

ST. PAUL'S UCC NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2026

103 South Second Street
Marthasville, MO 63357
(636) 433-2482
stpaulsuccmo.org@gmail.com
www.stpaulsuccmo.org



A Loving Church, Making a Difference in the World

Letter from our Pastor Emeritus

There is a story about an elderly man who attended worship faithfully. What was so unusual was that the man couldn't hear very well and he couldn't see very well either. So, as far as participating in the service of worship, it was marginal at best. Yet, there he was, Sunday after Sunday.

One day, a good friend at church asked him: "George, I'm curious. I know you can't hear or see very well and that most of the service of worship is probably not very meaningful to you. So, I'm wondering, why do you come?" George didn't hesitate a moment. He replied, "I just want people to know whose side I'm on."

Albert Schweitzer said it: "Example is not the main thing in life—it is the only thing!" Jesus set the example throughout his life, inspiring us to "walk the talk" of our Christian faith.

Pastor Don Deeker, Pastor Emeritus

"EARLY BIRD" SUGGESTION:

School supplies are at unbeatable prices right now. Every year we do a mission project called **Operation Christmas Child. The boxes arrive in early October. With school supplies at such low costs right now, it might be worth the savings to pick some of those items up to pack in your boxes. (See pg. 7 for more info.)**



CONTENTS

Adult Choir.....	6	Men's Fellowship.....	3
Adult Social Connection.....	3	Mission Moment	1,7
Advent	9	Prayer List.....	18
Altar Flowers	5	Puzzles	7,10,11,12,14-16
Birthdays, Anniversaries	10	Quilting.....	3
Calendar of Events	19	Scripture Readings.....	6
Chicken Dinner Update.....	4	Services of Worship	5,6,9
Christian Education.....	3,9	Staff/Council Members	2
Church Council Meeting	3	Sunday Morning Fellowship	3,6
Church Membership	5	Thank You	4,5
Congregational Meeting.....	4	Tidbits	1,8,9,10,12,13,16,17
CROP Walk	8	Tractor Cruise	8
Extra Steps.....	2	Totenfest	9
Faith In Action	12	Veterans Day	9
Homebound Church Members	18	Washington Civic Chorus	8
Letter from the Pastor Emeritus	1	Women's Guild.....	3
Meals on Wheels	18		



October Extra Steps - Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)



(This includes camp funds.)
Camp Shannondale (located in Shannon
County) and camp MoVal (Union, MO)
provides and ensures a safe and enjoyable
stay for all campers in their ministry.



St. Paul's UCC Staff

Pastors by Supply	
Robbin DeVore (stpaulsuccmo.org@gmail.com)	Secretary
Sally Rohe	Organist
Sally & Tony Rohe.....	Custodians
Debbie Garbs	Choir Director
Cathie Schoppenhorst, Gene Ahmann, Brenda Daniels, Amy Lange.....	Projection Technicians
Robbin DeVore.....	Newsletter Editor

Church Council

Jim Buescher	President
Wilma Zeh	Vice President, Pastoral Relations Committee Rep.
Bonnie Borgmann.....	Treasurer
Cathie Schoppenhorst.....	Financial Secretary, Missions Committee Rep., Historical Committee Rep.
Terri Ogle	Recording Secretary, Altar Guild Rep.
Jacob DeVore	Buildings & Grounds Committee Rep.
Jodi Lange	Social Media Rep., Christian Ed. Committee Rep., Membership Care Committee Rep.



WOMEN'S GUILD
WED., OCT. 7TH
2PM Fellowship Hall



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
MON., OCT. 19TH—6PM

Sunday Morning Fellowship

We need *volunteers* to assist with coffee, lemonade, and donuts.



The sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

See Marigene Kersten with questions or inquiries.

Thank you for your participation.



Quilting
Mondays
10am-4pm

Contact Audrey Meyer with questions or inquiries.

Church Council Meeting:

Monday, Oct. 12th—
6:30pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL is back in session!

MANY THANKS to our Sunday School teachers:

Megan Zeh (pre-K – 1st grade), Terri Ogle (2nd – 4th grades),
 Cathie Schoppenhorst (5th – 7th grades), and Cheryl Swartz (sub).

NOTE: Classes meet **EVERY** Sunday, and began on Sun., Sept. 20th.

Classes meet **BEFORE** the service of worship from **8:50-9:25am.**

Classes will meet **AFTER** services of worship for Christmas program rehearsals.

ADULT SOCIAL CONNECTION

FRIDAY, OCT. 9TH—5:30PM—DINNER AT PHILLY'S PIZZA



Join us downtown Marthasville, MO for dinner and an evening of relaxation and socializing. They have a full menu of appetizers, sandwiches, pastas, and, of course, lots of pizza choices.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Sign-up on sheet in the lobby by Wed., Oct. 7th so we can give them an accurate count of our group.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

—immediately following the service of worship—

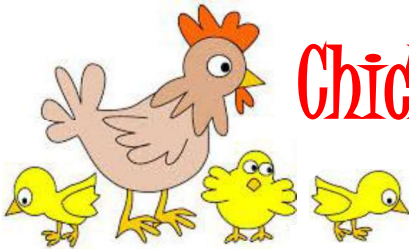
Please plan to attend.



