

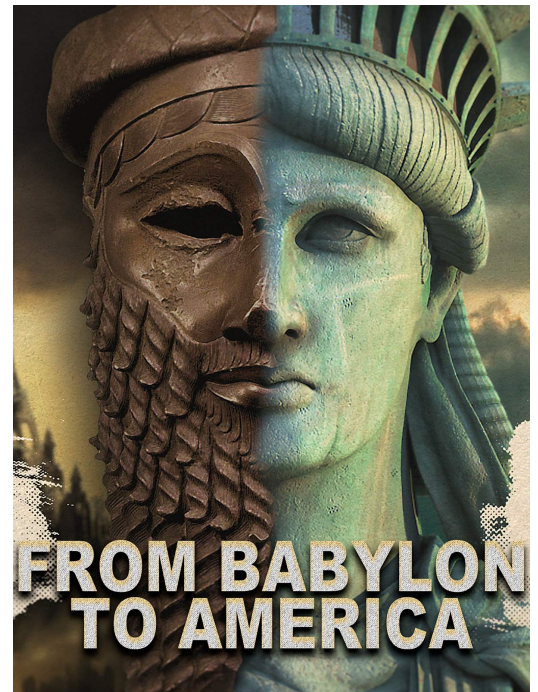
JUL - SEP 2021

# FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

## From Babylon To America: The Prophecy Movie

Jesus shared the point of prophecy in John 14:29 (NLT) saying, "I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe." But growing up in Chicago, Jan Capa was a skeptical young man who was contemplating atheism. But he wondered, "If God is real, how would he know?" He learned through the fulfilled prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that God is very real and that we can know Him. To share with others what he learned from the pages of Scripture, he has created a very engaging documentary rated PG 13. I wish every Adventist and their loved ones and friends would watch it. We will be showing it THUR JUL 1 and MON JUL 5 both days @ 5 and 7pm at Maumee Indoor Theater (601 Conant St, Maumee, OH 43537). Admission is free and there will be snacks available inside auditorium #2 but not popcorn so bring some cash for that if you want! And a friend!



*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."—Hal Borland*

Address Service Requested

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4909 West Sylvania Avenue  
Toledo OH 43623

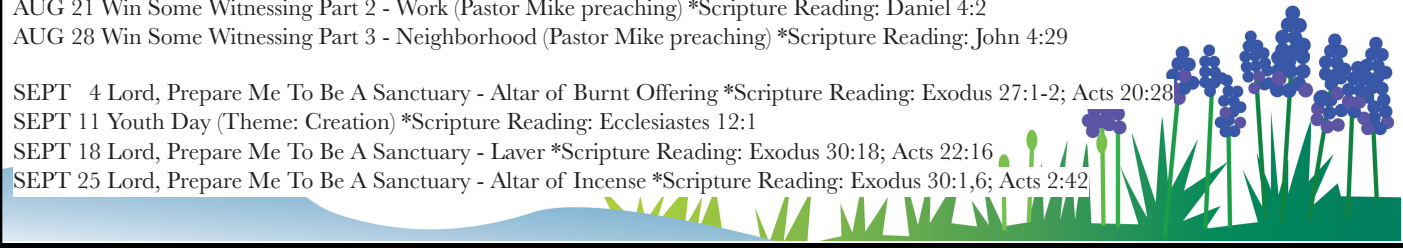
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### Worship Themes Third Quarter

JUL 3 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Is Jesus Enough? (Pastor Mike preaching) \*Scripture Reading: Col. 1:15-21 \*Also Communion  
 JUL 10 TBA (Pastor John Hood Sr. preaching)  
 JUL 17 The Spiritual Armor of God (Matthew Fulghum preaching) \*Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:14-17  
 JUL 24 Testimony (Cathie Heath preaching) \*Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:16  
 JUL 31 Win Some Witnessing Part 1 - Home (Pastor Mike preaching) \*Scripture Reading: Luke 8:39

