



# THE SPIRE

## Special Dates:

- **Kick-Off Sunday (with lunch!)**  
September 11, after worship
- **Prayer Service for Healing**  
September 11, 7:30 p.m.
- **Women's Retreat**  
October 7-9
- **Movie Night - The Way**  
October 8
- **Facing the Inevitable Adult Ed Series**  
Sundays in October
- **Amor Ministries Potluck**  
October 14
- **Church Work Day**  
October 1

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*From the Pastor,  
Rev. David G.  
Watermulder*

## Church Counter-Culture



I was sitting in the Fireside Room recently and talking with our New Members class about our life together at PCLG. And in that session, they went around the room and told some of their stories. Where they grew up, how they came to faith, and what brought them to our church at this time.

And I mentioned to them how odd it can seem, in our day and age and in the place where we live, for people to be coming forward and making a commitment to be part of a church family.

Don't get me wrong, I'm glad they are here! I think it's important and life-giving to have a spiritual home and something that is bigger than yourself. But, the fact of the matter is, it's also counter-cultural.

According to a study by the Barna Group, church attendance in the Bay Area is 30% lower than the US average. So, that means that while it may still be the "norm" for people in Salt Lake City or Birmingham, Alabama to move to

a town, find a church and attend every week, here where we live, things are different.

There is no "expectation" from your neighbors or most of your friends that you would go to church. It's unlikely that it will help you in your job, or

in your social standing in the community. One of the big shifts that is happening in our country is that there is no longer a "perceived advantage" to being part of a church.

So, why are we here? Why are you here? What draws you into being connected with the church family here at PCLG? How are you fed or challenged? How do you feel called to serve or give or help?

I was talking with a young man recently who told me why he goes to church. He said that he first came to church for a funeral service when his grandmother died. And it was a beautiful service and the preacher did a good job and all was well. But that didn't make him start to think about God.

And then he took a family trip to Europe. And they toured the historic capitals and went to Rome and even

*(continued on page 2)*

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### **Director of Music**

Michael Taylor  
michael.taylor@pclg.org

(continued from page 1) visited the Sistine Chapel. And he said that it was a beautiful place, everything was so glorious. But it didn't make him start to think about God.

And then he got sick. And he got really sick. And there wasn't anything beautiful or peaceful or hopeful about it. But in the depths of that experience, he started to think about who God might be and what faith in God might mean for him.

As we move into this Fall season, I want to encourage you in your life and faith. Our life together as a church may be kind of "counter-cultural." It may seem unusual to some of your neighbors if they hear about it. It may also be inconvenient at times, when you have kids' soccer games or the local coffee shop calling your name.

But I believe that God calls us into faith that cannot just be lived out on our own. We are called into a life with God that connects us with others. This is the place where we can learn and grow. This is the place where we can ask questions and seek wisdom. This is the place, when "things fall apart," as they do sometimes, where we will be met by grace, mercy and love.

The grace, mercy and love that we share as a church comes directly from our source in Jesus Christ. In the pages of this newsletter, you will be able to read about all sorts of groups, projects and opportunities for you to connect with God and God's people in the months ahead.

So, keep being counter-cultural. Keep being strange! As they say in the 12-Step recovery community, "keep coming back, it works!" See you soon.

Peace,  
*Pastor Dave*

*Sundays at 10 a.m.  
September 11-October 30*

**FEARless**

*a sermon series in eight parts*



*Ephesians 3 & 4 - Rooted in Friendship*

*October 7-9 at Mission Springs in Scotts Valley.*

\$135 per person for full weekend (Saturday only option is available for \$35). Scholarships available.

We will explore deeper connections to God and one another with time for worship, learning, reflection, conversations, relaxation in the outdoors, and games.

Our speaker, Patti Pierce, founder of Wellspring in Menlo Park, will teach together with Pastor Erica on our friendship with God and each other. Patti and Erica have a deep connection of ministry and friendship for over 10 years. Rita Hoegel will lead our worship.

We will gather for dinner on Friday night to begin our weekend and end with breakfast and worship on Sunday. Check in begins at 4 pm Friday night.