MANY THANKS to all for the numerous tasks that are often “behind the scenes” and may seem to go unnoticed —whether it is preparing meals for the sick, decorating, filling the soda machine, teaching, serving on committees, serving as worship leaders, tending to needed work/jobs at church, quilting, donating items, etc....These are all jobs that many of you so faithfully tend to. Please know your dedication is appreciated.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

St. Paul's Annual Chicken Dinner & Country Store



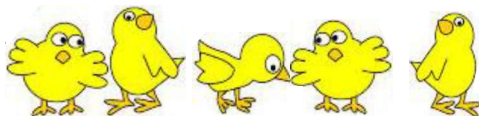
SERVED 612



Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this annual event a success. Final figures are not in yet, but will be relayed as they become available.

The quilt raffle brought \$882.

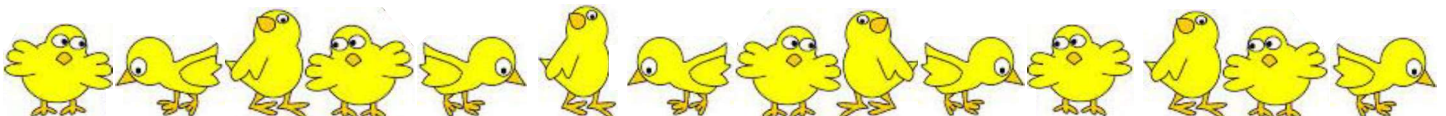
Congratulations to the winners of the raffle:



1st place—Bob Painter
2nd place—Tom Meyer
3rd place—Leo Meyer



A SPECIAL THANKS to the Chicken Dinner Committee.





ALTAR FLOWERS:



Sept. 6: in loving memory of Ken DeVore, whose birthday was September 11th, by Robbin, Jacob, & Isaiah DeVore.

Sept. 13: to the honor and glory of God, by the Women's Guild.

Sept. 20: to the honor and glory of God, by the Women's Guild.

Extra arrangement in memory of Delvin Hasenjaeger, whose birthday was September 18th, 1936, by Lulu Hasenjaeger.

Sept. 27: to the honor and glory of God, by the Women's Guild.

NOTE: Consider sponsoring the altar flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, a special date, or just because... Sign-up sheets for altar flowers are in the lobby. The flowers are yours to take with you after the service of worship.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who is interested in joining St. Paul's UCC should contact a council member or the church office.



With Deepest Gratitude

We would like to thank **THE MANY SUPPLY PASTORS** for their service to St. Paul's UCC during these months we have been without a settled pastor.

Many thanks to **REV. DON DEEKER, PASTOR EMERITUS**, for always being there for us—for keeping us under his wing. We very much appreciate his willingness to be our constant supply and cover pastoral care for St. Paul's during this time of transition.

Thanks also to **ALL** who have kept us in your thoughts and prayers, and the many kind and thoughtful gestures you have shown during this period of adjustment. May you all remain safe, healthy, and vigilant throughout these troubled times.

In His name,
St. Paul's UCC Church Council and Congregation

October Supply

Oct. 4— Don Deeker

Oct. 11— Don Deeker

Oct. 18— Don Deeker

Oct. 25— Don Deeker



November Supply

Nov. 1— Don Deeker

Nov. 8— Don Deeker

Nov. 15— Don Deeker

Nov. 22— Don Deeker

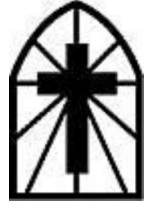
Nov. 29— Don Deeker



Services of Worship

9:30am

Pastor by Supply



October	4th	11th	18th	25th
Ushers	Jim Buescher (lead) Karen Dohrer Cathie Schoppenhorst Lulu Hasenjaeger Cindy Buescher	Cathie Schoppenhorst (lead) Gene Ahmann Karla Aholt Marigene Kersten Ann Jenkins	Jodi Lange (lead) Audrey Meyer Terri Ogle Molly Carter Stacie Chapman	Jacob DeVore (lead) Tony Rohe Curt Rohe Robbin DeVore Kylie Rohe
Acolytes	Kersten Mayer	Kennady Mayer	Addy Engelage	Colsie Lange
Readers	Cathie Schoppenhorst	Karla Aholt	Terri Ogle	Curt Rohe
Greeters	Brenda Roloff Lulu Hasenjaeger	Gene Ahmann Karla Aholt	Audrey Meyer Molly Carter	Tony Rohe Curt Rohe
Fellowship	Wayne & Wilma Zeh	NEED VOLUNTEER	NEED VOLUNTEER	Debbie Garbs

Worship

Attendance:

8-30-2026---49

9-6-2026---40

9-13-2026---59

9-20-2026---55

9-27-2026---40

The Adult Choir

Come join us in song! The choir will sing on Sun., Oct. 18th.
Practice will be on Wed., October 14th at 7pm.



ALL ARE
WELCOME!!

Contact Debbie Garbs or
Sally Rohe with inquiries.

Suggested Scripture Readings for October

- Oct. 4th — Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 and Psalm 19 *or*
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46
- Oct. 11th — Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6,19-23 *or*
Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14
- Oct. 18th — Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 *or*
Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9,910-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
- Oct. 25th — Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6,13-17 *or*
Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18 and Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46



OCTOBER WORD SCRAMBLE



- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|---|
| 1. amks | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 14. rapyt | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 2. twihc | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 15. vhtsear | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 3. rctik | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 16. aveesl | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 4. ipnumkp | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 17. cesowrrac | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 5. toghs | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 18. binrefo | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 6. ahdntue | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 19. preids | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 7. terta | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 20. racon | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 8. scutemo | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 21. isrqeulr | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 9. nlktoees | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 22. palep | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 10. bsoicomrkt | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 23. nagreo | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 11. higrft | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 24. yeadrhi | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 12. esobttmno | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 25. nuxiqoe | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |
| 13. yummm | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | 26. lcakb | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

! (ANSWERS on pg. 12)

Mission Moment - Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Operation Christmas Child (OCC) gives gift-filled shoe boxes and gospel booklets to children in desperate situations around the world, some of whom are refugees of civil war, while others are survivors of a natural disaster or victims of extreme poverty.