AUG 7 TBA (Elder Oswaldo Magana preaching) \*Scripture Reading: TBA  
 AUG 14 TBA (Pastor John Hood Sr. preaching) \*Scripture Reading: TBA  
 AUG 21 Win Some Witnessing Part 2 - Work (Pastor Mike preaching) \*Scripture Reading: Daniel 4:2  
 AUG 28 Win Some Witnessing Part 3 - Neighborhood (Pastor Mike preaching) \*Scripture Reading: John 4:29

SEPT 4 Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary - Altar of Burnt Offering \*Scripture Reading: Exodus 27:1-2; Acts 20:28  
 SEPT 11 Youth Day (Theme: Creation) \*Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:1  
 SEPT 18 Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary - Laver \*Scripture Reading: Exodus 30:18; Acts 22:16  
 SEPT 25 Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary - Altar of Incense \*Scripture Reading: Exodus 30:1,6; Acts 2:42



	JULY 24	JULY 28	AUG 17	AUG 29	SEP 11	SEP 26 (SUN)
Calendar of Events	Friendship Dinner	PlantStrong People Group @ 7pm	Vegefood Delivery	Men's Fellowship 4-6pm	Youth Day	Church Business Meeting @ 10am

### Vegetarian Food Delivery for 3rd Quarter

The next vegetarian food delivery date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17. Orders will be due on August 10 by 3pm and can be dropped off, called in, or emailed to the office. The order forms and specials will be placed on the table in the foyer when ready and an announcement will be put in the bulletin. ##



### Mike's Fortune Cookies

Pastor Mike is creating sixty second devotionals. You can watch them here if you wish [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SXHCTOvmQQThxdlA\\_B0P9vH9CtVx-wj9](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SXHCTOvmQQThxdlA_B0P9vH9CtVx-wj9) ##

### Mask Update

At our last business meeting on May 18, Toledo First voted to allow individuals to wear masks or not as they see fit at church but to continue social distancing with ropes on pews. ##

### Sack Lunch Sabbath JUL 10

This week is an opportunity for individuals to bring their own food to eat lunch together in the fellowship hall after Spanish church concludes or outside on our picnic tables (weather permitting). ##



### Friendship Dinner July 24

Friendship Dinners are meals prepared by a team of volunteers and served to you. They are not a potluck where individuals bring food from home to share and help themselves. It's a great day to invite a friend to join you for church. And enjoy a good meal with friends afterward. This one will feature foods from Kenya organized by Matthew Chesum and Joan Kovar and additional Kenyan friends from Toledo First. Yum! ##

### Committee To Study Gym Construction Created

Toledo First has voted the creation of a committee to explore expanding the school to include a gym and to present options to the church at our next business meeting in September. ##

## Win Some Witnessing

Nobody coerced Cleopas and his family members to pray / read / or share. But “Within the hour”, Luke 24:33 says they ran into the darkness to share the good news about reading Scripture, even the Old Testament in their case, for a relationship with Jesus. We don’t share or witness because we have to; we share because we want to! Because like Cleopas, Jesus’ love burns within our hearts. And we want our children and grandchildren and loved ones to grasp God’s love too.



Following Jesus’ example, as life-long learners, disciples can learn to share more effectively in any environment. Matthew 4:23 says, “Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom.” We can too by beginning at home with family worship. We can practice how to pray / read / share in the friendly confines of home with those we love. We can also begin to see work like a mission field and learn to recognize interest in spiritual things.

## Pastor Mike

## Modern Israel and Bible Prophecy

How should Christians view Israel? Is the modern-day 1948 statehood of Israel a fulfillment of Bible prophecy? Mark A. Kellner, in this Adventist Review article, addresses these questions. Hard copies of the article are available in the church office. You can also download your own copy to read here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N1XjPZ6Naam0Psh3UnunO5cxwQJnRmiV/view?usp=sharing>

Should the return of millions of Jews to their homeland mean something to Christians? Was the repossession of Jerusalem by Jews in 1967 forecast by Jesus? And are these things signs of the times? Newbold College Religion Professor Ernest W. Marter addresses these questions in this Ministry Magazine article. So we have produced hard copies of this article as well and they are available in the church office. You can also download your own copy to read



here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/14CYi5138fkVITFBuSQOCNB\\_mm9\\_sRZ4I/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14CYi5138fkVITFBuSQOCNB_mm9_sRZ4I/view?usp=sharing)

