

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE COURIER

A Monthly Publication of The Inter-Faith Chapel
A House of Prayer for All People

From the desk of Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea

This summer, Sharon and I visited Southport, NC, an uncommonly quaint town just south of Wilmington. You may have seen this little beach community on television, though you probably didn't know it. Hallmark, among other movie production companies, films many of their coastal background scenes in Southport.

We enjoyed walking the narrow streets and having lunch, but I especially enjoyed a location on the edge of town known as "The Whittling Bench." A historical marker noted that over 150 years ago, a Southport barber known as "Mr. Pack" built a bench under the trees where residents of the town would come and whittle. Going back to colonial times, whittling is one of the oldest folk art forms in this country.

The whittling bench served as an important community gathering place. While the people whittled, they conversed. They would talk about their crops, their cares, and their concerns. They would share their opinions on politics, the weather, and probably even on the preacher's recent sermon!

On some days, the "whittling sessions" lasted nearly all day, and it was a rare occasion when one couldn't find fellowship and get a good conversation going at the whittling bench almost any hour of the day.

The discussions were often lively and full of emotion. The passion for the topics and the differences of opinions caused tempers to flare at times. However, at the end of the day, after all the sides had been shared and all the exchanges had been exhausted, those present would stand, shake hands, say, "See you tomorrow!" and leave as friends.

The Whittling Bench was a safe place to be yourself. It was an inspiring place and a creative outlet. The Whittling Bench was a place to encounter diversity of opinion and life experience in an environment of mutual tolerance. The Whittling Bench was an important community gathering place that served a meaningful purpose.

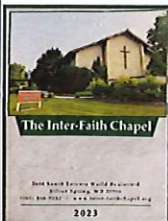
Hmm...that sounds a lot like the very best of Church!

The Inter-Faith Chapel is a safe, inspiring, creative, and important faith community that serves a meaningful purpose. The Inter-Faith Chapel consists of a diverse group of faithful believers who have made a covenant to come together to support and encourage one another as we travel our faith journey together. Even in those rare times when we all may not view an issue the same way, at the end of the day, we stand, embrace, say, "See you next Sunday!" and leave as family.

Come on by my office sometime and "sit a spell" – I'll just be in here whittling away!

"See you next Sunday!"

~ *Woodie*

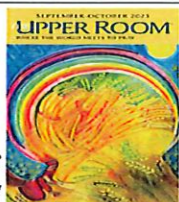


NEW CHAPEL DIRECTORIES!

If you were photographed for this 2023 directory and have not received a copy, you may pick one up at the office from 9 am—3:00 pm, Monday—Friday.

Others who are not pictured and who participate in Chapel activities, may pick up a directory as well.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS



We have received our order of September/October *Upper Room* devotional books. Copies are placed in a basket outside the front doors of the Chapel for pick-up. These will be available Monday—Friday from 9:00 am—3:00 pm.

Take a walk or drive by and pick up a copy. If you are not able to pick up a copy, please ask a neighbor or friend to pick one up for you.

IN MEMORIAM

Bette Campbell
June 16, 2023

Art Rounds
June 28, 2023

Quinton Hugger
July 20, 2023

Ann Burke
August 20, 2023

Ardith Cruit
August 24, 2023



PRAYERS OF THE MONTH

A Morning Prayer by Rita Snowden

Good and gracious God:

In sickness or health, in joy or grief, no day opens to find me alone:

I rejoice to realize You are always here;

I rejoice that You have given me human ties;

I rejoice in the friends that are loyal.

For duties that await me today, I ask Your strength and skill.

For things that puzzle me at this, I ask Your patience.

For the tasks that have become tedious, I ask Your gift of perseverance.

Let me remember all this day:

That people matter more than things;

That monetary reward matters less than honest service;

That faith and hope and love are the lasting things, and the greatest of these is love.

Bless any I love who are on vacation today; any who begin a new job; any who celebrate a birthday.

Let life be a better thing for somebody because we live in the world today. Amen.

An Evening Prayer by Rita Snowden

O God, I bring You thanks for what I have learned of human values from others:

Those of the world's early days about whom I have read in Scriptures and history:

Those of my forebears of whom I have been told or have seen photographs;

Those of my closer relations in my own lifetime, and experience.

I give thanks that all human souls are equally precious to You, and missed when they go astray;

Those who are headstrong and foolish;

Those who are naive and ill-informed;

Those who are led into sin by others.