Visit them on their website: www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

Boxes and additional information are in the lobby.

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SUN., NOV. 15TH.

NOTE: POSTAGE FEE IS \$10.





On September 29th, Mr. Don Horter, an avid and enthusiastic promoter of CROP, will be staying overnight at St. Paul's UCC. He will use the shower facilities in the parsonage.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the WALK is welcome and encouraged to join Mr. Horter.

Contact Don Decker with any questions or inquiries.

WASHINGTON CIVIC CHORUS

The Washington Civic Chorus began rehearsals on

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

for its

**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

scheduled for

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

See flier in the lobby and upcoming newsletters for further info.



2026 TRACTOR CRUISE NORTHERN ROUTE

On Sun., Sept. 13th, collections of non-perishable food items and monetary donations were collected for the Franklin & Warren County Food Pantries.

This was the eighth year this event included a 30-mile "Northern Route" (the Warren County Route). A total of **142** tractors participated—**58** on the Northern Route; **84** along the "Southern Route." Approximately **8,000** pounds of food was collected and distributed to the 10 area food pantries, **800** pounds of which

**Food
Pantry**



was delivered to the Southern Warren County Food Pantry in Marthasville. Monetary donations are still being accepted, and will be tallied and distributed in October. Any donations received after Oct. 1, will be applied to next year's Journey for Charity, to be held on **SEPT. 12, 2027**. All will be divided up between the 7 councils (St. Clair #4667, St. John's #8073, Dutzow #1927, Washington #1121, New Haven #7475, Union #1576, and Krakow #16213), each choosing the food

pantry it wishes to donate to. The seven area Knights of Columbus Councils would like to thank every-one who supported the Journey for Charity Tractor Cruise this year. The support of the organizers, workers, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Warren County, Franklin County, St. Charles County, and the City of Washington law enforcement, as well as the businesses and individuals who donated money, gifts, and food made this another successful event.

"Whoever cares for the poor, lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full." (Proverbs 19:17)

MANY THANKS to all who participated in the cruise and/or contributed to this cause!

Halloween Fun Facts:

- The traditional Halloween colors of orange and black come from two different sources. First, orange is the color of autumn leaves and pumpkins, which have come to symbolize Halloween. Black is the color of darkness and mystery, which matches the theme of ghosts and other spooky creatures at Halloween.
- There is no scientific proof that ghosts exist; however, there is a field of study called parapsychology that is dedicated to studying spooky phenomena like ghosts and psychic powers. Parapsychologists use scientific method to explore strange phenomena and learn more about things like ghosts.
- Vampire folklore comes from Romania. Romanians in the 18th century believed that the dead could rise after death by suicide or other suspicious circumstances and feed on the blood of the living.

TID BITS:



Fall is a peak migration time for many species of birds. The Arctic Tern journeys about 11,000 miles each way. That is like going all the way across the U.S. about 3 ½ times.



According to the National Retail Federation, the United States spent \$9 million celebrating Halloween in 2018 on candy, costumes, and decorations.



Each autumn, monarch butterflies migrate from the U.S. to Mexico and some parts of Southern California. They fly at speeds ranging between 12 and 25 mph. Monarch butterflies are the only insect that migrates to a warmer climate that is 2,500 miles away.



According to the National Retail Federation, Americans spent \$3.1 billion, in 2022, on Halloween candy. America's favorite candies remain the same as in 2021: Reese's Peanut Butter cups, Skittles, and M&M's.



During our November 8th service of worship, we will honor veterans who have served or are currently serving in our armed forces.

If you have photos of family members to include in our existing slide show, please get them to Amy Lange no later than Sunday, Oct. 27th or email them to her at amyllange@gmail.com or Ph: 314-608-3987.





TOTENFEST SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

In remembering those who have passed away, if you have any photos of loved ones you would like to be projected during our existing slide show, please give them to Amy Lange no later than **Sunday, November 1st** or email them to her at amyllange@gmail.com or Ph: 314-608-3987.



Advent



The season of Advent begins on November 29th. Please join us in celebrating this holiday season. The Sunday School classes will be a part of the services of worship during Advent. With Sunday School classes before church, Christmas rehearsals will follow services of worship. When rehearsals begin is yet TBD. Please make every effort to have your children at Sunday School.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd: Robyn Wohler
 3rd: Kylie (Rohe) Hanne
 Harvey Siem
 4th: Tim DeVore
 Vesper Byrd
 5th: Caleb Richardson
 6th: Taylor Elder
 7th: Melissa Shaffer
 8th: Hailey Steffens
 11th: Bev Wohler
 Justin Carter
 12th: Luke Scheible
 Abigaile Voss
 13th: John Rinne
 14th: John Ekstrom
 Lisa Steffens
 15th: Otto Thierbach
 16th: Nancy Presser
 17th: Sally Rohe
 18th: Diane (Paul) Freese
 Molly Carter
 21st: Bob Barron
 22nd: Isaiah DeVore
 23rd: Gene Ahmann
 Patty Thornton
 27th: David Lange
 28th: Teagan Zeh

happy
 birthday
 to you!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3rd: Mike & Rachel Schaller
 6th: Luke & Rachel Richardson
 12th: Jarrod & Nicole Harrison
 19th: Christopher & Lisa Steffens
 Joel & Melissa Shaffer
 31st: Dean & Lynette Woolley



ANNIVERSARIES OF BAPTISM

25th: Carter Chapman



According to the University of Illinois, 90% of the pumpkins grown in the United States are raised within a 90-mile radius of Peoria, Illinois.