Additional recommended reads about modern Israel written by Seventh-day Adventists include: The Restless Land: Israel, Its Place in History and Prophecy by Orly M. Berg (Amazon); The Mystery of Israel by Jacque Doukhan (also available to download as eBook at <https://adventistbookcenter.com/the-mystery-of-israel.html>); Israel and the Church by Jacque Doukhan (Amazon); The Israel of God in Prophecy by Hans K. LaRondelle (Amazon); and Exploding the Israel Deception by Steve Wohlberg (Amazon) ## Pastor Mike

## Toledo Junior Academy Scores a Home Run!



Toledo Junior Academy (TJA) is a ministry of Toledo First Church that is doing the Lord’s work! The students learn about Jesus and are taught “Reading, ‘Riting, and ‘Rithmetic” well!!

AMEN!!! During 2020, along with the issues of Covid-19, Natalie, Cindy, Janessa, and Lindsay had to prepare for an accreditation review by the Ohio Conference Education Department for the North American Division Education Department (NAD), which is **NO** easy task. Hours and hours were spent to complete the 10 page “Strategic Improvement Plan” document.

In early April, 2021, the accreditation team headed by Richard Bianco, Superintendent of Schools, Ohio Conference, had a virtual two-day visit and final review. Brothers and Sisters, our educators hit a home run! Well, to hear Mr. Bianco describe the accreditation review to the Ohio Board of Education, “not only did TJA hit a home run, not only did TJA hit it out of the ball park, but they hit it over the parking lot!!! And, as a result of the great work and the strategic plan submitted, the Ohio Conference Education Department has recommended to the NAD a six year accreditation with a three year review, which is the best accreditation the NAD grants.

Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Naus, Mrs. Garman, and Mr. Muniz need to hear our gratitude for their due-diligence and commitment to excellence in Christian education. Our school is a GEM and we need to be a voice to promote its value for all K – 8 students. We each have our circle-of-influence (family, friends, neighbors, work associates, etc.) to lift up TJA and invite parents and

guardians to consider enrolling their children at TJA. They will be glad that they did! May God continue blessing our school, students, teachers, and support staff!  
## Gary Swackhamer

### Eight Was Enough!



TOLEDO JUNIOR ACADEMY  
EDUCATING FOR LIFE AND ETERNITY  
SINCE 1919

After graduating five students this year, we have been praying for Toledo Junior Academy's enrollment next year. The school board has been praying for eight new students next year and just this week our prayers were answered! In addition to the two that joined mid-year, we're up to ten "new" students for next year. Praise the Lord! Big thanks and Way to Go for your prayers! God knows if there are more students who would benefit from the caring Adventist Christian environment our excellent teachers provide. ##

### Remember Your Loved One With a Memorial Tree

One of the striking features of our church property when it opened in 1983 was its sitting amongst a grove of giant oaks, with a spring treat of smaller flowering trees. Over the years some of these trees, both the giants and the flowering trees, have had to be removed. The most recent example is the flowering dogwood which graced the right side of the church entrance in the courtyard. Most likely its demise was of human origin, as its root was disturbed during the placement of heating tubing which was installed under the new cement courtyard pad, which was also extended around the drains on each side of the courtyard.



A new flowering dogwood has been planted as a replacement, dedicated to the memory of Dr. Burgess and LuAnne Bills. A plaque under the tree will be added to memorialize the gift. This is the second dogwood planted as a memorial gift. The first stands in the center of the central parkland, given in memory of Jim Naus. A plaque recalling this memorial will also be added under this tree.

Others may similarly wish to consider a replacement tree as a gift to the church in memory of their loved one.  
## Dr. Gerald Marsa

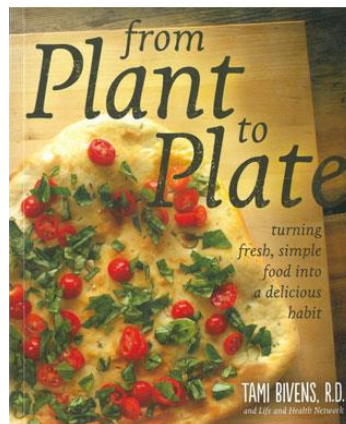
### Summer S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P., which means Scripture/Observation/Application/Prayer, started meeting on June 5 and June 19 @ 2pm after Sack Lunch Sabbaths / Friendship Dinners. If you missed them, join us on July 10 and 24 for our next sessions. Join us as we learn to Pray/Read/Share for a relationship with Jesus! ##



