

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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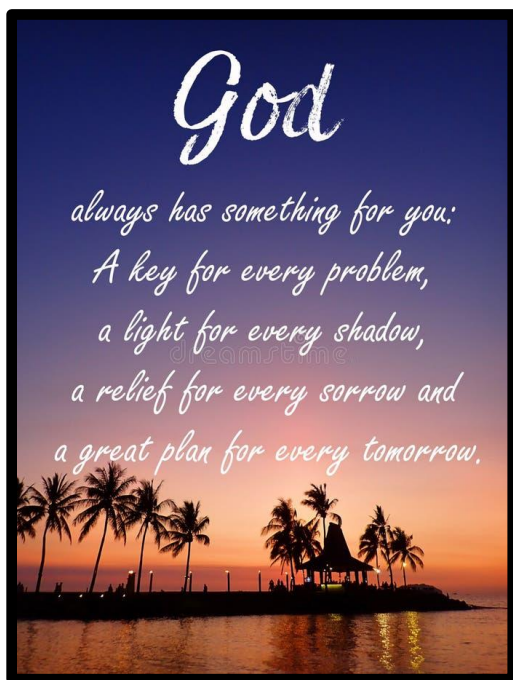
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September 2026

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor

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*“Called to be the presence of  
Christ in our community”*



When we think of September, often what comes to mind is Labor Day. To most of us, a holiday means a day off from work or school. Firing up the grill for bratwursts and hot dogs (NO ketchup). Festive family gatherings at the park (with eight variations of potato salad on the table). However we celebrate, Labor Day brings people together for a last hurrah before summer leaves us in the cold.

On the first Monday of September, the country celebrates Labor Day. I wonder how many people actually stop to remember what this means. Especially as Christians, we ought to remember that when the Seventy-two were sent out to share the gospel, they were instructed not to bring provisions but to depend on the hospitality and generosity of people. Even then, they were instructed to stay long enough to eat and drink after a day of work, "for workers deserve their pay." (Luke 10.7) Notice that there is no specification of the worker's nationality or skill level. All workers deserve fair pay.

As residents of Chicagoland, we have inherited a rich history of workers organizing to demand fair wages and worker safety, among other things. For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Chicago led the fight for workers' rights and safe working conditions. The Pullman Strike of 1894 was a nationwide railroad strike and boycott that severely disrupted rail traffic across the United States and marked a major turning point in federal labor policy. This strike gets its name from the Pullman neighbourhood in Chicago. Chicagoland gifted this country with Labor Day. (To the rest of the country, we say, "You're welcome!")

In many ways, Labor Day aligns more closely with Christian values than other national holidays, like the Fourth of July. On that holiday, the country celebrates "Independence Day" on this day! Most Christians may not realize this, but the word "independence" is a problematic term, according to the biblical vision for all of creation. In fact, independence is the problem that is to be overcome, the sin to be confronted.

Now I want to be clear. The Bible is about *freedom*. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “The truth will set you free,” and not, “The truth makes you independent.” And the Apostle Paul proclaims to the Galatians, “For freedom we are set free.” So, I (with the Bible) am a big fan of freedom. But I (with the Bible) am not a fan of *independence*.

Strikes work precisely because they highlight in an intense way our interdependence. And the Bible created us for and calls us to interdependence, not independence. The Pullman Strike showed us that how railroad workers get treated in Chicago impacts the cattle ranchers in eastern Colorado and dinner tables in Florida and Maine. Paul tells us, “We have many parts in one body, but the parts don’t all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other.” (1 Corinthians 12:4–5)

We belong to each other! To be free means to be rooted in and to live into our creaturely dependence on God and interdependence with each other. To be truly free, according to the Bible, is about being in relationship and not about being a renegade. This is why the Prophets in the Bible often speak of God saving by “gathering.” Sin has scattered us. God gathers to restore and redeem.

I am sure I sound like a broken record, but this is why I am adamant about emphasizing the relational and communal aspect of our faith and of the church. We are not self-made. We are not self-sufficient. We depend on each other. And in that dependence, we find our freedom.

Church, let’s continue to gather. And in gathering, let’s live more deeply into our dependence on God and each other, so that we may be truly free! Amen!

En Cristo,  
Rev. Daphne GA

# *Karen's Korner*



Wow – As summer is winding down with a bit too much stormy weather, we are looking forward to Fall. Time for bright Fall colors, a little cooler weather, and the start-up of our active Church activities after the summer break.

Fall will bring the sharing of recommendations from our Green Chalice initiative! We hope to have a water filter solution and a plan for composting the waste from our meal activity. We also are planning to move away from disposables. Those are a few steps we will be rolling out. We are also open to more ideas!

After Labor Day, our Feed the Body and Soul study will resume on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and 6:30 pm for the lesson. We are planning to have Rev LaMarco Antonio Cable from Global Ministries lead our discussion. We are looking at ways to support Global Ministries. Also please check the sign-up sheet if you can provide dinners.