"BIRDHOUSES"



M	M	E	T	A	D	L	I	M	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S
U	U	T	E	A	K	U	R	N	A	C	E	P	E	O	B	E
G	L	E	H	C	R	I	B	A	R	H	W	D	E	T	F	Y
T	B	R	A	D	F	O	R	D	P	E	A	R	U	T	S	E
E	E	G	E	I	L	S	T	M	E	R	P	H	S	O	A	K
E	R	Y	G	E	E	A	A	A	C	R	W	W	P	N	R	C
W	R	R	M	I	N	G	D	P	A	Y	A	O	R	W	F	U
S	Y	O	P	I	N	E	W	L	P	B	P	S	U	O	A	B
D	N	K	H	O	E	O	A	E	L	L	P	R	C	O	S	R
O	H	C	L	L	L	R	L	T	A	O	L	E	E	D	S	U
O	C	I	E	L	M	A	N	R	T	S	E	O	H	S	A	B
W	A	H	I	R	L	N	U	T	A	S	H	E	C	S	S	B
D	E	W	T	O	A	G	T	R	C	O	C	O	N	U	T	E
E	P	M	U	L	P	E	R	S	I	M	M	O	N	M	S	R
R	D	O	G	W	O	O	D	N	R	O	H	T	W	A	H	T



Mark a line through each word in the word search puzzle. Then use the unused letters to solve the message below. (Answer to message is on page 18)

APPLE

ASH (Hint: This word reads horizontal and backward.)

BRADFORD PEAR

BIRCH

BUCKEYE

CATALPA

CEDAR

CHERRY BLOSSOM

COCONUT

COTTONWOOD

CYPRESS

DATE

DOGWOOD

ELM

FIG

FIR

HAWTHORN

HICKORY

LEMON

LIME

LOCUST

MAGNOLIA

MAPLE

MULBERRY

OAK

OSAGE ORANGE

PALM

PAWPAW

PEACH

PECAN

PERSIMMON

PINE

PLUM

POPLAR

REDBUD

REDWOOD

RUBBER

SASSAFRAS

SPRUCE

SWEETGUM

SYCAMORE

TEAK

WALNUT

WILLOW

"Each will _ _ like _ _ _ _ _ from _ _ _ _ _"

And a _ _ _ _ _ from _ _ _ _ _"

(Isaiah 32:2 NASB)



MANY THANKS

to all who contributed toward the Food & Hygiene Kits for the
“Faith In Action” Drive!

12 Food Boxes & 2 Hygiene Kits were collected.



If an **OCTAGON**
has
EIGHT SIDES...



and an **OCTOPUS**
has
EIGHT ARMS...



why is **OCTOBER**
the
TENTH MONTH?

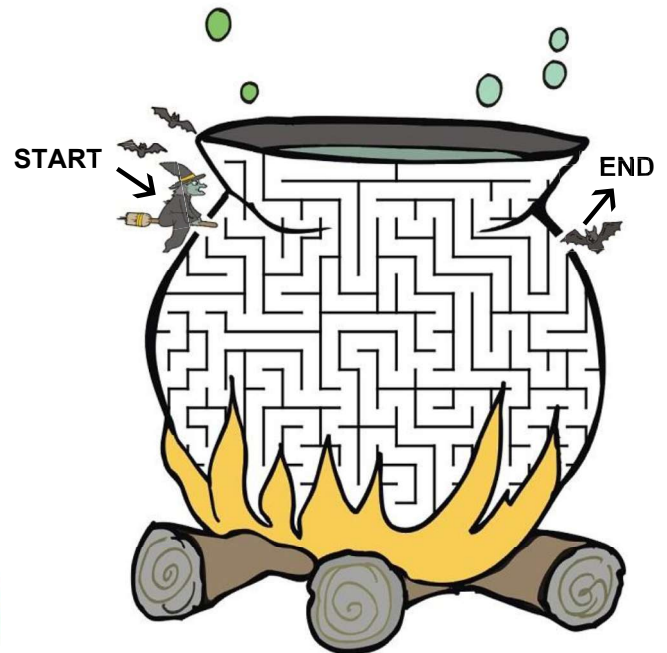
FUN FACT:

OCTOBER was the name of the **EIGHTH MONTH** of the year in the ancient **ROMAN CALENDAR**.

In Latin, **OCTO** means **EIGHT**. When the Romans converted to a **12-MONTH CALENDAR**,
the name **OCTOBER** stuck, even though it's now the **TENTH MONTH**.