I give You thanks that skin color counts for little; and that each person has some special gift:

Those with physical graces;

Those with questing minds;

Those with spiritual perception above average.

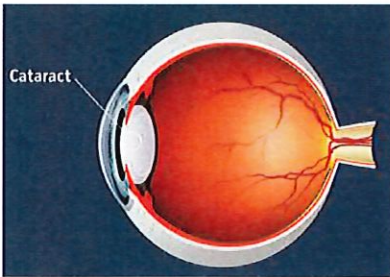
Receive this day, O God, and hold safe, that which each offers to you, through our own personalities: for Christ's sake.

Finance Committee Report as of July 31, 2023			
Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Actual minus Budget
Envelope/Loose Plate Offerings (1)	244,052	253,836	(9,784)
Other Receipts	19,439	21,350	(1,911)
Endowment Principal Transfers (2)	50,000	79,064	(29,064)
Total Income	313,491	354,250	(40,759)
Personnel Expenses	233,182	235,709	(2,527)
Building/Grounds Maintenance	54,713	61,994	(7,281)
Committee/Office Expenses	33,572	39,462	(5,890)
Benevolences (Mission)	16,250	17,367	(1,117)
Total Expenses	337,717	354,532	(16,815)
Income Minus Expenses	(24,226)	(282)	(23,944)
First Seven Months of 2023 Compared to 2022			
	2023	2022	
Envelope/Loose Plate Offerings (1)	212,065	214,172	(2,107)

1 Includes On-Line Giving

2 These transfers occur only when there are not sufficient funds in the operating account to pay all of the Expenses.

September Health Article Understanding Cataract Surgery



Many people dread hearing their doctor say, “You have cataracts,” but it’s not a big deal. Thousands of individuals receive treatment for cataracts each year. Vision problems such as cataracts can develop as a normal part of the aging process. Your eyes contain a lens that focuses light on your retina so you can see. The lens is usually clear but can develop cloudy patches called cataracts. Over time, cataracts can cause your vision to become blurry and make daily tasks difficult.

When it reaches this point, your eye doctor may suggest having cataract surgery. Cataract surgery is low risk and has a very high success rate. The American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery reports that the overall success rate of cataract surgery is greater than 98%. It takes no more than half an hour for cataract removal. It is an outpatient surgery, so no hospital stay is necessary.

You’ll be awake but sedated, and you won’t feel anything. Local anesthetic eye drops are given to numb the eye before surgery. No bleeding will occur and no stitches are required, as the incisions are self-healing. Eye protective glasses, large sunglasses and eye drops are used during the post-operative healing period of about 30 days.

In general, you’ll notice that your vision gets much better within a few days. For me, everything was much brighter and more beautiful. Your vision will be much clearer but may not be perfect. You may need to use glasses or contacts at times. Thank God for our good health, sound mind and now good vision. God bless.

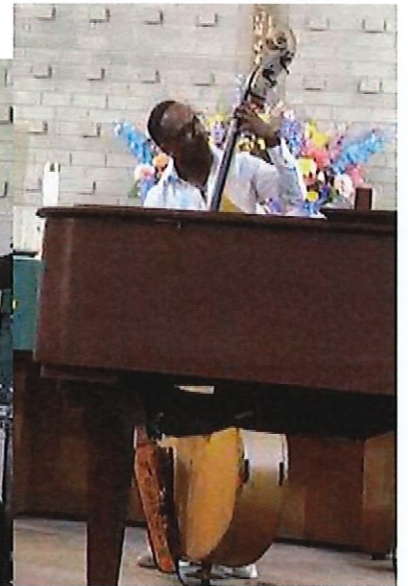
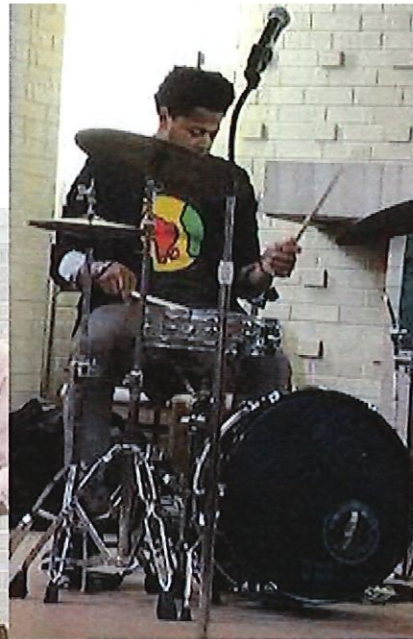
~Andra Matthews, RN, BSN, Health Advocate