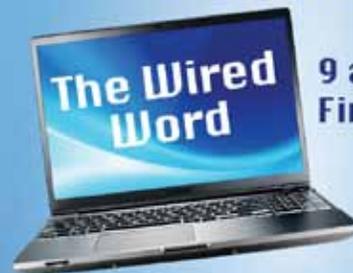
## Grove Groups

### FALL SERIES - A STUDY OF MOSES

To sign up or for more information, please contact small groups Elder Dave Heacock at [grovegroups@pclg.org](mailto:grovegroups@pclg.org)



## Sunday Morning Bible Study



9 a.m. in the Fireside Room

## Prayer Service -for- Healing

Do you need prayers for physical, mental, or emotional healing for yourself or someone close to you? If you want to take your prayers for healing to the next level, come and experience our Prayer Service for Healing this fall. It will be led by Julie Lasher, a member of PCLG staff who does Visitation Ministry, and held on 4 Sunday evenings this fall at 7:30 pm in the chapel. Dates are September 11, October 9, November 6 and December 4. Please contact Julie with any questions at 408/656-8419 or [julie.lasher@pclg.org](mailto:julie.lasher@pclg.org).

Our Sunday morning Bible Study will resume on September 18. This year we are using *The Wired Word* curriculum which is based on articles that have appeared in publications or on the web during the previous week. This was very popular last year. Students will receive the lesson to be studied by email on the Friday before we meet and can review it if they desire. As in the past, this is a drop-in Bible Study and it is not required that you read the lesson before we meet. On Sunday morning, we will look at the suggested Bible verses and discuss the lesson. If you don't have email, you can still attend. Everyone is invited. We meet in the Fireside Room at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. For more information, or to receive the lesson by email, contact Mary Jane Humphrey, [maryjhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:maryjhumphrey@comcast.net).



# Children's Ministry

## Dear PCLG Families –

We are busy preparing and planning in Children's Ministries – getting the classrooms ready for Kickoff Sunday, training our dedicated teachers, finalizing lesson plans, trying to create the ideal space for your children to experience God. However, the truth is God's Place is just one of the many places your child can experience God, and our lessons are only one SMALL piece to help shape their very BIG growing faith.

This fall I encourage you to make space for your child to experience God at home. Ugh – I can hear the groans – one more thing on the to do list. I get it. I too am the parent of two young children and I fall short every week on encouraging these opportunities. Together, this season let's remind our children to open their Bibles as part of their reading time, ask them about something they learned in God's Place, have them locate their memory verse in the Bible and share it with you, talk to them in the car about a time they felt uneasy at school and how they might turn to God in that unsettling time, offer to pray for them before a big test or tryout, connect with them and share how you have experienced God in your week.

As parents we are their teachers. Our children MUST view us living and sharing our faith in order to live and share their own.

I would love to hear from you this fall and how you are making these connections in your home, and I will be sure to share what's working in ours.

With love,

Lauren Froman

Director of Children's Ministries

### Important Dates

**September 11th – Kick-off Sunday:** Children will start in their new classrooms! **After Worship - Food, fellowship and fun!** Join us for a football-themed Kick-off. *Have your children (and yourself!) wear their favorite football jersey to church!* There will be games set up, face painting and a balloon artist. Plus don't forget...the Kona Ice Truck!

**October 7th – 9th -Women's Retreat**

**December 10th – Parents Day Out:** Mark your calendars now and enjoy an afternoon to holiday shop, gift wrap, grab lunch, go on a hike...whatever your heart desires for 3 hours! Children up to 5th grade able to attend. Youth helpers are always welcome please contact Lisa McKibbin if you have a middle school or high school student who would like to help.

### On-line Volunteer Sign up

*Sign up TODAY to teach this fall. Using "Sign-up Genius" makes it easy for volunteers to choose dates that best fit their schedule. The program is easy to use. You simply go to the PCLG website under children's ministry and there is a link to the online schedule.*

*THANK YOU – To those of you who have signed up already.*

*The children and I really appreciate your support and service to this ministry.*



## Youth News

### *Looking Back*

Just like every kid, I look forward to the change of Summer. As we have for many summers, we replaced middle school youth group on Sunday nights with weekly day trips around the Bay Area. We went to Pt. Lobos & Moss Landing, Castle Rock & Big Basin, Oakland and Pescadero. We ate seafood, stadium food, ice cream, fancy macaroni & cheese, and burritos, of course. We listened to far too much Taylor Swift. The tight bonds and memories from these trips last. Carlo and I (Steve) went on one to Pt. Reyes when he was going into 9th grade.

