



## REMEMBERING

Yes, I know that summer is not officially over, but if you are like me, it sure seems to be on the downward slide. Summer seems to run downhill after July 4th and picks up speed in August as schools start to open.

Many of you will say it is far too early for me to mention something that is not until November, but as a former Boy Scout I want you to be prepared, so here it is: All Saints Day. All Saints Day is an old church observance, dating back to the year 837 when Roman Catholics began honoring all saints, known and unknown, on the first day of November.

This year is a special one, for November 1 falls on a Sunday. As part of our worship, we will be remembering the saints of our church, our brothers and sisters in Christ who have passed since last year's observance. You will find a list of our members who have passed following this article. Please look it over and make sure no one has been missed. In addition, if you would like a friend or family member included, please call the church office and let Tanya know. As part of our November 1, 11:00 service, we are inviting family and friends to bring a picture or a memory object for each person who will be remembered. Don't fret, you have plenty of time to prepare. If you have questions, just call the church office.

Continuing with the theme of remembrance, I need your help with another list. Thanks to the generosity of a member of our church, a special marker will be placed on the wall in our sanctuary narthex to remember members of Olive Branch Christian Church who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. The plaque will be titled, "Lest We Forget," and above the names will be this inscription: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of service members from our Olive Branch Christian Church family who made the

ultimate sacrifice as a result of war." If you know of a member of Olive Branch who made such a sacrifice, either killed in active service or died later because of such service, please call the church office.

The writer and author Rick Bragg, upon watching the New Orleans' tradition of visiting the graves of relatives on all Saints Day, concluded that "no matter what your faith, you really do live on and on, as long as someone, anyone, is willing to come see you." Through these two observances, we will remember our loved ones who have passed, 'lest we forget.'

Blessings,  
Pastor Richard

### List of All Saints

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mary Brown       | Harriet Gritzmaker    |
| Nancy Alexander  | Marlies Brantley      |
| Karen Spangler   | Phil Reynolds         |
| Jim Romesburg    | Carolyn Rodenberg     |
| Elizabeth Panzer | Richard Bishop        |
| Larry Smith      | George "David" Barrow |
| Todd Meadows     | Carita "Keeta" Hodson |
| Charles Boy      | Helen Boyd            |



## SERVICES & HOURS

### Sunday Services:

8:30 AM Branch Hall      11:00 AM Sanctuary

### Worship & Wonder:

Sundays 11:00 in the Education Building

### Sunday School:

NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30

Kids Sunday School upstairs Education Building 9:30

**Nursery:** Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM

## MEETINGS & BUILDING USE

**T.O.P.S.:** Tuesdays; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

**Seekers Prayer Group:** Tuesdays; 11:30 AM  
Adult SS Room

**Our Day Out:** 2nd Wednesdays; 10AM-2PM;  
Branch Hall

**Comfort Ministry:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays; 10 AM  
Sandy's Restaurant

**Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:**  
Alternate Wednesdays until June 9, 2027  
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

**OBCC Men's Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch  
Hall with breakfast

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday DWM Circle of Grace:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays;  
11:30AM; Taylor Hall

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Lunch Bunch:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays; 11 AM;  
Sandy's Restaurant



## SAVE THE DATE

**Church Office Closed:** Monday, September 7th

**DWM Food Drive Dinner:** Monday, September 14,  
6PM

**Community Fun Day:** September 26: 11AM-4PM



## PRAYER LIST

**Church Family:** Joyce Allen, Pat and son Jimmy Allred, Michael Ayers, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, J.C. Biggs, Melvin Braxton, Phyllis Gardner, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Ron Grosso, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jim & Anne Holland, Cheryl Johnson, Gene Johnson, Ethel King, Heidi McMurdo, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Steve Perger, Leroy Roberts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Herak Sherazi, Mike Smith, Roy Sullivan, Barbara Thiel, Ellen Waite, Brenda White

**Friends:** The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Karen Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's daughter), The Family of Charlie Boy, Sharon Carr (family friend of Bob and Dianne Mongold), Jimmy Coady (brother-in-law of Joann Mitchell), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Terry Dalton, Deborah (friend of Bob Lawrence), Declan (great-grandson of Jim & Anne Holland), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Mason Ewing (grandson of Liz Ripley), Jeffrey

Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's brother), Meredith Garrett (cousin of Connie Cason), David Held (Andrew Pfister's friend), Michelle Holdsworth and family (cousin of Karen Daniels), Susan Holton (friend of Liz Ripley), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Mo Mangilla (neighbor of Gene & Cheryl Johnson), Maylynn (Missy Harbour's friends granddaughter), John Morefield (Nicki Hood's godfather), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Millie Ptachick (Abby Matschke's friend's granddaughter), Sheila Rinehart, Sean (Teri Tench's grandson), "Bugs" & Pat Tabb, Tara (Bob & Dianne Mongold's cousin), Brenda Walker (Chuck Walker's mother), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Earl Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)



## ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSSES

**SEPTEMBER DEACONESS:** Kaye Watson

|                                      |                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SEPTEMBER 6</b><br><b>ELDERS</b>  | Teri Tench<br>Harold Barker                                                |
| <b>DEACONS</b>                       | Linda Garrett, Steve Garrett,<br>Patty Barker, Jeremy Dill, Kaye<br>Watson |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 13</b><br><b>ELDERS</b> | Missy Harbour<br>Mel Watson                                                |
| <b>DEACONS</b>                       | Maralyn Carr, Dennis Cotner,<br>Patti Banks, Danny Pitts Kaye<br>Watson    |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 20</b><br><b>ELDERS</b> | Bob Herndon<br>Chuck Walker                                                |
| <b>DEACONS</b>                       | Liz Ripley, Jason Teagle, Anita<br>Dasher, Amy Ferguson, Kaye<br>Watson    |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 27</b><br><b>ELDERS</b> | Kim Riffle<br>Dianne Mongold                                               |
| <b>DEACONS</b>                       | Ethel King, Jan Smith, Danny<br>Kelley, Betty Bennink, Kaye<br>Watson      |



## WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

|                | <b>Leader:</b>  | <b>Greeter:</b> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEPT 6</b>  | Ann Bradshaw    | Dennis Cotner   |
| <b>SEPT 13</b> | Teri Tench      | Jeremy Dill     |
| <b>SEPT 20</b> | Danielle Kelley | Liz Ripley      |
| <b>SEPT 27</b> | Bob Eber        | Trina Eber      |



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Bob Eber        | 21 Anne Holland   |
| 04 Sarah Savage    | 22 Dale Cason     |
| 06 Michelle Wright | 22 Richard Onesty |
| 08 Sheila Yeatts   | 23 Ann Simmons    |
| 10 Chris Hutton    | 25 Betty Speegle  |
| 10 Reagan Jones    | 26 June Phillips  |
| 13 Kaye Watson     | 29 Val Mason      |
| 17 Linda Hutchens  |                   |



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| 08 Cleve & Michelle Wright |
| 09 Steve & Linda Garrett   |
| 09 Lyn & Gerry Medina      |
| 13 Roy & Ellen Sullivan    |
| 19 Jim & Carolyn Hunt      |
| 27 Bob & Sharon Herndon    |

## ALZHEIMER'S WALK

For many years, our church was active in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in Williamsburg. However, in the years since the pandemic, our participation has fallen by the wayside. This has been compounded by the departure of many of those who were a driving force behind our participation; namely Keeta Hodson, Phyllis Taylor, and Janet Dombroski. We invite you to join us in recommitting ourselves to this purpose in honor of those who are no longer here to walk with us.



The Walk will take place on Saturday, October 31, 2026; meeting at the New Town Gazebo at 9:30am before the walk starts at 10:00am.

You may register to walk with us or donate to support those who are walking at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk), searching for the Williamsburg walk and our team's name is "Olive Branch Church" – if you need assistance in registering, Andrew will be glad to help you.

Alternatively, you can donate to support our walk by giving to the Church and designating your offering for the Alzheimer's Walk.



## OUR DAY OUT-2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAYS

A beautiful, but warm day for all of us to enjoy getting together chatting and enjoying getting caught up with our Christian sisters and brothers.