**Thank you for a great summer of events!
Thanks to all the summer concert series performers!**

Baltimore Musicales, Summer Enchantment



Paul Carr Ensemble—All That Jazz



Farmers Market



**Francese Brooks
An Evening of Gospel**





Fall 2023 Retreat Announcement

**“I have called you by name.
You are mine”. (Isaiah 43:1)**

An invitation to deepen your experience of being created and loved by God.



Friday, October 6: 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Saturday, October 7: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Our lives are a woven tapestry of colors, some dark with sorrows, some bright with joys. In all the colors of our lives, God is lovingly present, using both our dark and light times to weave us together into someone beautifully and wonderfully made.

Please join us for a fall retreat at The Inter-Faith Chapel beginning on Friday evening, October 6 and continuing Saturday, October 7. Retreat leaders Bertie Knisely and Geri Drymalski will lead us through times of group prayer and meditation, individual reflection, holy sharing and listening, and creative art expression.

During our time of artistic creative expression, Geri will guide us in using watercolor paints to abstractly express periods of our lives. Then, cutting those paintings into strips, we'll weave them together. The end result will form a visual representation of how all the colors of our lives have become something beautiful through God's creative and loving presence.

To register, call The Chapel at (301) 598-5312 or email Joy Dufour at j.dufour@inter-faithchapel.org. Retreat cost is \$40.00 which covers the cost of Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, snacks and supplies. Registration is limited.

About the retreat leaders:

Geri Drymalski: Geri is a retired Montgomery Parks Naturalist who has always loved art and who possesses a master's degree in art therapy. Although she never practiced as an art therapist, she appreciates the value of visual art in helping people process and understand who they are and their life experiences.

Bertie Knisely: An active member of The Inter-Faith Chapel, Bertie has a certificate in formative spirituality and is trained as a spiritual director. She enjoys leading retreats, facilitating contemplative prayer programming, and companioning people in their spiritual journeys. Bertie finds joy in being involved in the lives of her 5 grandchildren and is grateful to be lending support to a Tanzanian organization that helps children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.



WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

BARBARA BEALE



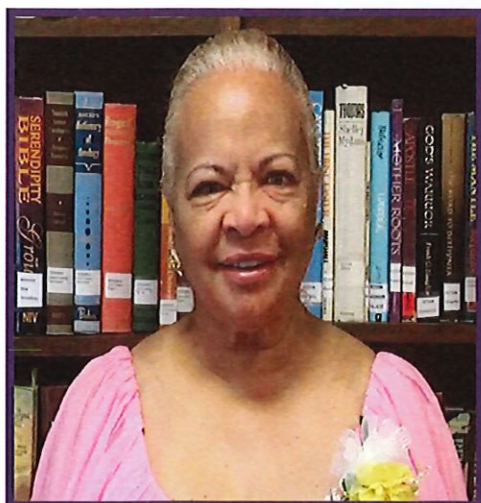
Barbara Beale moved to Leisure World one year ago from Texas. Her first interaction with The Inter-Faith Chapel came through our “Drive-Thru” Ritual of Ashes on Ash Wednesday of this year and she has been worshipping with us regularly since Easter. Barbara earned two degrees from Wichita State University, leading to an extensive career as a Dental Assistant. Later, she studied and graduated from Gettysburg Theological Seminary and is an ordained pastor with The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Barbara now fills her retirement visiting her two sons (Kensington and New York City) and by staying active in several Leisure World groups. She comes to us as an Affiliate Member while maintaining her denominational connections with Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Church in New York. We welcome Barbara to the life and fellowship of The Inter-Faith Chapel.