Happy
Halloween



WORD SCRAMBLE: (from pg. 7)

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. mask | 8. costume | 15. harvest | 22. apple |
| 2. witch | 9. skeleton | 16. leaves | 23. orange |
| 3. trick | 10. broomstick | 17. Scarecrow | 24. hayride |
| 4. pumpkin | 11. fright | 18. bonfire | 25. equinox |
| 5. ghost | 12. tombstone | 19. spider | 26. black |
| 6. haunted | 13. mummy | 20. acorn | |
| 7. treat | 14. party | 21. squirrel | |

HIDDEN MESSAGE:

**HAVE A
SPOOKTACULAR
HALLOWEEN!**

HALLOWEEN FUN FACTS:

- Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green. Great for unique monster carvings!
- Halloween was brought to North America by European immigrants who would celebrate harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.
- Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.
- The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.
- Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.
- Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers being #1.
- Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday; Christmas is the 1st.
- Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.
- The fear of Halloween is known as Samhainophobia.
- There really are so-called vampire bats, but they're not from Transylvania. They live in Central and South America and feed on the blood of cattle, horses and birds.
- Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. Halloween was referred to as "All Hallows Eve" and dates back to over 2000 years ago.

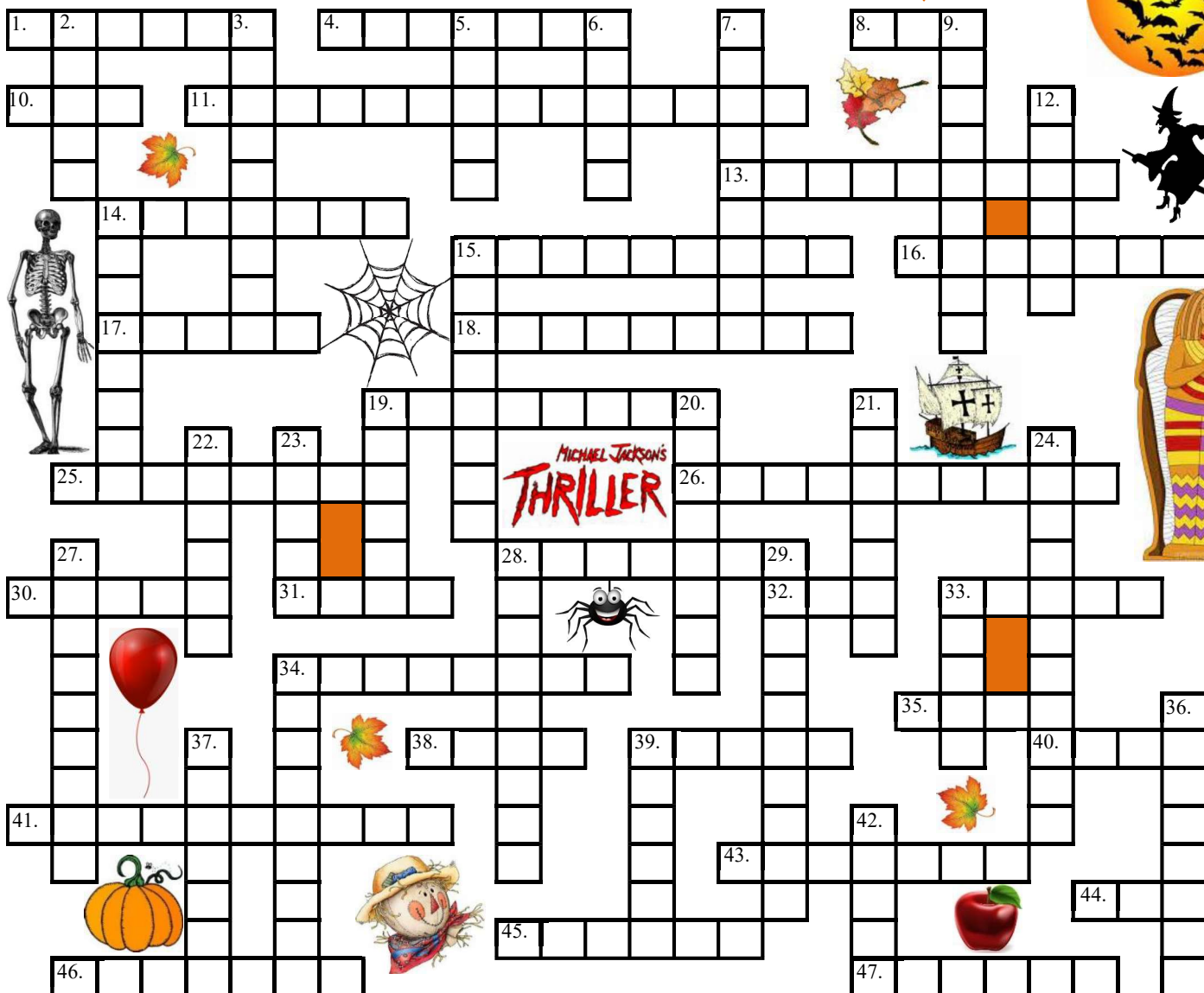
CREEPY TID BITS:

- If you see a spider on Halloween, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you.
- Worldwide, bats are vital natural enemies of night-flying insects.
- The common little brown bat of North America has the longest life span for a mammal it's size, with a life span averaging 32 years.
- In about 1 in 4 autopsies, a major disease is discovered that was previously undetected.

