October 9, 2025



# Where The Thirsty Find Life

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

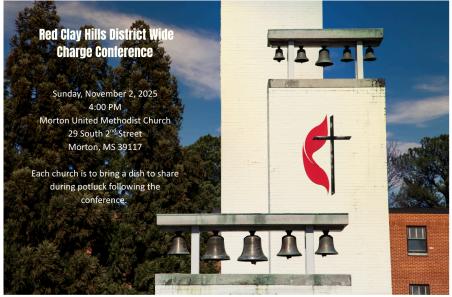
Counters: Neldia & Robin

**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.







## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**STAFF** 

Rev. Emily Sanford
Pastor
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Debbie Young Volunteer Worship Coordinator debbieyoung1961@comcast.net

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Marjorie Hall
Director, ext. 132
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Mark Adkins Maintenance 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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