NANCY CARLSON

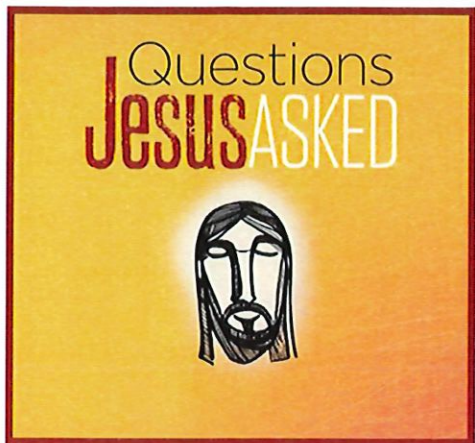


Nancy Carlson is a third generation Leisure World resident. Her grandmother lived here when she was young, her parents (Dick and Ruth Carlson) lived here for 30 years, and two years ago she purchased her own property. Nancy is a graduate of Elizabethtown College and Towson University and earned her Ph.D. in Human Development from the University of Maryland. She is currently working as an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at Elizabethtown College and plans to shift her professional focus to becoming an aging-in-place specialist. Nancy enjoys traveling, hiking, cooking, and playing classical piano. She comes to The Inter-Faith Chapel on transfer of membership from Camp Hill United Methodist Church in Camp Hill, PA. It is a joy to officially welcome her into the IFC congregation!

ANTOINETTE SCHOOLER



Antoinette (Tony) Schooler has lived in Leisure World for approximately two years. She was born in Kentucky and spent most of her life in Washington, DC. She is a double graduate (BA/MA) of Howard University and is currently working toward her doctorate degree. Her job with the Department of Homeland Security took her to various locations and she retired from DHS in 2006. Following retirement, Tony lived in Panama and was involved with teaching English classes. She was a leader in the Outreach Ministries of Calvary Episcopal Church, her church in DC. When not involved in social justice and diocese activities, she enjoys pickleball, art classes, and several LW clubs. We are pleased to welcome her into the family of faith here at The Inter-Faith Chapel.



Fall 2023 Bible Study
Questions Jesus Asked Bible Study
Tuesdays—September 19; 26
Tuesdays—October 2; 9; 16; 23
1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Jesus was always asking questions. “Why are you so afraid?” “Why do you call me good?” “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “Where is your faith?”

By one estimate Jesus asked a total of 307 questions throughout the Gospels. And these are just the questions Jesus asked that were recorded., so likely that number was much higher.

Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do these reveal what Jesus really cares about, these open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Are you willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to answer the questions Jesus asked?

In the six-week Bible study entitled *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering these for ourselves. Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked?*, if so join us for this Fall Bible study on Tuesdays in September and October at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

When we ask questions of ourselves, we grow spiritually, so come grow with us as we examine these 6 questions Jesus asked his disciples:

Tuesday, September 19 – Who Do You Say That I Am?—Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday, September 26 – Why Are You Afraid? —Matthew 8:23-27

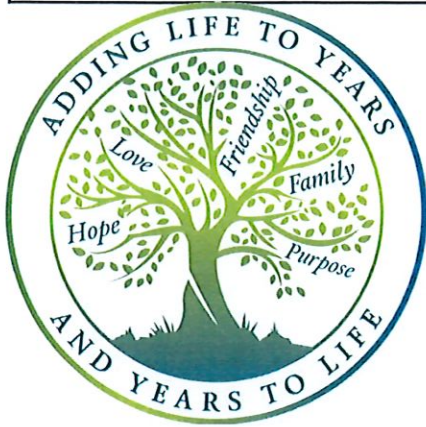
Tuesday, October 3 – Why Are You Anxious? —Luke 12:25-31

Tuesday, October 10 – What Do You Live For? —Mark 8:34-38

Tuesday, October 17 – Whom Will You Love? —Luke 6:27-36

Tuesday, October 24 – What Are You Looking For? —John 1:35-38

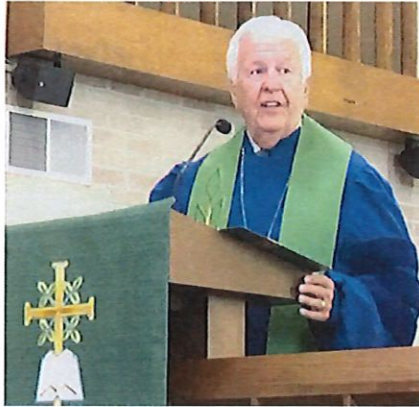
All are welcome as we gather to ponder this questions. The book for the class is \$16.00. You may order it on Amazon, download it on to your Kindle or request a copy when you register for the class. We will not purchase books after the deadline. Register for the class by calling Chapel office at 301-598-5312 no later than September 11. You are asked to come to class having read the text for the week.



