on a particular passage of scripture and the ways Sabbath intersects with different themes. We hope you will join us for learning about Sabbath as a blessing. Please come for fellowship and refreshments.

**Chancel Flowers** – would you like to place flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide visual beauty to worship? One or two arrangements are welcome each week. They can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event or to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. Please call Carla Lowman at 412-826-5914 to reserve your date; give her the info and wording for the bulletin that week. We appreciate your assistance in enhancing the beauty of our sanctuary! **Many open Sundays SEPT through DEC!**



**OPC Chancel Choir Rehearsals Resume September 8**

The Chancel Choir is gearing up to resume weekly rehearsals on **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room**. We rehearse on **Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm**. Our **first Sunday back to lead in worship will be September 25**, with a Service of Commissioning for the entire Music Ministry. We are happy to have new singers join us at ANY time of the year - OPC members, visitors, and community members - from Grade 9 and up. You just need a willingness to learn and develop your voice and a servant's heart to give of your time as you join in an awesome opportunity to lead God's people in Worship. If you have questions, please contact Michael Frank at 412-828-5770 x206 or via email [mfrank@oakmontpresby.org](mailto:mfrank@oakmontpresby.org).

**Children's Choir will be resuming soon!** The Children's Choir, under the leadership of Angie Thompson, will soon be making music again! Rehearsals will begin in early September! **ANY children ages 5 and up** - from the church and community, are welcome to participate in this group. It is a great way to learn about music, singing, worship leadership, teamwork and sharing one's gifts and talents. Watch for forthcoming details...**The Children will be part of Music Ministry Commissioning Service, on Sunday, September 25 at 11:00 am.**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

I'm really excited for this school year at OPC! In all of our different ministries to children and youth, we have a lot of exciting things going on!

**JAM (Jesus And Me) beginning Sept 18<sup>th</sup>** (during worship)-will be our two previously known as "Sunday School" classes during worship. The children will leave for their classes after children's time and will meet in the education wing upstairs. We will have a class for PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are also welcoming our middle and high-school students to serve in these classes who desire to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids.

September 18<sup>th</sup> following worship we will have a Back-to-School workshop led by Rachel Fagan from Samaritan Counseling Center. This is a gathering for parents to take a little stress off of all the school year has to offer.

Our Youth Schedule (grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) are as follows:

- Sept 18<sup>th</sup>- Youth group kickoff party 12:00-1:30 pm
- October 9<sup>th</sup>- Youth Group 12:00-1:30 pm
- October 23<sup>th</sup>- Youth Halloween Party 12:00-1:30 pm
- October 28<sup>th</sup>-October 29<sup>th</sup> - YOUTH LOCK-IN (arriving approx 7:30 pm (or after Friday night football game); departing 9:30 am Saturday morning....more info to follow!
- November 20<sup>th</sup>- Youth Thanksgiving dinner coinciding with OPC Thanksgiving Dinner
- November 27<sup>th</sup>- Youth Group 12:00-1:30 pm - Fall party fun. Advent week 1
- December 11<sup>th</sup>- Youth Group 12:20-1:30 pm (Secret Santa names get picked)
- December 18<sup>th</sup>- Youth Group Christmas Party/Secret Santa/Ugly Christmas Sweaters
- December 24<sup>th</sup>- Family Christmas Eve 4:30 pm service

More fun activities may be added throughout the months for all age groups depending on availability. We will also be participating in fundraisers for our mission trip June 2023. Keep an eye out for information regarding these things! Can't wait to see you all there!



Ronnie

OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FALL FILM SERIES 2022

You Are Invited  
Admission is free!  
Everyone is welcome!  
Multi-Purpose Room  
(lower level)  
Every other Friday Night  
at 7:00 pm

**SEPT 9 *The Miracle Season (2018)***

After the tragic death of star volleyball player Caroline "Line" Found, a team of dispirited high school girls must band together under the guidance of their tough-love coach in hopes of winning the state championship. Followed by video of the actual Dr. Ernie Found. Very inspiring.

**SEPT 23 *Dog (2022)***

Two former Army Rangers are paired against their will on the road trip of a lifetime. Briggs (Channing Tatum) and Lulu (a Belgian Malinois) race down the Pacific Coast to get to a fellow soldier's funeral on time.





## Update on Our Refugee Family

The children have been enrolled for daycare, and Lalia will now have the opportunity to work. Everyone seems excited for this next step.

A sewing machine has been donated to the family, and **Lalia** has eagerly started making clothing. Lalia has bought herself a waffle iron with some of her gift cards and is making some amazing waffles and donut type pastries. She also wanted a charcoal grill and has been grilling as well. Lalia has been having four 2-hour lessons a week for English: 2 with Pittsburgh Literacy online, and 2 with our team member Jean Wimer. She is also having an evening of learning math and budgeting every week with Sandy Wahnsiedler. The team is helping Lalia to learn to grocery shop online with Giant Eagle/Aldi.

