



# THE SPIRE

## Special Dates:

- **Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Officers**  
September 3
- **Session Retreat**  
September 8-9
- **Kick Off Sunday**  
September 10
- **Family Movie Night**  
October 14
- **Women's Retreat**  
October 20-22
- **Beer & Hymns**  
October 28

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

## *A Single Step*



Here's a riddle. How does a journey of 10,405 miles, 9 time zones, 3 continents, and 32 hours of travel time begin? Answer: with a single step!

This September, I am finally taking that first step, and traveling half-way around the world to begin my Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) studies in Cape Town, South Africa. As many of you know, this program is designed for pastors to study and learn while we work, so I'll be doing double duty for a few years to come!

I will be part of a cohort of pastor/students focused on Leadership and Global Perspectives. We will be spending time this September learning from the local church in Cape Town, hearing about the complex history there, and considering how to lead churches in a way that fits into the local context.

I will be away for about 3 weeks in total and will return in the first week of October. While I'm gone PCLG will be in great hands. The Elders of the church will all be in

place to lead their ministry areas, our great staff is ready to run with their programs and Pastor Erica will take the lead in my absence. I would love your prayers for me during my travels and studies, it has been over a decade since I was a student, so I'm anxious for how it will go!

Here at PCLG we are set for an amazing Fall together and I want to highlight a few things as we begin. Sunday, September 10th will be our Kick-Off Sunday and I hope you and your family will be there! In the morning service, the Chancel Choir will be back, we will welcome our New Members class, and we will Ordain and Install our new Elders and Deacons. After worship that day, everyone is invited to the back of the campus for a fun time of food and fellowship. We'll have a great lunch, activities for kids, and Kona Shave Ice. It will be a great way to start the new season.

This October is the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation (when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the castle door at Wittenberg Castle church).  
*(continued on page 2)*

# *PCLG Staff*

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## **Director of Music**

Michael Taylor  
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(continued from page 1) To help us learn more about our history and apply the lessons of our Reformed faith to today, we have a number of special opportunities.

In the 9am Adult Education hour each Sunday in October, we will be led in a study by various clergy who are part of PCLG (including my Dad!). They will focus on the distinctives of our faith. Each Sunday in worship, we will use prayers from the Reformers and learn more about who they were. Our Grove Groups this Fall will study the scripture that shaped the Reformation—we'll read the same texts that Martin Luther and John Calvin read as they struggled to change the church.

On Saturday, October 28th at 8pm at PCLG we will host a "Beer and Hymns" event in the Social Hall. This is a chance to sing some of the great Reformation hymns (led by our PCLG music staff), to learn about their history and context (our teacher will be Dr. Bob Bowles), and also to enjoy some homebrew beer (made by PCLG new member Drew Achabal). I hope this will be a fun way for you to invite a friend or just come out to learn and enjoy some fellowship.

The truth is, that I could go on and on about the great things that are coming up this Fall for our church. In this newsletter, you will hear about some of them and I hope your interest will be piqued, as you sense how God is leading you to take part in all that is coming up. I look forward to the journey to South Africa, but also to the continued journey together as a church this Fall.

Peace,  
*Pastor Dave*



Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley

**October 20-22**

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

The retreat will start with dinner on Friday night and end with breakfast and worship on Sunday, but we will gladly welcome Saturday-only attendees who can't get away for the whole weekend.

Registration is open now! Please see [pclg.org/womens-retreat](http://pclg.org/womens-retreat) for more info and to sign up!

## Updates From Our Seminararians

Did you know that PCLG has four seminararians in the community? Watch *The Spire* for occasional updates from these four (and more in the future!) as they journey toward pastoral ministry.



Today as I write this I am preparing for the final exam of my final course at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. God willing, all will go well, and I will complete this course and graduate with a Masters in Divinity. My remaining tasks will be to complete three more ordination exams and my chaplaincy rotation—the latter which ends in December. It has been a long but blessed journey. I am deeply grateful for all the prayers and support I have received from PCLG along the way. I pray that wherever God leads me in the future I am able to do

honor to the generous hearts of PCLG.