Our theme, birds and flowers, reminded us all of God's blessings that surround us. A special thank you to Emily Dill and Andy Bradshaw for sharing their beautiful blooms. Anita's bird houses gave smiles and memories to all of us. Christy Jensen shared her recent trip to Denmark with us and promises pictures on her next visit. Susan Shipley (previously Rinehart) gave us a wonderful insight into her new life as a Florida resident. She did let us all know that her Olive Branch family is always in her heart.

The birthday ladies, Ellen Waite, 92, and Susan Shipley, 75, were serenaded with song and presented with their own personal birthday cake.

Bob Lawrence blessed our meal. I really thought it was special when he said he felt "Our Day Out" is really "Our Day In".

Chef Sheila's beautiful lunch was absolutely delicious and brought a smile to our lips. Her family recipes are amazing!

Crafty Jane introduced us to drawing flowers, with the throw of a dice to keep us on our toes. My thanks for all the great projects that her artistic talents, that stimulate even a not so crafty person like me!

Bingo is always fun! The laughter and carrying on tickles my heart. Thanks to all who donate clever and lovely items for the prize table.

Next month we will celebrate the gorgeous colors that fall bring. We hope to see all who want to share a "Day In" with us! May God Bless You Always

~ Marney Brickhouse





## OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

The OBCC Men's group met on August 13 for our monthly breakfast meeting. Joann Mitchell and Naomi Barker prepared a delicious breakfast for the eleven (11) men who attended. A discussion on how men balance their faith with their work in their chosen profession. Did we prioritize one over the other, or did we integrate our faith into our profession responsibilities? It was a good discussion.

We discussed our upcoming projects: 1) Thanksgiving Meals for fifteen needy families will be provided again this year. Bob Mongold will coordinate with Faith in Action for the names of those who we will serve.



2) Live Nativity Scene to be held on December 19. A contract has been signed with Teeny Tiny Farms for the animals that are so popular with children. We will assist Steve White and his crew during construction of the scene. 3) The fence around the Sanctuary Garden. We are going to explore ideas/options to replace the current fence with synthetic material which will significantly reduce the maintenance of the fence. Steve Perger and Doug Haulsee have replaced damaged or rotting pickets for several years and have recommended we look at an alternative replacement. Steve Perger will conduct research of options. Our next meeting will be on September 10th at 9:00 am in Branch Hall, come join us.

~Jim Hunt

Something to think about by Roy Henk...

*Jesus the Nazarene (Mathew 1:23), what does it mean? Sure, He lived in Nazareth. But this fact tells us much more. Jesus spoke the Aramaic Language. He read and spoke biblical Hebrew. Healing people in Decapolis cities, Jesus spoke Greek. Because Romans ruled, He knew Latin and spoke philosophy with Pilate. Jesus spoke at least four languages freely. There's more. Jesus was a carpenter in Nazareth. Jesus measured; He knew math well. He did fractions; he multiplied. Making tools and load-bearing items, Jesus had skills of an engineer. His math surpassed. Let's amaze at our Lord Jesus, King of kings, the Lamb who was Slain, the Nazarene.*

~brer Roy



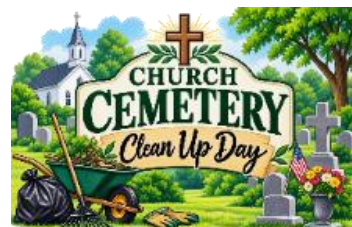
## DWM BLESSING BOXES

Please pick up a blessing box today. Blessing boxes are an above-and-beyond offering meant to be a daily reminder of the many blessings God gives us every day. Put the box in a place where it is easy to add a coin or two each day as gratitude to God for the many blessings we witness every day. Suggested places to keep your box: on the table where you eat, beside your bed, or anywhere that it is easy to add a coin to it daily as you witness God's blessings. We will be collecting the boxes on Sunday, September 13th.



## CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between September 20 & 30, 2026. If you would like to save anything, please remove it before then. Non-perishable items left in place will be moved near the shed area next to the parking lot. Thanks for helping the committee to keep our cemetery one of the most beautiful in the county.



## CIRCLE OF GRACE

It was a beautiful day for our Circle of Grace get together. Delicious salads and wonderful desserts, plus Barb's clever toaster sandwiches, delighted us all.