**Anjelani** has been attending several classmates' birthday parties. She was shy and clingy at first, but now understands the fun and is very excited to get the invitations. She has been attending summer camp at RCC this summer. She has learned to swim, taken 3 field trips, and has made many friends. She won the Life of the Party award where she received a bike helmet and a Frisbee. Her instructors tell us that she is doing very well at the school and is always in the thick of things. She even participated in a talent show where she sang with other girls — in English!

A refugee travel loan has been added to the financial obligations of the family. While we understand the need for this loan, it is a hardship for a single mom who will also be a single earner.

**Sartiel and Daniel** have been taking communication classes with DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. They had online music classes in the spring, and this summer they have had in person experiential classes, thanks to Pam Billet's efforts. The boys enjoy these classes and the fun they had at the park after the classes.

*Sharon Myers, Team Leader*



## **War:**



## **WHERE IS GOD?**

The reality of war has become vivid again with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This series will examine how Christians have thought about war. We will ask where God is in war and what God may be asking us to do to respond to war in Ukraine or elsewhere.

|              |                                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 18 | <i>The Religious Dimensions to the War in Ukraine</i>          |
| September 25 | <i>Is God at Work in War? How?</i>                             |
| October 2    | <i>Should a Nation Defend Itself from External Aggression?</i> |
| October 9    | <i>How Can We Live out Our Prayers for Peace?</i>              |

*The Rev. Dr. John Burgess is Professor of Systematic Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has twice been a Fulbright scholar to Russia, and he has lectured in Ukraine.*

**!!! Come early for coffee and a donut !!!**

*Coffee and Conversation*  
*Oakmont Presbyterian Church*

*September- October, 2022*  
*9:30 – 10:30 am*

*with*

*Dr. John P. Burgess*



## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Celebration!**

**Boy Scout Troop 854 (formerly Troop 54) of Oakmont is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year!**  
To commemorate this milestone, we're having an anniversary reunion and dinner!

**Saturday, September 3rd, 2022**  
**3PM -7pm**

**Oakmont Presbyterian Church**  
**415 Pennsylvania Ave. Oakmont, PA**  
**(Basement Dining Room)**

All current troop member, leaders, and families, as well as former troop members and their parents are invited!  
We're especially looking for all of our Eagle Scouts to attend!

**COST IS FREE!**

We'll be displaying Troop memorabilia, photos, and awards!  
**Bring yours too!**  
Celebration includes a Reunion Reception, a Gathering of Eagles, Dinner, Speakers, Commemorative Troop T-Shirts, crazy camp stories, and MORE!

**RSVP to Scoutmaster Dave Scalena by 8-19-2022**  
**djscalena@verizon.net**

|    | Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                        | Tuesday                                                                          | Wednesday                           | Thursday                                                                                        | Friday                             | Saturday                                                         |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 |                                                                                                                                                                                               | 29                                                                                                                                            | 30                                                                               | 31                                  | 1                                                                                               | 2                                  | 3                                                                |
| 4  | 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) /COMMUNION/ Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM                                                                                                        | 5<br>LABOR DAY - Church Office Closed<br>12:00pm AA's (MPR)<br>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR)<br>7:00pm JeBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) | 6<br>12:00pm Staff Meeting (DR)                                                  | 7<br>1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) | 8<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)<br>8:00pm NAs (DR)                                     | 9<br>7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)  | 10<br>8:30pm AA's (DR)                                           |
| 11 | 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (preK-2nd grade)<br>12:00pm HOMECOMING PICNIC (OPC side lawn)                                                                 | 12<br>12:00pm AA's (MPR)<br>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR)<br>7:00pm JeBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)                                    | 13<br>7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)<br>7:00pm Session (DR)               | 14<br>10:00am Women's AA (DR)       | 15<br>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)<br>8:00pm NAs (DR) | 16                                 | 17<br>8:30pm AA's (DR)                                           |
| 18 | 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR)<br>9:30am New Members Class (MBC)<br>11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (preK-2nd grade)<br>12:00pm Youth Group Kickoff Party | 19<br>12:00pm AA's (MPR)<br>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR)<br>7:00pm JeBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)                                    | 20<br>7:00pm Deacons (DR)                                                        | 21<br>10:00am Women's AA (DR)       | 22<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)<br>8:00pm NAs (DR)                                    | 23<br>7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR) | 24<br>8:30pm AA's (DR)                                           |
| 25 | 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR)<br>9:30am New Members Class (MBC)<br>11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Commissioning Ministry of Music & Livestream and children during worship (preK-2nd grade)    | 26<br>12:00pm AA's (MPR)<br>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR)<br>7:00pm JeBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)                                    | 27<br>1:00pm Membership Committee (SCR)<br>7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) | 28<br>10:00am Women's AA (DR)       | 29<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)<br>8:00pm NAs (DR)                                    | 30                                 | 1<br>10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR)<br>8:30pm AA's (DR) |

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Sunday, September 11

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friends are welcome!*

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