

# The Springs

October 9, 2025

## Where The Thirsty Find Life

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Poplar Springs Drive UMC family,

This past week, we celebrated World Communion Sunday and began a new sermon series called the Changemakers. When we join in Holy Communion on Sundays along with Christians of various denominations all around the world, we come to a table that is as wide and long as God's love for us. I am excited about the conversations and questions that small groups and individuals have been considering for how we build a bigger table and welcome others to be part of God's transforming work happening here.

I wonder what need in our community or our world is speaking most clearly to you in this moment? Each of us have an opportunity to respond to God's Spirit and to consider the gifts we have been given to share and make a difference. We as a church also are in a season of taking an inventory of our assets and considering how we can best live into our mission together. On Sunday, October 19, we will celebrate Laity Sunday and the various ways we live out our discipleship. Please let me know if you would like to read scripture or share a brief witness as part of the worship service.

On October 26, I hope that you will join us for worship (wear pink!) and stick around for a Town Hall discussion. We want to open up a broader conversation to continue some of the work begun this spring with Rev. Trey Harper and consider the resources we have so that we can align them with the priorities and values of our congregation for the coming year. The Executive Team will share some updates, but also will be present to listen and hear your thoughts on church matters. Our children will be helping prepare pizza and salad for us to share in a time of fellowship around the table.

Here is a Blessing by Rev. Kathi McShane, co-founder of The Changemaker Initiative that I hope you will receive and take to heart. I invite you to underline or highlight the parts that feel particularly important to you.

May God bless you, keep you, and be gracious unto you.

May God give you grace never to sell yourself—or God—short.

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love.

So may God take your mind and think through it.

May God take your lips and speak through them.

May God take your hands and do good with them.

May God take your heart and set it on fire.

May we approach this church season with a vision of God doing something new and amazing! We are a people of abundance, and we have an opportunity to partner with God to change the world. I'm excited about the ways that we are living and sharing that message right here in Meridian. Consider where you might extend God's Table of hospitality wherever you go, and bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends.

Grace and peace,

Emily

## New Prayer Requests

Neldia White  
James Carson

## Continue to pray for

Jake Warren, Kristi Taverner,  
Kristin Pratt, Shirley Dooley, Otha  
Barham, Francois duPlessis,  
James E. Smith, Neal Martin, Jim  
& Sylvia Autry, Ron & Carol  
Burton



## October Birthdays

10-3 John Landon Young  
10-4 Sylvia Autry  
10-7 Ravynne Wilson  
10-8 Matthew Wolvers  
10-11 Mark Adkins  
10-17 LaVarus Rue  
10-18 Shirley Dooley  
10-21 Lin Ge  
10-23 Ginny Adkins & Julian  
Wall

**Children and youth will be  
preparing for Children's Sabbath  
on Wednesdays in October.**

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday:

9:30 A.M. Worship  
10:45 A.M. LifeGroups  
4:00 P.M. Handbells practice

### Wednesday:

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 P.M. Children & Youth  
6:00 P.M. Faith & Fitness

## Upcoming Events

### Monday & Tuesday, October 13-14

#### Fall Break

Church office, Day School,  
(The after-school will be closed all week, Oct. 13-17)

### Sunday, October 19th

Laity Sunday

### Monday, October 20th

1:00 P.M. Women of the Church

### Sunday, October 26th

10:45 A.M. Town Hall Meeting  
Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

### Wednesday, October 29th

5:30-7:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat



### Sunday, November 2nd

Day Light Savings Time Ends  
All Saint Sunday  
4 PM. Districtwide Charge Conference

### Sunday, November 9th

Children's Sabbath



# Newsletter Update

The newsletter may look a little different this month. I am trying a different software and a slightly different flow. Our next newsletter will release the last week of the month for the following month. Please have any information for the November newsletter to the office by 10/27/2025.



Don't forget to continue to give towards the special Mission Shares. Financial updates will be included in the next newsletter.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Sunday, October 12th**

Greeter: Cathy Ellis  
Counters: Neldia & Robin  
Sunday Snacks:

### **Monday, October 13th**

Meals On Wheels: Cindy & Dixie

### **Sunday, October 19th**

Greeter: Robin  
Counters: Cathy & Jeffrey  
Sunday Snacks:

### **Monday, October 20th**

Meals on Wheels: Robin & Gary

### **Sunday, October 26th**

Greeter:  
Counters: Kevin & Danny  
Sunday Snacks:

### **Monday, October 27th**

Meals on Wheels: Marjorie

### **Sunday, November 2nd**

Greeter: Margaret  
Counters: Neldia & Robin  
Sunday Snacks:  
Communion Servers:



Please see the signup sheet in the gathering area to volunteer to bring candy, food, and set up a trunk. All donations should be dropped off by Sunday, October 26.



**STAFF**

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To:

**Lectionary Readings**

**Week of October 12, 2025**

Jeremiah 31:27-34      Psalm 119:97-104

Psalm 19    2 Timothy 3:14-4:5    Luke 18: 1-8

**Week of October 19, 2025**

Joel 2:23-32      Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18    Luke 18:9-14

**Week of October 26, 2025**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4      Psalm 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12    Luke 19:1-10

**Mailing Address:**

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