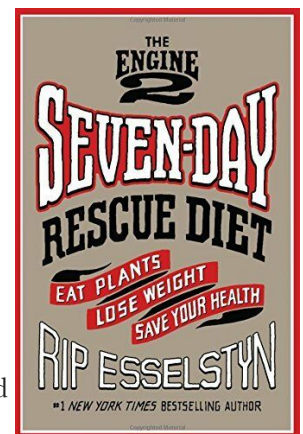
### PlantStrong Books

Everything you need to know to begin cooking a plant-based diet can be found in these two books. From Plant to Plate by Tami Bivens, (available at Advent Source - <https://www.adventsource.org/store/adult-ministries/health-ministries/from-plant-to-plate-38818>) makes eating healthy easier and tastier. Created with freshness, simplicity, and overall wellness in mind, the 100-plus plant based recipes, corresponding cooking videos, and answers to dietary questions were created to



help you transform your health for the long term, starting now. This book also includes short cooking videos accompanying nearly every recipe. Tips on stocking a kitchen with the best ingredients and tools for vegan cooking 21-day meal plan to kick-start your own plant-based lifestyle.

The Engine 2 Seven-Day Rescue Diet sounds like it was written by a Seventh-day Adventist but it's not. It was written by triathlon champion and former Austin firefighter Rip Esselstyn (available at Amazon). The Engine 2 Diet has sold hundreds of thousands of copies and inspired a plant-based food revolution. Featuring endorsements from top medical experts and a food line in Whole Foods Market, Engine 2 is the most trusted name in plant-based eating. Now Esselstyn is



## The Focal Point

presenting a powerful, accelerated new Engine 2 program that his firefighting friends embraced to lose weight (up to 14 pounds), lower total cholesterol (by 32 points on average), drop LDL cholesterol (by 22 points on average), lower triglycerides (by 75 points on average), and lower blood pressure by an average of 10/5 points.

Incorporating more plant based food into your diet is a win-win! For encouragement, would anyone at Toledo First like to start a monthly gathering where we could invite community guests to attend with us highlighting our attempts at implementing more plant based food into our diet? ## Pastor Mike

## Plantstrong People Group

There is interest inside and outside church for simple plant strong meal planning and support. Big thank you and way to go to Joan, Tiffany, Caroline, and Sunita for hosting these monthly gatherings (last Wednesday each month. See schedule below). They will be using their culinary skills to introduce



others to Jesus the Creator of all good food (Genesis 1:29). Invite a friend and join us! Inspire. Encourage. Live. Public welcome. ##

WED JUN 30 @ 7pm  
WED JUL 28 @ 7pm  
WED AUG 25 @ 7pm  
WED SEPT 29 @ 7pm

## What About Fifteen?

Previously this year we welcomed Sheryl, Sara, and Joseph into our church family by baptism / profession of faith. Wouldn't it be a God thing to pray for 12 more? (The most we've ever welcomed in one year since I've been pastor at Toledo First is 15...)

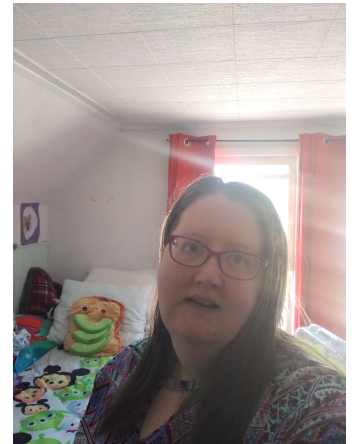
Meet some of our newest members!

Cheryl Atkins is the wife of Cavin. She loves being a grandma and spending as much time as



she can with her precious grandkids. She also enjoys being outdoors and traveling when she can!