*-Susan McDougall, PCLG member and seminary student*



My first memories of loving God's Word take me back to the late 1970's in Mrs. Boender's Sunday School class. When a unit was over, I asked her for all the extra supplies so that I could go home and play school with them. Perhaps it is no surprise that one of the most rewarding parts of my job at San Jose Christian School is teaching the 8th Grade Bible class. Last November God started stirring a desire in me to pursue a M.A. in Biblical Studies. After a few months of prayer, conversation, and prompting, I decided to accept placement in the Western Theological Seminary Distance Learning Program. I begin this fall with

an Old Testament Survey course as well as a course entitled "The Practice of Counsel and Care." I knew I was hooked when I got the book list in July and had five of the books read before the online orientation began last week. God continues to confirm His leading and provision to me. I am grateful to the many of you who have wished me well, prayed for me, or sent me a kind note. I anticipate much learning, growth, and challenge in the days ahead, and am so excited to be walking forward in faith as God leads me in this great adventure.

*-Jennifer Baham, PCLG Organist and seminary student*



## Bookends

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

Questions/info?  
Contact Sue Hansen at

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

### September

A Man Called Ove  
by Fredrik Backman

### October

TBA

### November

My Stroke of Insight  
by Jill Taylor

### December

Breakfast at Tiffany's  
by Truman Capote

### January 2018

Hillbilly Elegy  
by JD Vance



# Children's Ministry

It seems like so often we enter busy season after busy season and here we are in the midst of another – adjusting to school schedules, homework, practice schedules, and striving for a home cooked meal on the table each night (I think lately, though, I am on a first name basis with DoorDash!). In the midst of life's busyness I look forward to seeing your families on Sundays for a chance to pause in God's presence, and offer thanks and praise for how God is working in our lives. I am excited to share what we have planned in the coming months for our children and families! -Lauren Froman, *Director of Children's Ministry*

## NEW CURRICULUM

This year we will be sharing a new curriculum for our Kindergarten & 1st Grade class as well as our 2nd-5th Graders. They will be "Exploring the Bible in One Year" from Genesis to Revelation. It offers interactive ways to share the Bible stories, games, crafts, experiments and endless fun. Most importantly children will begin to learn how these stories in the Bible apply to their own lives.

## FELLOWSHIP

**10/14** – Movie Night - 5:30 p.m.  
(dinner, treats and movie)  
**11/18** – Parents Night Out/  
Kids Night In  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
**12/3** – Advent Craft Faire  
**12/10** – Cocoa & Cookies  
(*decorating cookies after worship*)

## CONNECT

Questions, comments, concerns, need to connect? Lauren Froman –  
pclglauren@gmail.com

## Opportunities for Children to Serve in Worship

### JOYFUL VOICES CHILDRENS CHOIR (2nd-5th Graders)

Music is a powerful way for us to worship. Joyful Voices offers children 2nd-5th Grade with the opportunity to work with our Music Director, Michael Taylor, and prepare a song to be shared as part of worship.

This fall we invite ALL 2nd-5th graders to be part of Joyful Voices, lifting their voices to God. Practices will be held in October. Please see schedule below:

**10/8, 10/15, 10/22** – Practice after worship (30 minutes)

**10/29** – Joyful Voices will sing during Time For Young Disciples

### ACOLYTES (3rd -8th Graders)

This is another way for children to be a valuable part of our worship. Acolytes assist by lighting the communion table candles at the beginning of the service. You can sign up your child on Sign Up Genius on the church website.