OCTOBER FUN FACTS:

- More **American Presidents** were born in the month of October than any other month: John Adams, Rutherford B. Hayes, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter.
- In the USA it is the month for **National Filipino American History, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History, National Breast Cancer Awareness and National Arts & Humanities.**
- This month is **World Blindness Awareness Month.**
- **October** ends on the same day of the week as **February** every year.
- **National Popcorn Poppin' Month** – After being celebrated for more than 25 years, Popping Popcorn became an official holiday in 1999 when it was declared so by then Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Popcorn is a health friendly snack and many artsy and crafty things can be done with it.
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – The lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is 1 in 8 and although it's the second leading cause of cancer death for American women, its death rate is much lower (1 in 28). Early detection is crucial to catching the cancer, treatment and survival. Self-exams can be done at home, and if you find something that feels abnormal, call your doctor and make an appointment. Sometimes there is cancer or tumors that can't be detected manually. Women (as well as men – 400 men die each year from breast cancer) should be on the offensive and stay aware of their bodies.
- **National Chili Month** – As the weather is changing, the colors of the leaves are turning, a nice big bowl of chili might just hit the spot.
- Rural delivery of mail in the United States was not free until October 1, 1896. Prior to this, rural farmers had to pay a private carrier or pick up from their "local" post office.
- In the early Roman calendar, it was the 8th month—not the 10th, as we know it ("Octo" means 8).

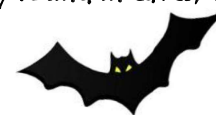
October Crossword 2



ACROSS:

(answers on pg. 18)

1. Bobbing for _____ is a popular activity at kids' fall parties.
4. Women thought to have magical powers, especially evil ones, particularly depicted as wearing a black cloak and pointed hat. (plural)
8. A spider's home.
10. A small nocturnal mammal, appearing similar to a mouse with wings, commonly found in caves, that hangs upside down to sleep.
11. The study of paranormal activity.
13. A large, flat inscribed stone standing or laid over a grave.
14. Count _____ is the title character of Bram Stoker's 1897 gothic horror novel of the same name. He is considered to be the prototypical and the archetypal vampire in subsequent works of fiction, and to have been the origin of werewolf legends. Some aspects of the character are believed to have been inspired by the 15th-century Wallachian Prince Vlad the Impaler. (See pg. 16 for actual facts on Vlad the Impaler.)
15. A favorite flavor of candy sought after by trick-or-treaters.
16. To speak very softly, using one's breath without one's vocal cords.

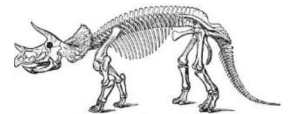


17. The low guttural sound made in the throat by a hostile animal.
18. These furry medium-sized rodents are seen in the fall gathering, collecting, or burying nuts for the winter. (plural)
19. A large metal pot with a lid and handle, used for cooking over an open fire; in folklore, often associated with cooking a witch's brew.
25. In myth or fiction, a person who changes for periods of time into a wolf, typically when there is a full moon.
26. The Wicked Witch of the West is the name of the witch in this 1939 classic film: "The _____ _ _."
- (three words)
28. In the Christian calendar, the traditional name for Halloween, marks the evening before All Saints Day, called "All _____ Eve."
30. Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, this actor is well-known for his distinctive voice and performances in horror films: Vincent _____.
31. Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in three ships: the _____, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.
32. In 1431, Saint Joan of _____ was burned at the stake in Rouen, France, after a politically-motivated trial, accusing her of being a witch.
33. Especially in ancient Egypt, a body of a human being or animal that has been ceremonially preserved and wrapped in bandages.
34. Michael Jackson's best-selling album of all time.
35. The sound a cat makes as a warning to another animal or person.
38. A long, loud, doleful cry uttered by an animal such as a dog or wolf.
39. In Stephen King's 1986 novel, and in the 2017 movie, "It," the demon takes the shape of this character.
40. The TV series (airing 1966-1971) of the Collins family, tormented by strange occurrences: "_____ Shadows."
41. In folklore, a witch's ideal method of transportation.
43. The tenth month of the year.
44. A symbol of evil omens, this creature crossing your path is said to bring bad luck: "Black _____."
45. The Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and the Holy _____.
46. A place where spirits or ghosts reside is said to be _____.
47. An eight-legged arachnid, which spins a web for which to live and catch its prey.



DOWN:

2. A trick.
3. An object made to resemble a human figure, set up to scare birds away from a field where crops are growing; this character on "The Wizard of Oz" wished he had a brain."
5. A chamber (such as a vault) wholly or partly underground; a chamber in a mausoleum.
6. To scare or frighten.
7. A frightening or unpleasant dream.
9. Elizabeth Montgomery played Samantha on the American sitcom "_____", which aired 1964-1972.
12. To disappear suddenly and completely.
14. The 1963 single by Elvis Presley which was written by Bill Giant, Bernie Blum, and Florence Kaye: "(You're the) Devil in _____."
15. Disguises worn to trick-or-treat.
19. A long, narrow box, typically of wood, in which a corpse is buried or cremated.
20. Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain in search of the _____ _ _ _ _ . (two words)
21. A man who has magical powers and practices witchcraft; a sorcerer or wizard.
22. As autumn marks the transition from summer to winter, these change from green to an array of brilliant colors, before falling to the ground.
23. A group of witches.
24. The holiday in the U.S., which is observed on the second Monday of October. (two words)
27. A cemetery; a burial ground.
28. Day/night of trick-or-treating, which falls on October 31st.



29. A series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts in 1692:
"The _____ Trials." (two words)
33. In Cher's 1974 hit, "Dark Lady," "Dark Lady played Black _____ 'til the clock struck on the 12."
34. The number of days in the month of October.
36. The framework of bone, cartilage, or other rigid material supporting or containing the body of an animal or plant.
37. This large fruit is commonly used to create a popular Halloween decoration.
39. The "Friendly Ghost" of the 1945 cartoon.
42. Bette Midler played the part of Winifred, a witch in Kenny Ortega's 1993 movie: "Hocus _____."