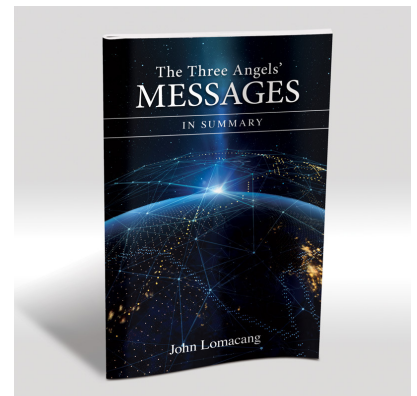
“Hi TF family !!! My name is Sara Fryman and I am 32yrs old and LOVE HORSES & HIPPOS! Learning the love of Jesus through music is something new I've discovered this past year due to coronavirus.



Before becoming a member I joined into [truthlink.org](http://truthlink.org) and it made things like getting to know why we celebrate on Saturday....and what we can do to be better servants for the Lord..a lot clearer...which brings me to an area of the church I feel can be helpful in is singing at the nursing homes when we are permitted....it just blesses my soul...” ##

## New Three Angels Messages Booklet

The day is rapidly approaching when changes underway in our world will make it restrictive to share this gospel. The time is now! Join us in getting this message of the saving grace of Christ to the world.



Pick up the new Three Angels Messages booklet on the table in church to share with your family, friends, and neighbors. ## Pastor Mike

## Men's Fellowship

A new men's group will be meeting the last Sunday / month June 27, July 25, and August 29 at church from 4-6pm. Join us for smoothies and burgers and devotionals based on Psalm 88.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Written by a strong guy named He-Man, his name means “faithful.” But as we shall see, it's obvious

## The Focal Point

the author was suffering and struggling through feelings of unfaithfulness. We'll be studying verses 1-7 on June 27, verses 8-10 on July 25, and verses 11-18 on August 29. So guys, read ahead and huddle up! ##

## Campmeeting Is Back!

Join other Adventists from around Ohio this upcoming July 9 and 10 at beautiful Camp Mohaven and the Mount Vernon Hill Church for a weekend of worship together! Go here for more info and to register for your free lunch <http://www.ohioadventist.org/campmeeting> ##



2021 OHIO CONFERENCE

# Camp Meeting

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 9

6:30-8:30PM | VESPERS SERVICE\*

MOUNT VERNON HILL CHURCH, 535 WOOSTER RD, MOUNT VERNON, OH 43050

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SABBATH, JULY 10

9:30-11:00AM | SABBATH SCHOOL\*

11:15-12:30PM | CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE\*

1:00-2:30PM | LUNCH (PROVIDED FREE W/RSVP)

2:30-4:30PM | MINISTRY & TESTIMONY TIME

5:00-6:00PM | KING'S HERALDS CONCERT

CAMP MOHAVEN, 18744 TURKEY RIDGE RD, DANVILLE, OH 43014

\*CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING PROVIDED

## Faithful Allies

Recently, a high school friend asked me: Why would a loving God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? The Bible gives three reasons. Since June is also LGBTQ Pride Month, you and your family might want to become more familiar with the Scriptural principles in being faithful allies of God and those struggling with same sex attraction. You can read the pastoral response I shared by going to [https://docs.google.com/document/d/11grZ1hS7oeXwKrVbacqqO2k9N3xf2\\_Sq8iziQa5D8E0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11grZ1hS7oeXwKrVbacqqO2k9N3xf2_Sq8iziQa5D8E0/edit) or stop by the church office for a hard copy. ##Pastor Mike

## Wishin' For Mission Well

Spiral wishing wells not only raise money, they act as a "billboard" promoting your charity or project. Created in 1985 by Steve Divnick, an Adventist member of



Letting SDA Church, you'll see these popular wells in zoos, museums and many churches now including ours! The coins we collect will go toward Toledo First mission projects like land we're hoping to purchase in Pakistan to build an Adventist school for boys and girls. ## Pastor Mike

## New Office Manager



Our current Office Manager, Jen Landeros, announced May 18 that she has accepted a new full time job with benefits. We advertised her position in church and received some

wonderful candidates. We are grateful for God's direction in helping us select Audra Butler as our new office manager. She will start training June 15 and complete her training July 15. We thank Jen for her excellent service and are happy she is continuing her Assistant Treasurer duties and Youth Sabbath School teaching at church. Feel free to stop by the office to say hi to Audra when you can. It will take a little time to learn everyone's names and faces!