### Christmas Eve Pageant

We are trying a new approach, inspired by the English Anglican "Lessons and Carols" tradition of using a pageant as an engaging way to teach the biblical narrative. We will have roles for our 2nd-5th graders as well as older youth. Those in Kindergarten & 1st grade will be cast as angels or shepherds and our Preschoolers will be cast as lambs. These age groups will not require extensive rehearsal.

Practice times:

after worship until 12:15 – **11/19, 12/3**

after worship until 12:30 – **12/10, 12/17**

2:30 rehearsal for 4:00 service – **12/24**



## Amazon Smile(s) on PCLG!

*submitted by PCLG member Ted Bancroft*

Are you a frequent buyer of products on amazon.com? Did you know you can help out PCLG financially without any cost, penalty or inconvenience to you at the same time?

The Amazon Smile program is a parallel Amazon web-site that offers all the same products, at the same prices as the original Amazon web-site, yet will donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to the charity of your choice.

It's easy to do. Simply sign-on to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) using your same login and password you use for amazon.com. When you sign on to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for the first time, you will see a spot to identify the charity of your choice. Type in "Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos" into the search box, then select it from the search results. You will see a confirmation that the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos is now your selected charity!

Now the important part. From now on, when you want to buy something on Amazon, sign on to the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) URL/web-site (NOT amazon.com) —only purchases made on the smile.amazon.com qualify for the 0.5% donation to PCLG. It is easiest to make (or change) a bookmark, alias or shortcut to Amazon to link to the smile.amazon.com web-site, so you don't even need to remember this new web-site for amazon purchases.

Now 0.5% isn't a lot of money— my first smile.amazon purchase for 5 quarts of oil costing \$15.97 only generated \$0.08 for PCLG. But if we get lots of sign-ups it will add up! Plus you don't have to be a member of PCLG to designate us as your charity— maybe your kids, siblings, relatives, or friends who are big amazon customers are willing to help. You don't even have to be a person to sign-up! If you make business purchases on Amazon, you can designate PCLG as a selected charity and purchase through smile.amazon.com.

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## **Grove Groups Groups forming now!**

Grove Groups – what a wonderful way to grow in faith at PCLG. Grove Groups started around 2013, and has expanded to 9 different groups across the PCLG congregation. And we would love to add more this fall! Groups are a mix of people with similar age/stage-of-life backgrounds and includes new and long-time members of PCLG. We meet at the church or in people's homes, review and discuss scripture chosen by Pastor Dave and share a potluck meal, nothing fancy. The great things about Grove Groups are discussing the bible, growing in our faith in today's world and sharing with each other. We have groups comprised of singles, others comprised with couples and yet others where just one spouse decides to attend. We work to keep the groups small – typically 8-14 people max. This helps facilitate the discussion and gives everyone a chance to participate. For this Fall, our Grove Group lessons will be around the scripture readings that helped shape Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. The series, titled "Shaping the Reformation –

the scripture that moved Martin Luther" helps us better understand our Protestant traditions based on scripture. Of course, there will be some brief background information for those of us that are well beyond High School Social Studies classes.

Outside of showing up to the Grove Group meeting, no other work is needed. The scripture is straight-forward and the follow-on discussion proves to be very interesting. The feedback to this "no hassle" approach to bible study has been excellent. There is something in this for everyone – so please contact me at [grovegroups@pclg.org](mailto:grovegroups@pclg.org) to sign up. If you are already in a Grove Group – don't worry. Your group leaders should be reaching out to everyone by mid-September. Come on and let's grow our Grove Groups together!





## Music Notes



### From *the* Music Director

Wow! Here we are again in September, ready to kick-off another wonderful year at PCLG. The summer was full of activities and the Chancel Choir sang twice along with the Youth Choir and many other wonderful musical experiences for Sunday morning worship.

#### **New Organist**

Many of you may recall that our tremendous organist, Carolyn Pryor retired this past June and we've had the very talented David Hegarty filling as part of our organist triumvirate until we found a permanent replacement. We now have a new addition to the staff of organists at PCLG. Katie Gueorguieva comes with a tremendous background in keyboard. Originally from Bulgaria, she has her Masters of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She lives in Almaden with her husband and daughter. We are all looking forward to working with Katie and getting to know even her better.