The Historical Vlad the Impaler

Vlad the Impaler, probably the most famous Romanian ruler from the Medieval Ages, his name was known from the Ottoman Empire to what is today Germany.

Vlad the Impaler occupied the throne of Wallachia three times during these years: 1448, 1456-1462, and 1476. Taking the reign at a time of serious internal crisis and the decline of the Wallachian state internationally, a situation generated by long internal struggles between the Draculesti and the Danesti factions.

Vlad the Impaler promoted an authoritarian policy destined to restore the central power in the fight against the wealthy nobles and externally engaged Wallachia in the anti-Ottoman fight. He imposed strict laws on what people were and were not allowed to do—and of course, brutal punishments for anyone who disobeyed.

The Wallachian Prince terrorized and tortured his enemies in many unimaginable ways. It's estimated that in his lifetime, Vlad the Impaler was responsible for 100,000 deaths, mostly Turks. Despite his relatively small territory, this makes him the most brutal enemy the Ottoman Empire ever faced.

Vlad the Impaler was something of a celebrity in his day. Back in the 15th century, the rise of the printing press meant that texts could be widely circulated. This allowed the spread of stories about Vlad's cruelty and depravity, and they were instrumental in creating his legend. People just couldn't get enough of the juicy stories about this madman's depravity, and they became some of Europe's first-ever "bestsellers."

In Romania, Vlad the Impaler is a national hero and is mostly revered; his cruelty is acknowledged, but is seen as necessary at the time to maintain his power, repel his enemies, and keep Wallachia an independent nation.

Today, the popularity of Vlad the Impaler has been revived due to the publication of Bram Stoker's famous novel in the 19th century and the production of many Dracula movies, but beyond the use of the name and a loose connection to Transylvania, there's little evidence that the character was specifically based on the real Dracula. Nonetheless, by the time Stoker wrote the novel, stories of Vlad's cruelty had pervaded culture.



Portrait of Vlad III (c. 1560), a copy of an original made during his lifetime.

Vampire Mythology

The stories about Vlad made him the best-known medieval ruler of the Romanian lands in Europe. However, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, which was published in 1897, was the first book to make a connection between Dracula and vampirism. Stoker had his attention drawn to the blood-sucking vampires of Romanian folklore by Emily Gerard's article about Transylvanian superstitions (published in 1885). His limited knowledge about the medieval history of Wallachia was certainly not enough for us to say that Vlad was the inspiration for "Count Dracula." Actually, Stoker's working papers for his book contain no references to the historical figure, the name of the character being named in all drafts but the later ones 'Count Wampyr'. Consequently, Stoker borrowed the name and "scraps of miscellaneous information" about the history of Wallachia when writing his book about Count Dracula.

TID BITS:

Columbus didn't "discover" America as we all learned in grade school—he never set foot in North America. During 4 separate trips, the 1st one in 1492, Columbus landed on various Caribbean islands that are now the Bahamas as well as the island later called Hispaniola. He also explored the Central and South American coasts, but didn't reach North America, which, of course, was already inhabited by Native Americans. **Yet, the United States of America observes Columbus Day the second Monday of October.**



MORE INTERESTING COLUMBUS DAY FACTS:

- **Christopher Columbus** was born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy. He began sailing when he was only 15 years old.
- When he set sail for the expedition, he was given **three ships** by the city of Palos: **the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.**
- He set sail in **August of 1492**. His crew consisted of **90 men**. It was 35 days before **a sailor** spotted land.
- The **goal of the expedition** was to chart a western sea route to **India and China**, as well as to the islands in **Asia** with spices and gold.
- When Christopher Columbus **landed in the Bahamas in 1492**, he was the first European since the 10th century to have the opportunity to explore the Americas.
- The **Santa Maria** did not make the return trip to Spain because it ran aground on Christmas Day. **40 men** had to stay behind because there was no room on the other two ships. They stayed behind on the island **Hispaniola.**
- Christopher Columbus made the voyage to the New World **three times.**
- He **died** when he was 55, in **1506**, only two years after his last trip to the New World.
- Nobody is sure where he is buried as he was **reburied many times** in different places around the world.
- Nobody is sure what he looked like, as there are **no portraits known to exist.**
- **President Roosevelt** made Columbus Day a **national holiday in 1934.**
- In 1971, the date October 12th no longer marked the holiday. It was changed to the **second Monday in October.** This is also the Canadian Thanksgiving, which was fixed in 1959.
- **Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, South Dakota, and Vermont** do not recognize Columbus Day; however, they mark the day with an alternative holiday or observance.
- In Latin America they call this day **Día de la Raza**; in the Bahamas they call it **Discovery Day**; in Spain they call it **Fiesta Nacional and Día de la Hispanidad**; in Argentina they call it **Día del Respeto a la Diversidad Cultural**; in Belize they call it **Day of the Americas**, and in Uruguay they call it **Day of the Americas.**
- In Puerto Rico, Columbus Day is celebrated along with **Puerto Rico Friendship Day.**
- In Virginia, Columbus Day is celebrated along with **Yorktown Victory Day.**
- Because **Christopher Columbus was Italian**, Italian-Americans celebrate Columbus Day as a celebration of their heritage.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of Larry Berg (formerly of Marthasville) who passed away on 9/6; Michael Glosemeyer—diagnosed with cancer; Tom DeVore—diagnosed with lung and brain cancer, undergoing chemo and radiation treatments; Walean Bunge—hospitalized with influenza A and pneumonia; Tim DeVore—heart-related issues, home awaiting treatment to clear blocked arteries; Bonnie Borgmann—recovering from recent surgery; Amber (Brewer) Eytcheson—receiving chemo treatments for cancer; Denny Kammer—heart issues; Debbie Keith (friend of Robbin DeVore)—health issues; the people of war-torn countries, and of those who are in harm's way trying to protect them; those affected by armed violence in this country and in the world; those affected by the recent natural disasters; all those recovering from surgery and other health issues, those fighting cancer, and those homebound/shut-in/in-care facilities.