Sheila brought everyone up to date on the various DWM activities. Elaine introduced us to Tamar, King David's daughter, by letting us all read together an excellent poem, describing this young woman's life, written by Louise. She then read her story from the Bible. What a tragic circumstance Tamar experienced and the feeling from all of us was how unfairly she was treated and the lack of respect, both from her family and townspeople.

Lots of interesting stories and feelings from everyone gave our brains a lot to think about and our hearts a lot to feel.

My thanks to all for participating and hope to see you next month. May God bless you and give you happiness.

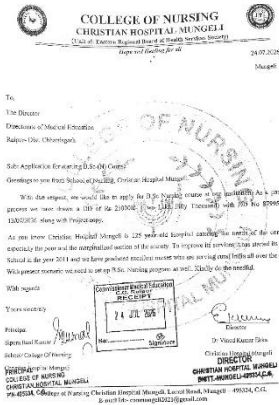
~Marney Brickhouse





## CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

It's finally happening! Our application to open the new College of Nursing has been received by the Commissioner for Medical Education in the state capital! Truly, a stamp of receipt has never been so thrilling! We continue to fundraise because we need to have the faculty's salaries pre-funded. The support of everyone at Olive Branch means so much. Thank you!



## DWM COVERED DISH DINNER AND MISSION OUTREACH

Mark your calendars for our next DWM Covered Dish Dinner on Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. in Branch Hall! We look forward to an evening of delicious food, warm fellowship, and learning about an inspiring local ministry.

This month, we are partnering with Proclaiming Grace Outreach, whose mission is to serve individuals and families experiencing economic hardship in Upper James City County and New Kent County. Through a holistic approach, they help bridge the gap between services available in Williamsburg and Richmond while sharing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with every person they serve.

From now through September 14, we invite you to help support this ministry by donating any of the following non-perishable food items:

- Cereal
- Instant Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meats
- Applesauce
- Brownie Mix
- Pasta
- Jell-O
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Corn
- Mixed Vegetables
- Canned Vegetables
- Cornbread Mix
- Microwave Popcorn
- Stuffing Mix
- Cornbread Mix
- Rice
- Pudding

Donations can be brought to the church and placed on the stage, downstairs in Branch Hall. Every donation, no matter the size, will help bless local families in need. Thank you for your generosity and for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we are honored to welcome Melanie King, Executive Director of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, who will share more about the ministry's mission and the impact it is making in the lives of our neighbors. We hope you'll join us for this special evening of fellowship, food, and encouragement!

*Plans are in progress for,*  
**Our Community Fun Day!**

*It's an annual Event,  
To invite our neighbors our way.*

*Get a painted face,  
Play a game or two,  
You'll win a special prize,  
Selected just for you.*

*Enjoy an all beef hotdog,  
Or a sloppy joe,  
A bag of chips with soda,  
Buy a cookie as you go.*

*Listen to the band,  
You can even sing along,  
We're sure that you will hear,  
Your very favorite song.*

*We have other things,  
Currently in the works,  
Can't advertise them yet,  
We're ironing out the quirks.*

*Invite all your neighbors,  
Family and friends too,  
Bring them to God's House,  
And the Bouncy House too.*

*We also ask you to pray,  
As we continue to plan,  
That all our efforts will bless,  
Some of our fellowman.*

**GAMES PRIZES FUN!**

**CHIPS**

*Disciple Women's Ministry*

**LORD, ON THIS LABOR DAY,**  
we thank You for the  
blessing of work through  
which you provide our  
daily bread.  
Thank you for the gifts  
and abilities you provide  
people to carry out the myriad  
tasks that allow us to  
live the lives we do.  
Graciously grant us the  
strength we need to meet  
our responsibilities as well  
as the rest we need when  
we are weary.  
**AMEN.**

# Sara's STL Saga



In St. Louis, there's a wonderful outdoor theater in Forest Park called The Muny. Every summer, multiple musicals tour and St. Louis area residents have the option to pay for a seat closer to the stage or wait for free seats which still offer a great view. By the time you read this, the musical season at the Muny will sadly be over, but I will have seen 3 wonderful shows: *Meet Me In St. Louis* (pictured above), *South Pacific*, and *Something Rotten!* What a blessing to see free live musicals with friends (yes, even in the good ole STL heat/humidity)!