#### **Bell Choir Director**



Bell choir director Ruth Fong retired this summer. She took over from Norma Rose and has done a marvelous job of leading our bell choir. We are now searching for a new bell choir director. Please contact me if you know of anyone that might be interested in the position. In the meantime, the bell choir will continue to practice on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m.

#### **Music in September**

I am pleased to begin working with the choir on a regular basis again. We begin rehearsals again on September 7th. We are always looking for new members of the choir, so if you've been thinking about perhaps joining the choir this year, you will be welcomed with open arms. Music reading skills are not necessary. Contact me if you are interested and I will get you more information.

#### **Choir Retreat**

This September, we will be having a choir retreat. During a choral retreat, the members of the choir spend a Saturday working through music and honing their vocal and musical skills in anticipation of the coming year. Along with singing, we have fellowship and an opportunity to come to know each other better. This will be our third retreat.

I am very much looking forward to our upcoming season at PCLG. This year we have the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday. I spend most of the summer planning for the year and it is very gratifying to see the inspirational music and worship come together. Thanks to all of you for your generous support and loving spirit.

Yours In Christ,

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



## Youth News

What a Summer!! We saw Venus with our bare eyes during the day, shooting stars above Mount Hamilton, the inside of an outdoor gear manufacturer's warehouse, classic 80s movies, an adorable youth staffer newborn, the return of college friends and recent graduates, a gloriously refurbished youth center and an eclipse to cap it all off! We ate brisket, tacos, pho, falafel, boba, cobb salads, ice cream (8 or 9 times?), hots dogs and hamburgers every other Wednesday and of course, hobo pockets while camping.

The PCLG youth community knows how to have fun in the Summer, giving thanks to God for friendships we grow in these hot months. Thank you also to the volunteer teams that make things happen and the Facilities crew recreating our space.

Looking ahead to the school year, 2017—2018 will be a doozy. This Fall we're finishing up our study of Mark's Gospel with the middle schoolers which we began back in 2015 and we're focusing in on a vision for God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven, in our high school youth group. We'll be offering our confirmation class for high school students this school year, starting at the end of September, and we'll continue our long-running L.O.G. retreat program and Mexico mission trips.

It takes a village, sometimes more than a village, to raise adult Christians and we in the youth ministry realm can certainly use your help.

If you're interested in a very helpful one-time sort of thing, please consider cooking a vegetarian dinner for our youth staff team on Sunday evenings between the middle school and high school youth group meeting times. We're a group of about 12 "adults" plus two small kids and we would love to eat with you and get to know you better. Please contact Essie Asher if you're feeling led to show off your cooking.

If you're interested in growing your own faith through the challenge of mentoring another, consider offering to mentor a confirmation class student this school year. We'll meet on Sundays once a month after worship as a whole class while also encouraging other meet-ups between mentors and students. I don't mean to sound too hyperbolic, but our kids are the greatest.

If you're still reading, you're bold. Allow me to lay down a true test of faith. One Sunday a month, we could use a third pair of teachers for our Middle School Sunday school class which meets during worship. You never quite know where a lesson and conversation will go when you encounter these lovable scamps, but you learn and laugh a lot along the way. Contact me, (Steve Fainer), for confirmation or Sunday school info.

Lastly, but not leastly, something for everyone. Please pray for us. Pray that our students would learn to trust in the refuge of our Lord through the storms of adolescence and life, becoming beacons of light and peaceful community in a world of division. Pray that we adults serving them may model such things well.

Please Contact Elder Essie Asher  
(seasher@comcast.net)

If YOU are available to prepare a Meal for our Youth Ministry Staff on a Sunday Evening between Middle School and High School youth groups. Thank you in advance for your help!