## Oliver's Covid Testing Outreach Idea July 11

Whether everyone is returning to work, attending an event, or traveling, Oliver Eudela from Toledo First recommends a company called IndiviDx that can provide PCR Covid-19

testing and Antibodies testing for free to our parishioners and the surrounding community.

So if you need testing or would love to share a shift handing out smiles, literature, and invites to church with our community guests, please contact the church office ASAP. We could use your help! ##



# JULY, AUG & SEPT 2021 CALENDAR

*Birthdays*

July 3 Matt Crosby  
 July 5 Craige Rieger  
 July 11 Amanda Schell  
 July 16 Daniel Hall  
 Nicole Warner  
 July 17 Lorraine Poulin  
 July 18 Anne Caulder  
 July 20 Kloey Eichelberger  
 July 21 Heather Smith LaPoint  
 Pam Neal  
 July 24 Jacob Moses  
 July 25 Brian Eichelberger  
 July 26 Jonathan Ashley  
 Veela Burks  
 July 29 Tracie Gustrowsky  
 Dianna Hassen  
 July 30 Amber Hass  
 Brendan Leibengood  
 July 31 Sarah Godie  
 Robert Reams

**Sabbath Events**

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

**JUL 3** Sabbath School & Worship  
**JUL 10** Sabbath School & Worship  
**JUL 17** Sabbath School & Worship  
**JUL 24** Sabbath School & Worship  
**JUL 31** Sabbath School & Worship

**Sundays -**

**JUL 4** Independence Day

**Mondays -** Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**Tuesdays -** Church office open 8am-3pm

**Wednesdays -** Church office open 8am-3pm

**Thursdays -** Church office open 8am - 3pm;  
 Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**Fridays -**



*Birthdays*

August 2 Marcene Marsa  
 August 6 Joshua Fortune  
 August 7 Laura Frey  
 Alex Jessop  
 August 9 Flynn Choti (Moses)  
 August 10 Nolan Hood  
 August 11 Deb Bening  
 Kay Kermode  
 August 14 Lanetta Cross  
 Kim Stanley  
 August 17 Teresa Moses  
 August 19 Chad Rieger  
 August 24 Mary Snowberger  
 August 26 Becky Godie  
 Laura Williams  
 August 27 Mary Ann Osinski  
 Cody Rieger  
 August 31 Cole St. Clair

**Sabbath Events**

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

**AUG 7** Sabbath School & Worship  
**AUG 14** Sabbath School & Worship  
**AUG 21** Sabbath School & Worship  
**AUG 28** Sabbath School & Worship

**Sundays**

**Mondays -** Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**Tuesdays -** Church office open 8am - 3pm

**Wednesdays -** Church office is open 8am - 3pm

**Thursdays -** Church office is open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**Fridays -**



*Birthdays*

Sept 2 Shirley Smith  
 Sept 4 Nicole Rieger  
 Sept 6 Pastor Mike  
 Claire Jakubowski  
 Joyce Jenkins  
 Sept 10 Vickie Wintersmith  
 Sept 14 Glendon Cross  
 Joy Reams  
 Sept 16 Troy Leibengood  
 Sept 18 Camile Sluder  
 Sept 19 Pam Frey  
 Sept 20 Shawn Flack  
 Sept 21 Karen Conkle  
 Sept 22 Andrea Orr  
 Elaine Mitchell  
 Sept 23 Gloria Clark  
 Sept 27 Emily Bills  
 Luann Ostrander  
 Sept 29 Al Landeros

**Sabbath Events**

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

**SEP 4** Sabbath School & Worship  
**SEP 11** Sabbath School & Worship  
**SEP 18** Sabbath School & Worship  
**SEP 25** Sabbath School & Worship

**Sundays**

**Mondays -** Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**SEP 6** Labor Day

**Tuesdays -** Church office open 8am - 3pm

**SEP 28** Church business meeting

**Wednesdays -** Church office is open 8am - 3pm

**Thursdays -** Church office is open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

**Fridays -**

