

Faith's Happenings. . .

September, 2020

Happy Birthday

Sam D'Amico	2nd
Marcia Wilkins	6th
Cyndi Kussow	10th
Marlin Harris	13th
Stephen Armen	14th
Bobbie Myrick	19th
Barb Jones	20th
Jim Buroker	25th
Gary Wilkins	27th
Charlene Howe	28th
Brian Lindhurst	28th

Happy Anniversary

John & Linda Schleede	3rd
Jim & Allison Ward	5th
Bob & Ruth Ash	8th
Jim & Barb Buroker	25th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barbra in the church office
to have your special dates added.**

September at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Men of Faith Breakfast: Sept. 1

Labor Day: Sept. 7 (Office closed)

God's Work Our Hands: Sept. 13

Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all that they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example in the following years. It was in 1894 that Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

Now that you know... have a great Labor Day!

Men's Breakfast

Men, please join us as we have resumed monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, September 1st. Please join us!

**During this difficult time, we
want you to know the
church office is open from 9
till noon if you have a
prayer request or other
need. (697-3313)**

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Insurance policies naming the church as a beneficiary are another means of providing a gift that will continue to bless our congregation's ministry. If the policy is given outright to the church, you may claim the premiums paid as a charitable deduction.

Another Option

Electronic Giving is an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



Long Term Prayer Update

With all the changes over the past few months, we have decided it is time to start over with our prayer list and be sure we have the names of those who need long-term prayer. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

For now, please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: all those who have had or now have the covid-19 virus and Ralph Crites.

Ladies Luncheon

As you have probably guessed, the Ladies Luncheons have been cancelled until the fall (at least). Keep checking upcoming bulletins and newsletters for continuing information.



Romans 8.28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

For 175 days, (25 weeks, 6 months, one half year) we have lived with the reality, restrictions and ramifications of COVID-19. I think the reality has begun to set in that we will be dealing with COVID the rest of this year, and probably into 2021. In several conversations this past week I have heard the phrase, "What if this is the new normal."

At Faith, in council meetings and committee meetings, we are planning for this fall and "season" developing alternative plans depending on how COVID advances or recedes, whether seasonal residents return, and what precautions we need to take for everyone's health.

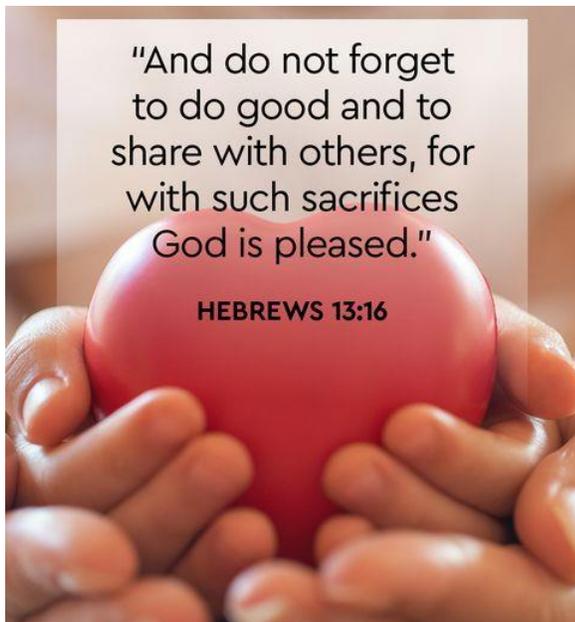
How is God working for good in all of this? If we love God, and are seeking to fulfill God's purpose, then in these challenging times, our lives will be the power and presence of God to effect positive change. We will support one another. We will work on behalf of our community. We will live out God's vision given through the prophet Micah in chapter 6, verse 8; *"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

Justice, mercy, walk with God, these are ways we help those who are hurting. Providing "encouragement" bags to those who are homebound, phone calls to neighbors and friends, gathering at worship as we are able, continuing service in our community through financial and volunteer

support of local service organizations (as we will do on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday), helping someone get to a doctor or the grocery store, working to establish justice for all in a troubled world, living out God's mercy and grace in our relationships with others. In these ways, God is at work for good in our world today.

Beginning in our hearts and with our lives, we experience the power of God's grace and presence. And God's grace truly wins when that grace, power and presence are lived out in our lives for the sake of the world. I encourage you to be the good work of God in our world today.

Be God's Blessing,
Pastor Brian



God's Work – Our Hands Sunday

God's Work – Our Hands Sunday has become an annual event at Faith. Every September we sponsor an outreach to the local community. For the past few years, it has been an event nicknamed "Undie Sunday," when we bring new underwear for the Kids Needs program, to be donated to children returning to school.

We aren't doing Undie Sunday this year because Kid's Needs was closed from mid-March till August 1st, and they are well stocked at this time. Also, this means Faith members don't have to go to a store to participate. (We may, however, do an undie Sunday after Christmas if there is a need.)

This September 13th we will take a special offering to be split between Meals on Wheels and our camper lunch fund. Currently our women are making bagged lunches on Tuesday mornings with the meals being delivered to Indian Mound park Tuesday afternoon. They are then available for the homeless "campers" to pick up. Linda Schultz, who heads up the group, says it costs \$250- \$300 per month for food and supplies for this ministry.

Meals on Wheels has an increased need at this time because they have more clients due to the pandemic, and food prices are rising, too.

Both these groups are serving our community, and we at Faith have an opportunity to help them as we do God's work with our finances.