Steve Fainer, Director of Youth Ministries  
fainer@gmail.com

### *Youth Group Sunday Schedule*

**SNiFF** - Middle School Youth Group meets 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Y.G.** - High School Youth Group meet 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

***Our congregation engaged in mission far and wide this summer!***



More than fifty PCLG people of all ages built two homes in Tijuana in June!



About two dozen folks served cheeseburgers hot off the grill to the regular clients at Front Door Ministry.



After planting roses in Heritage Home's front yard, Sarah and Emma admired the well-organized donations stored in the basement.



Stephen joined a PCLG crew at the Habitat work day in July.



Turkish women from the Pacifica Institute joined PCLG members in preparing baby blankets for Sophia's Layette.



Steve, Ethan and new friends play basketball at the Grace Tabernacle Community block party in San Francisco.



Jeff and Rob repainted the well-used front steps at Immanuel House, the Presbytery's refugee home.

After six years as chair of the mission committee, I am rotating off session and the committee. I have been greatly appreciative of your interest in and support of both local and global mission projects. Even though new leadership will be taking over this fall, the work continues. By the grace of God I'll be there serving alongside you! - Martha Wills

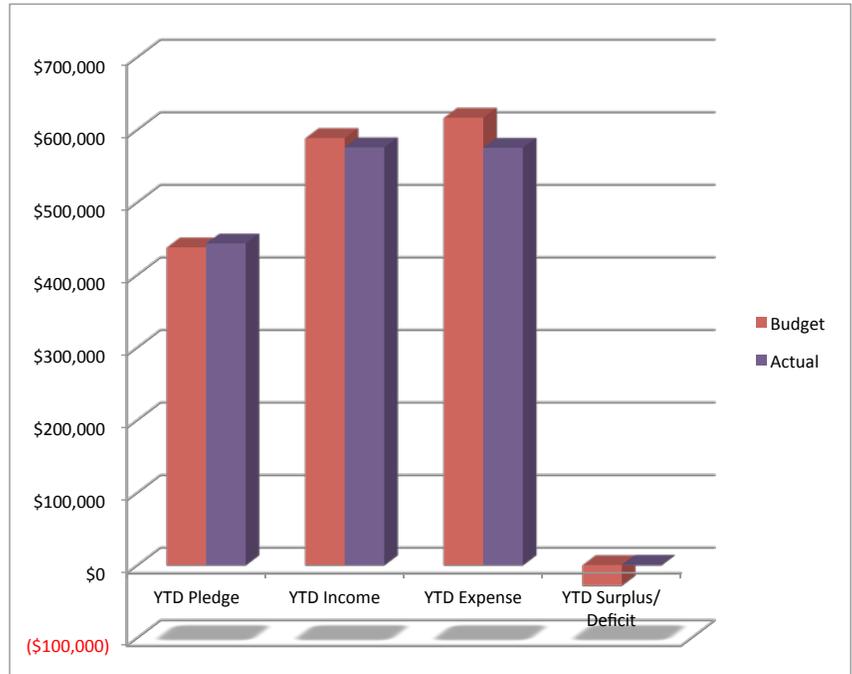
# Financial Report

Dear friends,

We are at the end of our summer and heading into the last quarter of the year. I hope this finds you well rested and ready for the fall activities.

In July, PCLG finally moved into the black, showing a small budget surplus. Our pledge income came in at 101% of budget and our overall income was at 98% of budget. On the expense side we came in at 93% of budget, leaving us with a surplus of \$581.20.

PCLG has 196 pledges in the amount of \$834,844. This is a good time to see where you stand with your giving and plan for year-end. You may request a current giving statement at any time. Just email me at [kristy.cole@pclg.org](mailto:kristy.cole@pclg.org) or call the office at 408-356-6156, ext. 21.