Some of our middle school students were also able to spend a week (or two) at Westminster Woods for summer camp. Ethan and I drove them up and stayed a few nights. Two of our regular youth staff volunteers, Forrest Groth and Mallory Moore, were lead counselors at the Woods this Summer, working and leading groups of middle school and high school students for 6 weeks. They were tired at the end of it.

With our high school students, we made our biggest splash with our annual camping retreat, “Re-tramping.” The weekend started with a large group lectio divina conversation and gradually went smaller and smaller until students were on their own in the Word in the woods. But that’s not all we did. Disc golf, corn hole, giant jenga and unusual crafts are important elements of the Re-tramping experience. Restful and meaningful.

In early August, we had a “goodbye seniors” night where most of us shed some tears listening to advice and singing the themes from every L.O.G. retreat their class was a part of (8 retreats!). That night we also reluctantly let Maria Schroeder retire from the youth staff after 7 years, which was just as hard as saying goodbye to our younger friends.

### *Looking Forward*

We are looking forward to a year of questions being answered. New students, new leaders, new discussions & new youth staff.

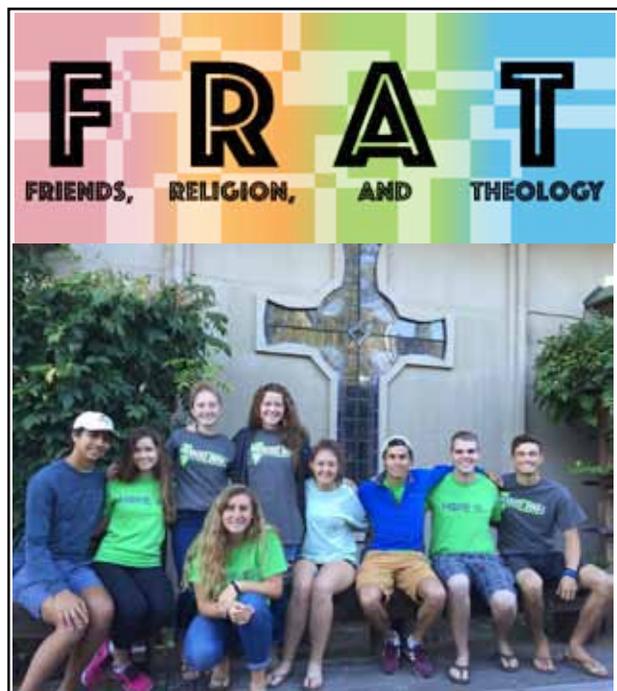
Our bible study time in the high school group will interweave Genesis & Exodus which we’ll read chronologically with New Testament texts taken from the lectionary. I’m eager to see how this new group of kids interacts with these classic stories.

With middle school students, we’ll be starting up Sunday school again and SNiFF, our Sunday night youth group, on Sept. 11. Our SNiFF group read the first six chapters of Mark’s Gospel last year and will pick up where we left off. We do play and sing more than we read and discuss, but last year’s conversations were some of the best in all my years at PCLG and I’m hopeful we continue the trend!

Lastly, I’m pleased to have Forrest and Mallory joining the high school volunteer team as well as PCLG newcomer, Lesslie Verduzco. With Erik, Keith and now Maria gone since two summers ago, it will be great to have new adult mentors in the mix.

Love, Steve

[fainer@gmail.com](mailto:fainer@gmail.com)



If you would like information or to be kept in the loop about future meetings and activities of our College Ministry group, FRAT (Friends, Religion, And Theology), please contact Jackson Bordelon at [jbordelon2222@gmail.com](mailto:jbordelon2222@gmail.com). FRAT meets about once a month during the school year for a shared meal, Bible study and fellowship. During longer breaks from school, they meet more to catch people home from school!



# Music Notes



## From *the* Music Director

### Choir returns

The choir returns from hiatus for the kickoff service at PCLG. This year the choir will be singing lots of new and exciting pieces. The choir will bring to worship an eclectic mix music reflecting all traditions from the Renaissance to Contemporary. With an eye towards a music program concert in June of 2017, movements from Franz Schubert’s famous Mass in G will be sung throughout the entire year.

We are looking forward to working with the Brass, bells and strings again this year both for church Holidays as well as on a monthly basis.