In July, I had the opportunity to go to Phoenix, AZ for our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod National Convention, an event that occurs every 3 years. I worked the event as a “teller”, managing the new kiosk system used for voting delegates to speak at a microphone concerning the resolutions and amendments that were being voted on throughout the week. I learned a lot about the politics of the church at large, the process of voting at Synod



conventions like this, and perhaps best of all, was reunited with several pastors and deaconesses I have worked with in previous calls/fieldwork/internship. There was an exhibit hall in which there was a booth for deaconesses, so of course, those of us in attendance showed up (mostly) in uniform for a group photo.

I say the best part of Convention was seeing friends old and new, but maybe it was getting to meet other Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs (much like Solomon) at their booth! I was blessed to be comforted by Rahab from Stockton, CA and Zechariah from Las Vegas, NV. They expressed condolences over Solomon and shared lots of love.

For those who may not have already heard, our dear Solomon is no longer with us. He celebrated his 7<sup>th</sup> birthday in early June with treats galore and even enjoyed his favorite activity—swimming! Not even one week later, he woke up taking a turn for the worse. I thank you all for the cards, love, prayers, and support during this difficult time. I know Solomon was loved deeply by all of you, and he loved you all, too!



I've settled into my apartment, and am still trying to settle into my job, learning day by day more and more about gift planning. I will be attending a conference to learn even more in Chesterfield at the end of August. After months of waiting for required documents needed to register my car in the state of Missouri, I am officially a "Show-Me State" license plate owner and with that, able to get a library card (yay!) and discount tickets to visit the St. Louis Botanical Gardens which is next on my list. I understand why it takes some people over a year to register their vehicles in this state- it is not a pleasant nor easy experience, so much so that even the DMV employees all asked me why I chose to move here!

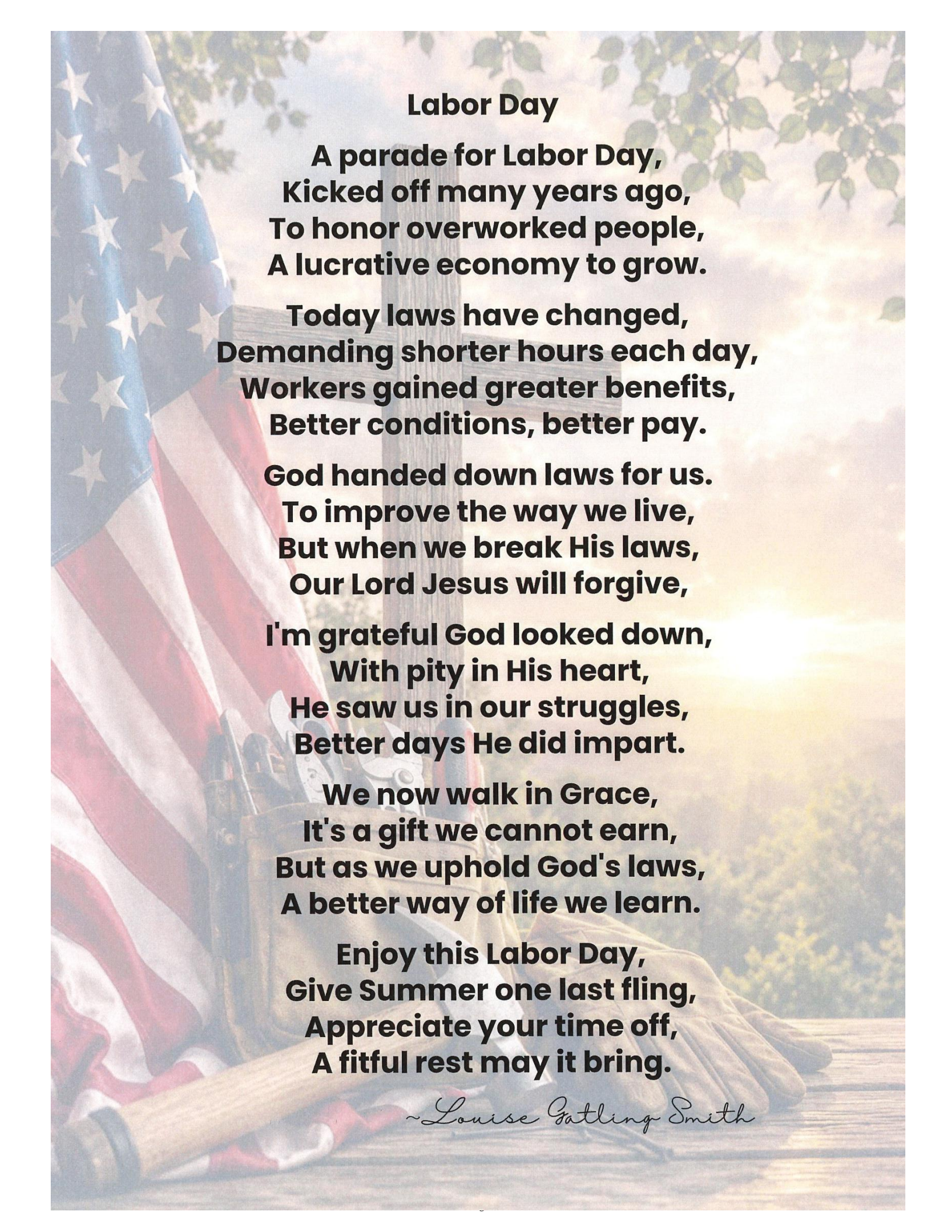
Overall, the transition here has gone well, and I am blessed to have found a new church home in Hamel, IL. I look forward to making more connections and sharing the good news of the Gospel with all I meet in this role and beyond.