Soon, we will begin our pledge campaign for 2018. You may want to start thinking about how you can support your church and all our missions and activities now.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,

*Kristy Cole*, Church Administrator



## News

Our 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start and we are fully enrolled. We are blessed to have the following staff to start our 24th school year. I have listed their years of service at GFP as well. I am so thankful for their commitment to the program!

Director - Cory Mullins (23 years)

Admin Lead/Office Support/Sub - Leah Stilts (18 years)

Staff Lead/Pre K Teacher - Meredith Shelly (13 years)

Pre K Teacher - Rachel Esquibel (2 years)

3 Yr. Old Teacher - Stacey Quon-Seaton (5 years)

3 Yr. Old Teacher - Shannon Cole (4 years)

Parent Lead/2 Yr. Old Teacher - Vanessa Chavira-Manrique (19 1/2 years)

We are thankful for Kate Murphy who continues to return to substitute periodically during the school year.

Please continue to pray for the PCLG early education outreach program. We appreciate your support.

Blessings,

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

# Odds & Ends



Saturday, October 28  
8 p.m.  
PCLG Social Hall

Join us for an evening of hymn-singing, home-brewed beer, and fellowship! The Rev. Dr. Bob Bowles will share historical context for hymns of the reformation. *This event is for people over the age of 21.*



## Book Cart

Did you know that there is a book cart in the breezeway outside the Social Hall? These books are available to borrow, read and return. If you have a book you'd like to share, feel free to leave it there. We try to keep some of the books the book club reads there, too.

## *"Ode to Church Volunteers"*

*by Heather Curlee Novak*

*There are many among you who volunteer here  
You volunteer tirelessly and (usually) with cheer.*

*Even though we ask you at the last minute,  
If it needs to be done, we can count on you to be in it.*

*You help teach our children or dry the dishes  
You plant or uproot stuff based on our wishes.*

*Some flip pancakes, some fetch donuts  
How coffee gets made it quite beyond us.*

*You decorate the church and then take it down  
You host the fun things we do around town.*

*You greet and usher and serve communion,  
Every Sunday is like a volunteer reunion!*

*Some of you sing and hit the right notes,  
Others play music great composers wrote.*

*You shuffle papers for mailings and fold the bulletins  
You lead classes and meetings no matter what room  
they're in.*

*You commit for a day, a month or the year,  
When you see staff coming towards you, you cower in fear.*

*It's not that you're "Done", you are just overcommitted  
As you are kind, generous, gorgeous and quick-witted.*

*Every great volunteer is in great demand  
Without you these little jobs can get out of hand.*

*We know you have lives and it's hard to commit  
We hope the difference you make, makes this...worth it.*

*The impact of your kindness brings many folks cheer,  
PCLG volunteers: we are in awe of you this year!*

*Thank you, thank you and thank you again,  
Well-done, faithful servants, well-done, our friends!*

# 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. Friday,  
September 22*



## *September Birthdays*

1	David Graff	16	Tricia Herz
2	Steve Gilbert	19	Alan Baker
4	Ted Lusk	21	Leslie Kennedy
8	Tony Herz		Jacob Froman
9	Dana Parker	22	Alex Brodsky
	Kira Rohrer	23	Diane Egli
10	Emily Bays		Bobby Nelson

## *Anniversaries*

4	Alan & Gloria Baker
8	Colleen & Alan Hattman
10	Mardie & Al Dailey
13	Ted & Jean Lusk
20	Steve & Laurel Gilbert
26	Colin Clancy & Lydia Terrill
28	Bill & Joyce Strandberg
	Irma & Jack Longley





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Kick-off  
Sunday**  
September 10

**Celebrate the beginning of the 2017-2018 program year!**  
**Catered Lunch, Fun Activities for Children, Face-Painting,  
& More!**

Questions? Contact Carol Smith at [csmith392@aol.com](mailto:csmith392@aol.com)  
*Sign up to help at [pclg.org/signup](http://pclg.org/signup)*