Those Battling Cancer: Tom DeVore, Michael Glosemeyer, Amber (Brewer) Eytcheson, Susan Miesner, Bonnie Borgmann, Nancy Thater, Eric Moritz, Rev. Jeff Mueller, Caiden Thies, Brenda Napier, Mildred Hinnah, Marcia Rekate, Brenda Gratza, Marigene Kersten, Ted Lepper, Rev. Jeffrey Willey, Dave Pruitt, Teresa Wheeler, Marsha Meyer, Isaac Mercer, Kristi Warnecke, Glennon Hepperman, Kurt Gildehaus, Karen Childs.

Those serving in the Military: Nick Sullentrup, Tyler Buescher, Luke Bronstrup, Caleb & Sarah Murphy, and others seeking to faithfully serve God & Country.

**Please remember those who are not always able to worship with us at St. Paul's UCC.
Remember them in prayer, with a visit, card, or a phone call:**



Ellen Engelage
Union Care Center
1080 Marie Lane
Union, MO 63084



—Meals on Wheels—

If anyone needs or knows of anyone who needs home-delivered meals from the Warren County Senior Center, please contact the center at 636-456-3379. **Volunteers are also needed** to deliver meals.

ANSWERS TO OCTOBER CROSSWORD 2 (from pg. 14)

ACROSS:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Apples | 25. Werewolf |
| 4. Witches | 26. Wizard of Oz |
| 8. Web | 28. Hallows |
| 10. Bat | 30. Price |
| 11. Parapsychology | 31. Nina |
| 13. Tombstone | 32. Arc |
| 14. Dracula | 33. Mummy |
| 15. Chocolate | 34. Thriller |
| 16. Whisper | 35. Hiss |
| 17. Growl | 38. Howl |
| 18. Squirrels | 39. Clown |
| 19. Cauldron | 40. Dark |

- | |
|----------------|
| 41. Broomstick |
| 43. October |
| 44. Cat |
| 45. Spirit |
| 46. Haunted |
| 47. Spider |



DOWN:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 2. Prank | 22. Leaves |
| 3. Scarecrow | 23. Coven |
| 5. Crypt | 24. Columbus Day |
| 6. Spook | 27. Graveyard |
| 7. Nightmare | 28. Halloween |
| 9. Bewitched | 29. Salem Witch |
| 12. Vanish | 33. Magic |
| 14. Disguise | 34. Thirty-One |
| 15. Costumes | 36. Skeleton |
| 19. Coffin | 37. Pumpkin |
| 20. New World | 39. Casper |
| 21. Warlock | 42. Pocus |

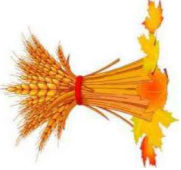
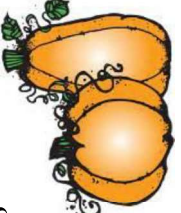
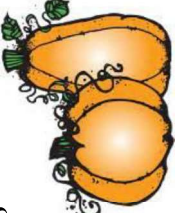
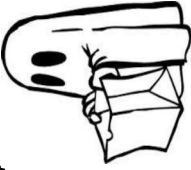
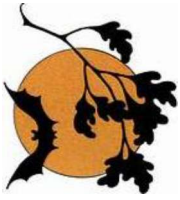
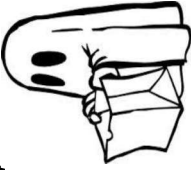
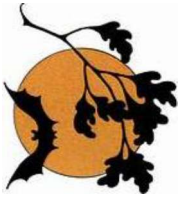
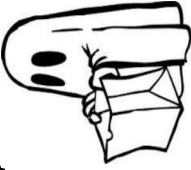
(Answer to message from Word Search on page 11)

"Each will be like a refuge from the wind And a shelter from the storm..."

(Isaiah 32:2 NASB)

***All puzzles in this publication were created by Robbin DeVore; they are originals. **
—Any historical or trivia information is collected from various public online sources.—*

St. Paul's UCC Church Calendar—October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>“Darkness falls across the land, the midnight hour is close at hand... ‘Cause this is Thriller, Thriller night....”</i> MICHAEL JACKSON'S THRILLER						
4 Bring-A-Meal Sunday 8:50am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:30am AM Fellowship	5 10am-4pm Quilting 	6 	7  2pm Women's Guild	1 	2 	3 
11 8:50am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am AM Fellowship	12 10am-4pm Quilting  Columbus Day 6:30pm Church Council	13 6:30pm-7:30pm Food Pantry @ CBC	14  7pm Choir Practice	15 	16 	17 11am-12N Food Pantry @ CBC
18 8:50am Sunday School 9:30am Worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (AM Fellowship to follow)	19 10am-4pm Quilting  6PM MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	20 	21 	22 	24 	24 
25 8:50am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am AM Fellowship	26 10am-4pm Quilting 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV)*



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
103 South Second Street
Marthasville, MO 63357