In Praise of Age
Sunday, September 17, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M.
Rev. Dr. Robert Perry, Minister Emeritus

Theme: Adding Life to Years and Years to Life

In Praise of Age Sunday is an annual celebration at The Inter-Faith Chapel. This special Sunday is designed to recognize and celebrate the gifts, longevity and faithfulness of special members in our congregation. Our service will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2023.



On this special day of celebration we will recognize all those who are 90 years old and older, and include their names in the bulletin. We will honor them with a corsage or boutonniere, a special gift, and a reception immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship. If you or an affiliate you know is 90 years of age, or older, please contact the Chapel office by Tuesday, September 11, so we can make preparations for our honorees.

Our theme this year is: *Living with Purpose: Adding Life to Years and Years to Life.* and our very own Rev. Dr. Robert W. Perry, Minister Emeritus will serve as our preacher.

Dr. Perry has a BA degree from Bethany College, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Bright Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Dr. Perry has served churches in Texas, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He served for 19 years at North Chevy Chase Christian Church and 14 years as Senior Minister at The Inter-Faith Chapel. Dr. Perry has been happily married to Debora Hawkins Perry for 54 years. They have 2 adult children and 4 wonderful grandchildren.

Don't forget to call The Inter-Faith Chapel office at 301-598-5312 no later than **September 11th** to let us know if you plan to attend. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on **September 17th** for *In Praise of Age* Sunday



Each month, we encourage our members to wish happy birthday to our affiliates and friends who live in nursing care facilities or group homes.

September 4
 Catherine Hawkins
 Astoria House
 6636 Cedar Lane
 Columbia, MD 20145

Please send a card or note to those celebrating birthdays.

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
 FOR THE MONTH**



If you see on the evening news a person who moves you by his distress, just breathe it in and breathe Out to him love and strength.

~ Andrew Harvey in The Direct Pay

To Practice This Thought:

Send love to a stranger you notice is in need.



Wednesday, September 27 @ 6:00 PM SAFE HARBOR

Presents: *An Evening of Light Rock and Country*

Safe Harbor acoustic duo has appeared at a variety of venues throughout the tri-state area for almost two decades and was twice named as the GigMasters Rising Star Award Winner for Top Variety Duo and was nominated in the Best Local Band category in Frederick's "Best Of" contest in both 2020 and 2021.

Their song selection spans multiple decades and genres and includes many familiar favorites as well as a few of their original songs, creating an eclectic mix that is sure to please a wide variety of musical tastes.



Movie of the Month

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 1PM | *I Forgive* PG-13 • 1h 45m

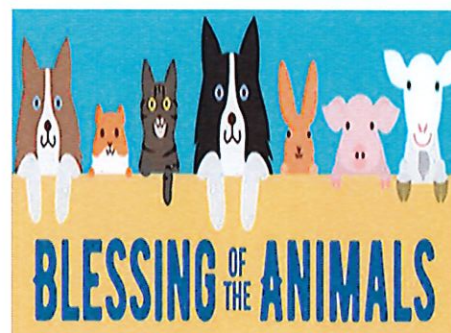
Based on a powerful true story of forgiveness, Tony is shot five times by a Los Angeles gang, leaving ten bullet holes through his body. While dying, he talks with God and must make a choice.

Wednesday, October 4

10:00 AM—Outdoor Blessing of Animals Service

10:30 AM—12 noon—Drive Through Pet Blessing

The Inter-Faith Chapel will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals on **Wednesday, October 4**. There will be a brief service in the parking lot (weather permitting) at 10:00 AM including readings, prayers, and songs, followed by drive-through pet blessings under our portico from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon.



This is always a wonderful and joyous time to celebrate the special relationships we have with our beloved pets. Dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, all pets of every size, are invited - along with their human drivers! (Walk-ups are also welcome). Each pet will receive a "Certificate of Blessing," along with gifts for both pets and people!

We hope you will join us, and be sure to invite your friends, as we celebrate the blessing and goodness of all of God's creation!



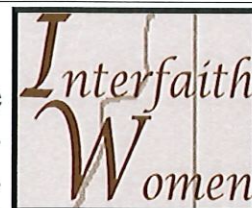
FALL POTLUCK AND FELLOWSHIP Thursday, October 12 @ 5:30 PM

The Outreach and Fellowship Committee invites you to a Fall Potluck on **Thursday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m.** in The Chapel Fellowship Hall. Start thinking now about which special dish you will bring.