Please be sure to join us on Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>! We are having a special coffee hour after Church to honor Carol's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving our Church as our administrative assistant!

Adult bible study will resume Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will resume our study of Men of the Bible. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. before service.

Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP) is continuing to meet from 6-7 pm Mondays by calling 607-374-1123 and entering code 390193 at the prompt. It is a peaceful time, during which we share our joys and concerns for personal needs, our church, our community, our nation, and the world. Also, please continue to share your prayer concerns.

September is also time for the Nominating Committee to be active again. Please have open hearts to serve when asked. Also, the budgeting process will begin so any budget requests need to be communicated to Sandy.

Faithfully yours, Karen



The Pantry thanks you for your donation on Service Sunday. The Seniors will be enjoying the personal care items. Thank you.

I visited the pantry and the shelves were sparse. In September we would like to add to them. We are grateful for your previous donations and hope you can help again. The Seniors, and others in need, appreciate it more than we know.

If you would like to contribute during September, here are a few items to choose from.

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Chili                   | Pasta       |
| Canned soups – any kind | Pasta Sauce |
| Instant Oatmeal         | Canned Tuna |

Thank you for all that you do for those in need and the FISH Pantry.

Blessings,  
Barb Bates

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## Help A Hero



Support soldiers! Pick up a few items from Amazon, Costco and Sam's Club and send them to Operation Shoebox to be included in care packages for troops.

Find wish lists at [OperationShoebox.com/how-you-can-help](https://OperationShoebox.com/how-you-can-help)

# Property Report

During the month of August, the AC Mini-Split in Fellowship Hall was checked out by J&R Herra. It was found that a circuit pack needs to be replaced. The company that made the mini splits sold the company to Panasonic. That company was contacted and never responded. The needed part could not be found. The only way to fix the problem is to purchase a new mini split. We received an estimate for the cost, and it will be discussed at the next board meeting. J&R Herra will be doing its regular maintenance of the boiler system this month.



I hope by now everyone has seen the benches on the walk up to the entrance. They needed repair or replacement. It was determined that they should be replaced. Joe, our custodian, took on the project and the result speaks for the great job he did. We've received many complements on them, and we especially like the lighter color. Thank you, Joe, for the great job!!

That's it for now. Have a good month ahead.

Barb and Dan  
Property Partners

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School resumes on Sept 13  
at 9:00 a.m.



Our study of Men in the Bible continues in the Old Testament with the Prophet Elijah.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

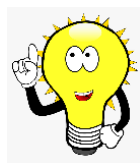
# Library News



Fall 🍁 is quickly approaching with its chilly nights inviting us to settle down with a good book. 📖 I'm not sure how many of you are aware of the "Take & Share" bookshelves (aka library) in the hall outside the church office. In the near future, new books of mixed genre will be added each week in a special display in Fellowship Hall. After a week in Fellowship Hall, the books will be put on the shelves in the hall. Then after a time, if no one takes them, these books will be donated to various organizations throughout the community. There will be mysteries, history, biographies, nonfiction, sci-fi, romance, kids books, and more. So, keep your eyes open 👁️ for the special display in Fellowship Hall beginning Rally Sunday, September 13, 2026. 🎉

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## *Did you know...?* By: Bobbie Dean



Interesting facts about **Canada**:

- \*The national animal is the beaver.
- \*The average life expectancy is 81 years old.
- \*The official languages are French and English.
- \*Canada is the second-largest country in the world. Russia is the largest.
- \*Canada is the number one donut consumer in the world. They only have 30 million people, but they eat 1 billion donuts annually.
- \*In Dawson City, Yukon there is a cocktail where people drink whiskey with a human toe inside. It is called the Sour Toe Cocktail.
- \*In Newfoundland, there is a tradition of kissing a dead cod followed by a shot of rum known as Skreech.

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Sept. 1  | Laura Johns     |
| Sept. 2  | Mark Claffey    |
| Sept. 2  | Andrew Wormley  |
| Sept. 26 | Kendra Huizinga |
| Sept. 27 | Barb Bates      |
| Sept. 29 | Jennifer Gilley |
| Sept. 29 | Anka Ivanisevic |

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## SERVING SCHEDULE



| ELDERS   | Lectern      | Table        |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Spt. 6   | Becky Daigle | Barb Bates   |
| Sept. 13 | Bob Reese    | Daphne Hayes |
| Sept. 20 | Daphne Haes  | Karen Johns  |
| Sept. 27 | Bill Cook    | Sue Huizinga |

| DEACONS  | Prep and Serve | Serve           |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sept. 6  | Larry Carley   | Eli Sanchez     |
| Sept. 13 | Gail Reese     | Jeff Igel       |
| Sept. 29 | Lisa Johnson   | Galilee Flores  |
| Sept. 27 | Dave Kijowski  | Kristi Kijowski |

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## Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law when she was sick of a fever, and Peter swore and went out and wept bitterly.