Joyful Voices and The Youth Choir will be singing for services periodically through the year. Lauren Froman, our Director of Children’s ministries, is now including music as part of the Sunday school curriculum.

As we begin our new church season, we look forward to serving the glory of God in worship through music. All of the music programs at PCLG are always looking for new members to support that joyful endeavor. Don’t hesitate to contact one of our music worship leaders if have ever thought about dusting off that guitar or want to share your singing voice or other instrumental talents.

*All the best!*

*Michael Taylor, director of music  
michaeltaylor@comcast.net*

### Worship Band!

I can hardly believe it’s been more than a year since I joined the PCLG staff as the Worship Band leader! If you feel called to serve with the worship band either vocally or instrumentally, please contact me at [Rita.hoegel@pclg.org](mailto:Rita.hoegel@pclg.org)  
Many blessings!  
Rita



We will be watching “The Way,” starring Martin Sheen

5pm - JoAnn & Jim Trembath share their journey on the Camino de Santiago

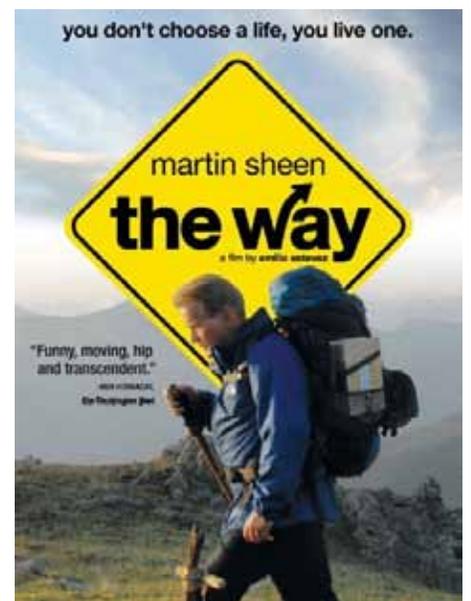
6pm - Potluck dinner

7pm - Movie

Saturday October 8, 5 p.m.

[is your wife at the retreat? Join us]

A-H salad/side dish  
I-R main dish  
S-Z dessert



# *Facing The Inevitable*



*A Christian Approach to Death & Dying*  
*A Series Held Each Sunday in October at 11:30 a.m.*

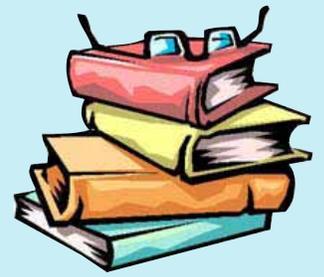
With a team of experts, PCLG will be hosting a Sunday series focused on a Christian approach to death and dying. You may come to one or all five after service starting October 2, 2016. The goal is to provide critical information, on difficult topics, in a consumable way.

Session titles are as follows;

- Dying isn't Just for the Old and Sick--Let's Talk About It
- Burial and Cemetery Options--What You Need Know
- Planning Your Own Memorial--It's a Gift to the Living
- Death, the Law and You
- Grief, Hospice and Dying with Dignity

Topic leaders include: Thomas J. Barger, Attorney at law; Rev. Jack C. Longley; Pastor David Watermulder; Dr. Julie Lasher, Ph.D. and Mazy R. Ahiers, along with a special guest speaker.

Signups will take place during the coffee hour on Sunday, September 18 and September 25, 2016. You're also welcome to drop in if your schedule allows. If you have additional questions, please email Mazy Ahiers at [aimee9292@yahoo.com](mailto:aimee9292@yahoo.com).



## *Bookends*

PCLG's Book Club meets once a month, and new folks are always welcome!

Contact Sue Hansen for more information:

[paigeturner007@hotmail.com](mailto:paigeturner007@hotmail.com).

### **September**

Film~ Albert Nobbs  
starring Glenn Close

### **October**

Nine  
by Jeffrey Toobin

### **November**

The Wright Brothers  
by David McCullough

### **December**

Ella Minnow Pea  
by Mark Dunn

### **January**

The Lost Garden  
by Helen Humphreys

### **February**

Swans of 5th Ave  
by Melanie Benjamin

### **March**

The Secret Chord  
by Geraldine Brooks

### **April**

On the Move  
by Oliver Sachs



# Mission Minute

## Summer Local Mission Week

Please enjoy these few pictures from our Summer Mission Week!