I pray you are all doing well and staying cool in beautiful VA! I think about you often and keep each of you in my prayers always. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you all in His grace, mercy, and peace!

I love and miss you, Olive Branch family!

Blessings in Christ,

Sara Scungio



## **Labor Day**

**A parade for Labor Day,  
Kicked off many years ago,  
To honor overworked people,  
A lucrative economy to grow.**

**Today laws have changed,  
Demanding shorter hours each day,  
Workers gained greater benefits,  
Better conditions, better pay.**

**God handed down laws for us.  
To improve the way we live,  
But when we break His laws,  
Our Lord Jesus will forgive,  
I'm grateful God looked down,  
With pity in His heart,  
He saw us in our struggles,  
Better days He did impart.**

**We now walk in Grace,  
It's a gift we cannot earn,  
But as we uphold God's laws,  
A better way of life we learn.**

**Enjoy this Labor Day,  
Give Summer one last fling,  
Appreciate your time off,  
A fitful rest may it bring.**

*~Louise Gatling Smith*

## **Reconciliation**

Broken people, broken relationships,  
What can we do to mend,  
All the hurts and grievances,  
May we commit to end.

We alienate our brothers,  
Keep our sisters at arms length,  
Further wounding their spirits,  
Robbing them of their strength.

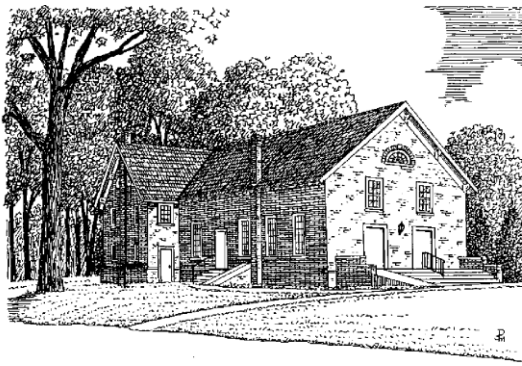
We are The Church,  
Called to do as Jesus did,  
Loving the downtrodden,  
His Compassion was not hid.

Let's reach out our arms,  
Embrace all who come our way,  
Assuring them of God's Grace,  
As we kneel with them to pray.

God did not call us to judge,  
He alone sits on The Throne,  
We are to encourage,  
So no one feels alone.

We are The Church,  
Jesus we represent,  
We're to offer The Gospel,  
With Truth they might repent.

*~Louise Gatling Smith*



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## The Olive Branch

© published by  
**Olive Branch Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
7643 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024  
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