You don't want to miss this time of fellowship so mark your calendars and plan to come and bring a friend. More details will be found in the October *Courier* and there will be a sign-up in the Narthex before and after services on September 24 and October 1.

The Inter-Faith Women Meeting on Thursday, October 26 @ 1:30 PM

Our October 26th meeting at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall will be special! We will sit at tables and have a program of fellowship and friendship using the subject of weaving together. New ladies to the congregation are receiving special invitations to the event. The Theme is **Getting to Know You**. We will have special music and after the program, a chance to have refreshments with some good cakes, cookies and fruit to enjoy.



The Inter-Faith Women will be making a "Chapel Cook Book" in September. We are asking ladies in the congregation to submit at least one favorite recipe. Starting September 1st, ladies may drop their recipes in a box in the Narthex. In October, the recipes will be compiled and made into a booklet that will be passed out at our October 26th Inter-Faith program. This will be a way to get to know others not only through verbal contact, but also by sharing good food recipes.

~ Ginger Samara



CHAIR YOGA CLASS IS BACK

Many of us are back from our summer travels this month and looking forward to re-creating our daily routines for Fall and beyond. Don't forget to schedule your exercise while you are at it! Come breathe new life into your fitness journey by joining the IFC Chair Yoga Class on Zoom on Thursday afternoons.

This ongoing class is free to members of the IFC. Classes start promptly at 3pm but the room opens at 2:45 so everyone can arrange their cameras and chairs and be ready to start at 3pm. No previous experience is necessary to join our warm and friendly group as we improve our physical, mental, and spiritual health through mindful movement.

To join, email Christine Tetrault at ctetra11@aol.com to get the information you need to attend.

IFC MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Following a brief summer break, the IFC Chancel Choir and the Gospel Choir have returned and will be part of the services in September.



We welcome all returning choir members, and especially welcome new members. The Gospel Choir practices at 11:00 am on Thursdays. The Chancel Choir practices at 1:00 pm on Thursdays. Come and enjoy the fun of singing together and fellowship of the choirs.

If you are interested in joining, call Glenda Clay about the Gospel Choir at 903-926-7174 or Holly Oberle about the Chancel Choir at 301-598-5312.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Monday, Sept 4 — Labor Day Holiday — Chapel Closed
- Thursday, Sept 7—@ 11:00 am —Gospel Choir Practice
- Thursday, Sept 7—@ 1:00 pm —Chancel Choir Practice
- Thursday, Sept 14—@ 11:00 am —Gospel Choir Practice
- Thursday, Sept 14—@ 1:00 pm —Chancel Choir Practice
- Sunday, Sept 17 — @ 10:00 am —In Praise of Age
- Monday, Sept 18 — @ 1:00 pm—Movie: *I Forgive*
- Tuesday, Sept 19—@ 1:30 pm—Bible Study—Who Do You Say That I Am?—Luke 9:18-27
- Wednesday, Sept 20 — @ 6:00 pm—Fall Centering Prayer
- Thursday, Sept 21—@ 11:00 am —Gospel Choir Practice
- Thursday, Sept 21—@ 1:00 pm —Chancel Choir Practice
- Tuesday, Sept 26—@ 1:30 pm Bible Study—Why Are You Afraid? —Matthew 8:23-27
- Wednesday, Sept 27 — @ 6:00 pm Concert: Safe Harbor — An Evening of Light Rock and Country
- Thursday, Sept 28—@ 11:00 am —Gospel Choir Practice
- Thursday, Sept 28—@ 1:00 pm —Chancel Choir Practice



Labor Day word search

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



WEEKEND	LABOR	BARBECUE	EMPLOYMENT
COMMUNITY	SEPTEMBER	DAY	HOLIDAY
AMERICAN	TRAVEL	PROFESSION	BREAK
OFFICE	WORK	MONDAY	PARTY

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Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Perry
Minister Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Ramonia L. Lee,
Minister of Congregational Life

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Bonnie B. Bonner, Administrator

Joy M. Dufour, Administrative Assistant

Steve Buck, Gary Carpenter
Video Technicians and Chapel Sextons

**Come
Worship
with us**



Please join us in-person for
Worship Service at
The Inter-Faith Chapel
on Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

You may also live-stream on
Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

In addition, you may view the
Worship Service on YouTube
or visit our website at:
www.inter-faithchapel.org