### Amor Ministries Church potluck

Friday October 14th. 6-8pm  
Bring a salad or dessert.

Meet Steve Horrex, VP of International Development at Amor. Come ask questions about the Hacienda Property in Tijuana, which Amor is planning to purchase and use as their main campsite and agricultural center.

*The mission committee meets (usually) the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. For more information on projects and programs, email Elder Martha Wills at [mtswills@gmail.com](mailto:mtswills@gmail.com).*

Sophia's Layette Workdays  
September 30 & October 1  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Please RSVP to Colleen ((408) 971-6164) or sign up online ([pclg.org/signup](http://pclg.org/signup)) to help with the layette program, a long-standing mission of PCLG.

# Financial Report

Dear friends,

Our summer has come and gone and we are headed into our busy fall season. I hope this finds you well rested and excited about new things happening in your lives.

At the end of July, PCLG is running a deficit, but it is lower than we projected in our budget. Our year-to-date income is on budget and our expenses are slightly under budget, leaving us with a deficit of \$9,777 at this time.

While it is not unusual for us to run a deficit in the summer when everyone is traveling, this might be a good time to see where you are in your giving and get caught up. In July I had half-year giving statements available for pickup in the Narthex. If you missed getting yours or would like another one, please contact me. My email address is [kristy.cole@pclg.org](mailto:kristy.cole@pclg.org), and the office phone is 408-356-6156. I'm on extension 21.

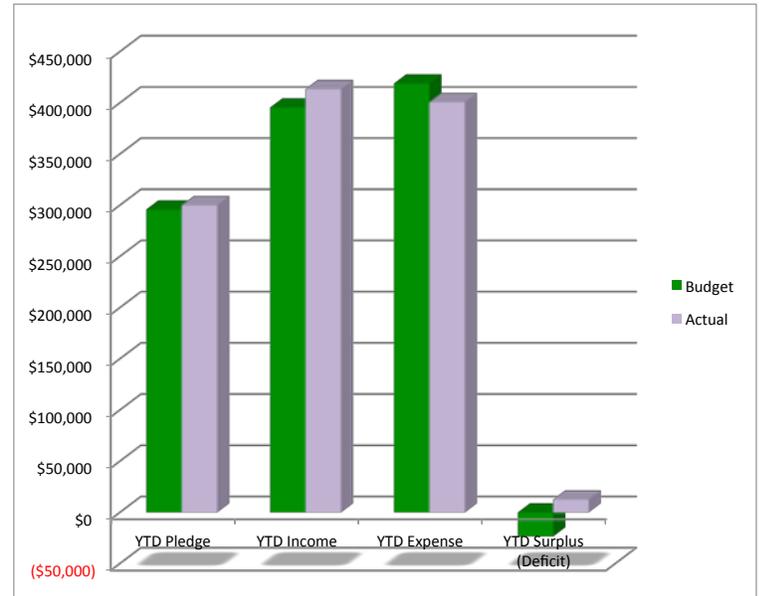
All pledge and giving information is kept confidential. You may pledge and give online at [www.pclg.org](http://www.pclg.org).

Many thanks for your generosity to PCLG.

In Christ,

*Kristy Cole*

Church Administrator



## News

Our school year began on August 29th and we have a full house! We continue to be blessed by the support of the community, the GFP Board and PCLG.

### 2016-2017 GFP Staff

Cory Mullins, *Director*

Vanessa Chavira-Manrique, *Parent Support Lead  
& 2's Teacher*

Leah Stilts, *Admin Lead & Office Support*

Meredith Shelly, *Staff Liaison Lead & Pre-K Teacher*

Rachel Esquibel, *Pre-K Teacher*

Stacey Quon-Seaton, *3's Teacher*

Christina Ford, *3's Teacher*

Shannon Cole, *Staff Support and Substitute*

Katie Murphy, *Substitute*

Nicole Hayden, *Substitute (Currently on leave)*

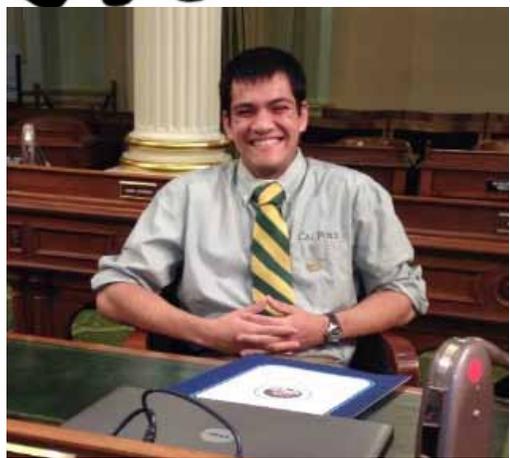
Thank you for your prayers as we begin a new adventure!

