



THE CHURCH CANDLE

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

September 6th is “

Food Pantry Sunday” it is observed on the first Sunday of the month. A total of thirty-three (33) items were collected in August and delivered. A note from the Athens United Methodist Church for the month of August “Thank You So Much for your recent donation of food items to our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. Each month we service about 140 families, we appreciate your faithful donations, In His Service, AUM Church.” Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item.



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR RECONCILIATION MINISTRY of the Christian Church (DOC) will be received on Sunday, September 27th and Sunday, October 4th. With your support, leaders and congregations are being equipped to take action to not just restore broken systems and relations but to build justice-making programs, courageous relationships, and hopeful communities. Half of your gift remains in the PA region. Thank you for being a beacon of hope and an agent of reconciliation through your generosity.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ...

For another year, our church will be participating in Operation Christmas Child, organized by Samaritan's Purse. Individuals are asked to fill a shoebox with various items (school supplies, hygiene items, toys, etc.) for a boy or girls 2 to 14 years of age. These boxes are sent to children in the third world countries all year around. The National Collection Week is November 16th through the 23rd. More information will be available in the October Newsletter. For those who have put together boxes in the past, it is helpful to gather school supplies in September when items are on sale. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy McKeithan.



MARTHA'S MISSION BIN ... During the month of September, the Outreach Team is asking for treats for cats and dogs, which will be given to the Bradford County Humane Society. Donations may be placed in the box under the table at the church's front entrance. In July, a sizable donation of paper towels for the Endless Mountains Mission Center were collected. Tammie Storrs, the Executive Director of EMMC, sends a heartfelt Thank You for the donation.





PAULA'S PAGE

Dear Church,

Grace and peace to you as brothers and sisters in Christ. Summer is almost over – things are coming back together at the church. On September 13th, we will resume our 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. I think the class will enjoy a study on Paul's letter to the Romans so I will do research on that and find books to use – let me know if you want to purchase one. On Wednesday, September 16th, at 1 p.m. our Bible Study will pick up where we left off in the Gospel of Luke – we have 11 or 12 more chapters to cover!



For our worship services I have planned one or two surprises, hopefully to spark some enthusiasm and keep you all awake. I want to do an interactive service on September thirteen, no quizzes but an opportunity for you to do some prayer movement. Then on September twenty I am going to turn the worship service up-side down the last will be first and the first will be last (Matthew 20:16).

Looking ahead, we are looking at doing another Halloween event similar to last year, we don't have any details yet. For that we will need volunteers and donations of candy and water. Finally, if you are paying attention in church, you will notice that we have advertised on our slides opportunities to serve God through this church. We need someone to come in once a week for cleaning – if you know any "cleaners" send their names to one of our board members. We also need help keeping the church grounds neat and safe in the winter months – again send your thoughts to one of our board members.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Paula



Church Cleaning Person ...

- ♦ Eight (8) hours once a week

A LITTLE

Question: "What does this church claim as its mission?"

" (See answer on another page in the Newsletter)



Volunteers for Winter Ground Maintenance and Sidewalk Clearing ...

- ♦ Must be available to clear sidewalks before 8:00 a.m. weekdays.

COINS FOR CAUSE: Continues to be collected for Disciples Mission Fund.

Please Note: Margo will be out of the office beginning Tuesday, September 8th and will return on Tuesday, September 22nd.

BOARD MEMBERS ... If you have any suggestions regarding the search for the above help wanted, volunteering, or the Search Committee, please contact one of the following Board Members: Oliver McKeithan, Chair; Wendy McKeithan, Board Secretary; Mark Allis, Melanie Setzer, Sue Hurd or Nancy Swartwood.

GIVING REPORT FOR July 2026:

The following income for our church came from the weekly offering on Sunday and payments from the groups who use our building weekly:

July 2026	
For Current Expenses	\$3,616.00
Designated	\$842.00
World Outreach	\$20.00
Local Outreach	\$360.00
Building Fund	\$3,255.00

Celebration Sunday will be held on **September 27th**, following the Worship Service. Everyone who is observing a Birthday or Anniversary in September will be honored. Please bring a snack, to be shared with others.



SEED FAITH CIRCLE ... The women of the Seed Faith Circle will gather for dinner on Tuesday, September 22nd at 5:30 p.m. at The Drybrook Golf Course and Restaurant (formerly Tomasso's). Please note the date is changed for September, due to vacation schedules. All women of the church are welcome to join us for dinner and fellowship. Please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008 if you plan to attend.



Answer to Trivia (from a previous Page ... To honor God, share the love of Christ, and change lives ministering grace and peace.

September ...

7 ~ Amy Whyte
11 ~ Terry Hunsinger
21 ~ Roman Rosh
28 ~ Krystle Valentine
30 ~ Grace Rava



For September ...

5 ~ Bill and Amy Whyte
6 ~ Bill and Mary Flottesmesch
17 ~ Roman and Carol Rosh
28 ~ Brian and Tiffany Wendela
28 ~ Kevin and Shannon Arensman

LET US PRAY ...

Ric Rava
Bonnie Beley
Anthony Stella
Mike Spencer
Eric Rava



Pastoral Search and Call ...

On Sunday, August 23rd, the members of the team searching for a new pastor met with Rev. Dr. Thad Allen our regional minister. He met with us for approximately one hour and gave us an overview of how to proceed with developing and executing a search. He did tell us that the pool of candidates is small. Not many are available and not many students graduating from seminary. He suggested we expand our search to include local pastoral candidates that may not be Disciples of Christ. Rev. Allen is aware that the salary budgeted for a pastor is not large so it may lead us to look for a part-time minister or one who has a spouse that works a full-time job with benefits. The search will not be easy and may take a long time, but the Lord will provide as He did when Kevin departed and Paula stepped up. Please pray for the team as we begin the search. Oliver McKeithan



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SEPTEMBER

2026

UPCOMING DATES ...

Tuesday, September 1st - Elder-Deacon Meeting / 3 p.m.
Wednesday, September 2nd - Pastor Paula out of office
Sundays, September 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th - Worship /
10:00 a.m.
Sunday, September 6th - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time / Food Pantry Sunday
Monday, September 7th - Labor Day / Church Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8th thru Tuesday, September 22nd -
Margo out of the office
Wednesdays, September 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th - Bible
Study / 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 13th - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time / Worship Service at Elderwood at 12 Noon
Sundays, September 13th, 20th and 27th - Sunday School /
9:15 a.m.
Tuesday, September 15th - Board Meeting / 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 16th - Finance Committee Meet /
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 20th - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time
Thursday, September 22nd - Seed Faith Dinner Out /
Drybrook Golf Course and Restaurant (formerly
Tomasso's) / 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 27th - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time / Celebration Sunday (Snack to share) / Wor-
ship Service at Athens Healthcare / 1:30 p.m.

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