Blessings,

Cory Mullins, Growing FootPrints Director [growingfootprints@yahoo.com](mailto:growingfootprints@yahoo.com).

# On the Bulletin Board

Have a short note for the next issue of *The Spire*?  
Submit your bulletin board items to  
[carlo@pclg.org](mailto:carlo@pclg.org)



Are you looking for a Tutor; now that the new school year has started? Look no further, newly baptized PCLG member Jacob Gamble has started his own tutoring private practice and is taking on new students. Jacob has a BS in Physics and a minor in English from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is prepared to tutor anything ranging from Literature, English, Mathematics and the hard Sciences to SAT and ACT Prep. For more information text or call Jacob at (408) 439-2676.



## CHURCH WORKDAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 2016  
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. followed by a lunch!

Please join us for this special day to help spruce up the Church. Afterwards we'll gather for a lunch in the Social Hall and continue our Church fellowship time. There will be a contest to see which group can have the best turn out! We

want to CHALLENGE the following groups to show in LARGE NUMBERS:

MATES, BUOYS AND GULLS, VOYAGERS, CHOIR, WOW, GROVE GROUPS, YOUTH, JUNIOR HIGH, SENIOR HIGH, FRIENDS-FOOD & FELLOWSHIP.

You'll find projects for all ages in and around the church --- the Sanctuary, kitchen, Sophia's layette --- There will also be gardening, landscaping projects and general maintenance.

Wear your grubbies, bring gloves, & plan to have a great time!

Let's see what a difference we can make!

Thank you, Facilities Committee



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Let's Connect!

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408-963-8020

[Holly@HollysHoneys.com](mailto:Holly@HollysHoneys.com)

# PCLG at-a-Glance

## WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Adult Education	9 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary	10 a.m.
"God's Place" Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Time	11 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.
Theology on Tap	1st Monday	8 p.m.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Friends, Food, Fellowship	2nd Saturday	6 p.m.
The Voyagers	3rd Saturday Fellowship & Service	
Buoys & Gulls	Various	Various
Mates	Various	Various
Senior Stretch & Movement	Wed/Fri	9:30 a.m.
Happy Paint	Thursday	10:00 a.m.
Bookends	Various	Various
CoveKnit Group	Wednesday	7 p.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Home AM Groups	3rd Thursday	9:30 a.m.
PCLG AM ("WoW") Group	Thursday	10 a.m.
PCLG Noon Group	2nd Thursday	12 p.m.

## COVENANT GROUPS

Baker/Attwood Covt.	Monday	10:00 a.m.
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## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Los Cascabeles	Tuesday	6 p.m.
Chancel Brass	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Worship Band	Thursday	7 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Chancel Strings	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Joyful Voices	Sunday	11:30 a.m.
Youth Choir	Sunday	6:30 p.m.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

Middle School SNiFF	Sunday	5 p.m.
High School YG	Sunday	7:30 p.m.

*Don't forget—Deadline  
for the October SPIRE  
is 2:00 P.M. Thursday,  
September 22.*



## *September Birthdays*

1	David Graff	19	Alan Baker
2	Steve Gilbert	21	Leslie Kennedy
4	Ted Lusk		Jacob Froman
6	Doralyn Stephenson	22	Alex Brodsky
8	Tony Herz	23	Diane Egli
9	Dana Parker		Bobby Nelson
	Kira Rohrer	26	Martha Beattie
16	Tricia Herz		

## *Anniversaries*

4	Alan & Gloria Baker
8	Alan & Colleen Hattman
13	Ted & Jean Lusk
20	Steve & Laurel Gilbert
26	Colin Clancy & Lydia Terrill
28	Bill & Joyce Strandberg



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**KICK OFF**

*Sunday*

*September 11*