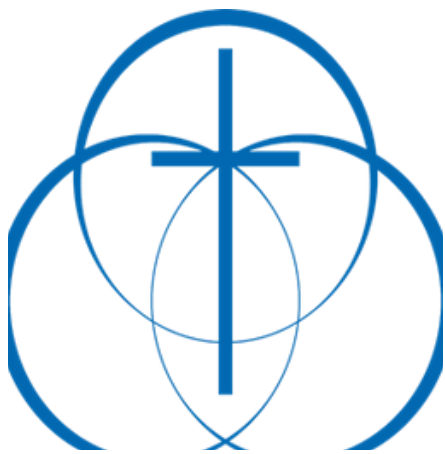




Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

September 2025 Newsletter

From Our Pastor Rev. Parker Benson

As I said last month, “I love football.” I try to remember when this love affair started and I remember distinctly when I was in the 5th grade my dad took me to the Cleveland/Bradley High School football game. We lived in Cleveland at the time and I was playing little league football. At the game that night the lights were on and we were walking down by the chain link fence that encircled the field and I was mesmerized. I remember it clearly. Suddenly several football players in blue and white and brown and gold came sliding and crashing off the field and into the fence. I just froze looking at them. “Wow,” I thought, “wow.”

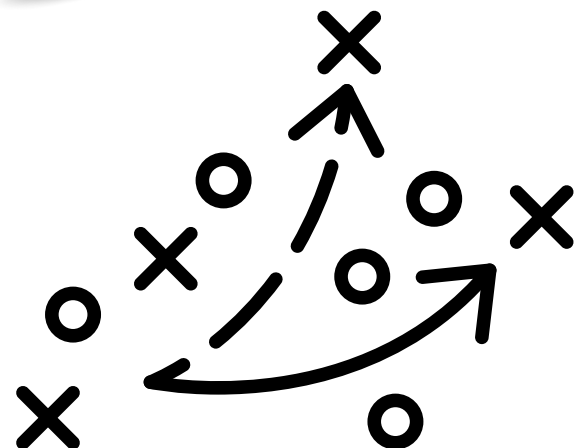
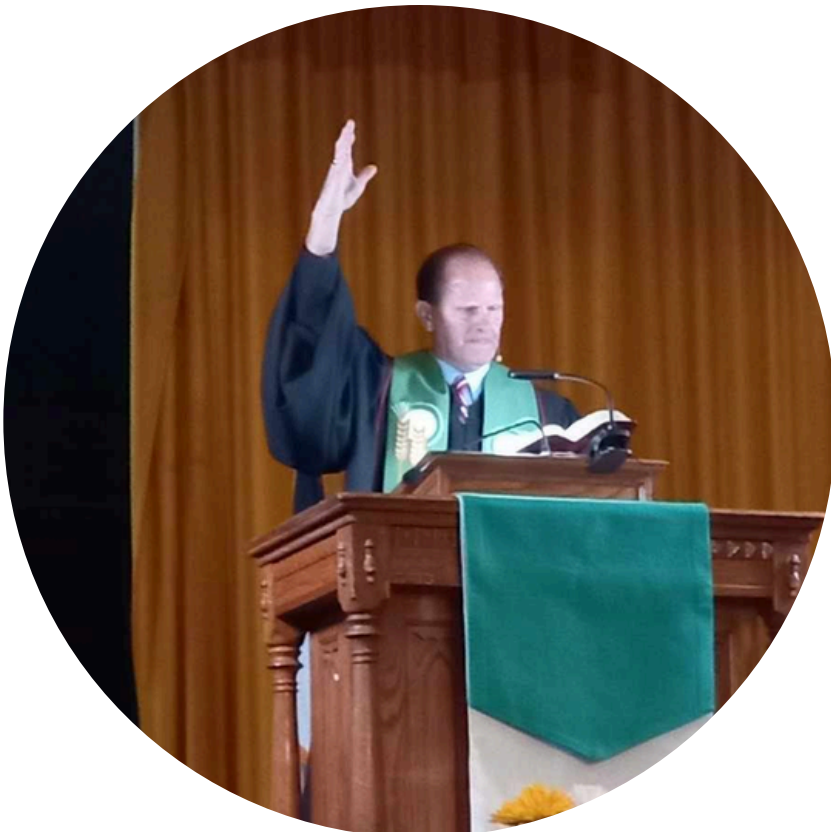
I used to rabbit hunt with a man who said about his hunting dogs, “Once the smell of the blood is in their nostrils, it will never go away.” The smell of football was definitely in my nostrils. I grew up watching Bart Starr and Johnny Unitas. Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers. Joe Namath and the New York Jets. “Wow.” When ‘Broadway Joe’ beat the Colts the whole world took notice – at least that’s the way I saw it. And then I loved the Dolphins and Don Shula and Mercury Morris and Larry Csonka. Of course I loved the Dallas Cowboys, Tom Landry and Roger Staubach. And the Chicago Bears and the Los Angeles Rams and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

I was in the back seat of my parent's car listening to the radio in 1972 when Franco Harris made the 'Immaculate Reception' that gave the Steelers the victory over the Raiders in the AFC Championship game (if you look that up, the Steelers were trailing, 7-6, with 22 seconds left. Terry Bradshaw threw a pass that bounced off the helmet of the Raiders' Jack Tatum, and into the hands of Franco Harris who caught it and ran into the endzone for a TD – and the Steelers won! I was in the backseat shouting, "He caught it, he caught it!").

You may say, "Well, Parker, you are a pastor now. What does football have to do with God?"

I offer you this answer: Johann Sebastian Bach always signed his compositions, 'SDG' – Latin for Soli Deo Gloria – "To God Alone be the Glory." That is how I feel about football: "To God alone be glory." It is a wonderful game to play and watch and enjoy. SDG.

-Parker



CRAZY FACTS FROM PASTOR BRAD:

SEPTEMBER 2025



THE MOST COMMON BIRTHDAY IN THE UNITED STATES IS SEPTEMBER 9TH.



SEPTEMBER 5TH IS NATIONAL CHEESE PIZZA DAY.



SEPTEMBER 22ND IS NATIONAL ICE CREAM CONE DAY.



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Steve McGee



TENNESSEE

FLORIDA

Where were you born and raised?

***Born in Tampa, Florida and moved to East Liverpool, Ohio when I was 10. Graduated from Youngstown St in 1992. Moved back to Tampa where I met Lark**

How long have you lived in TN?

***Lark and I moved here to Maryville in 2008**

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

***Lark and I met on a blind date and we have been to Africa on photo safari.**

***Capt. of HS basketball and soccer teams. 1st Team all conference as Jr. and Sr. in both. Played as a baseball catcher through college and had a tryout with the Pittsburgh Pirates.**

***Was a behavioral detection officer for the Department of Homeland Security.**

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

***Fantasy football specifically and pro and college football in general**

What qualities do you admire most in others?

***Humor, Honesty and Directness**

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Lark McGee

TENNESSEE

CALIFORNIA

FLORIDA

ARKANSAS

NEW YORK



Where were you born and raised?

***I was born in 1966, in San Bernardino CA. I lived there for two years. I moved to Chadwick in Upstate NY. When I was in 4th grade I moved to Mountainview AR. I went to live in Memphis TN for two years but then decided to go back to Mountainview AR. I stayed there until 1984 when I went to college.**

How long have you lived in TN?

***17 Years**

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

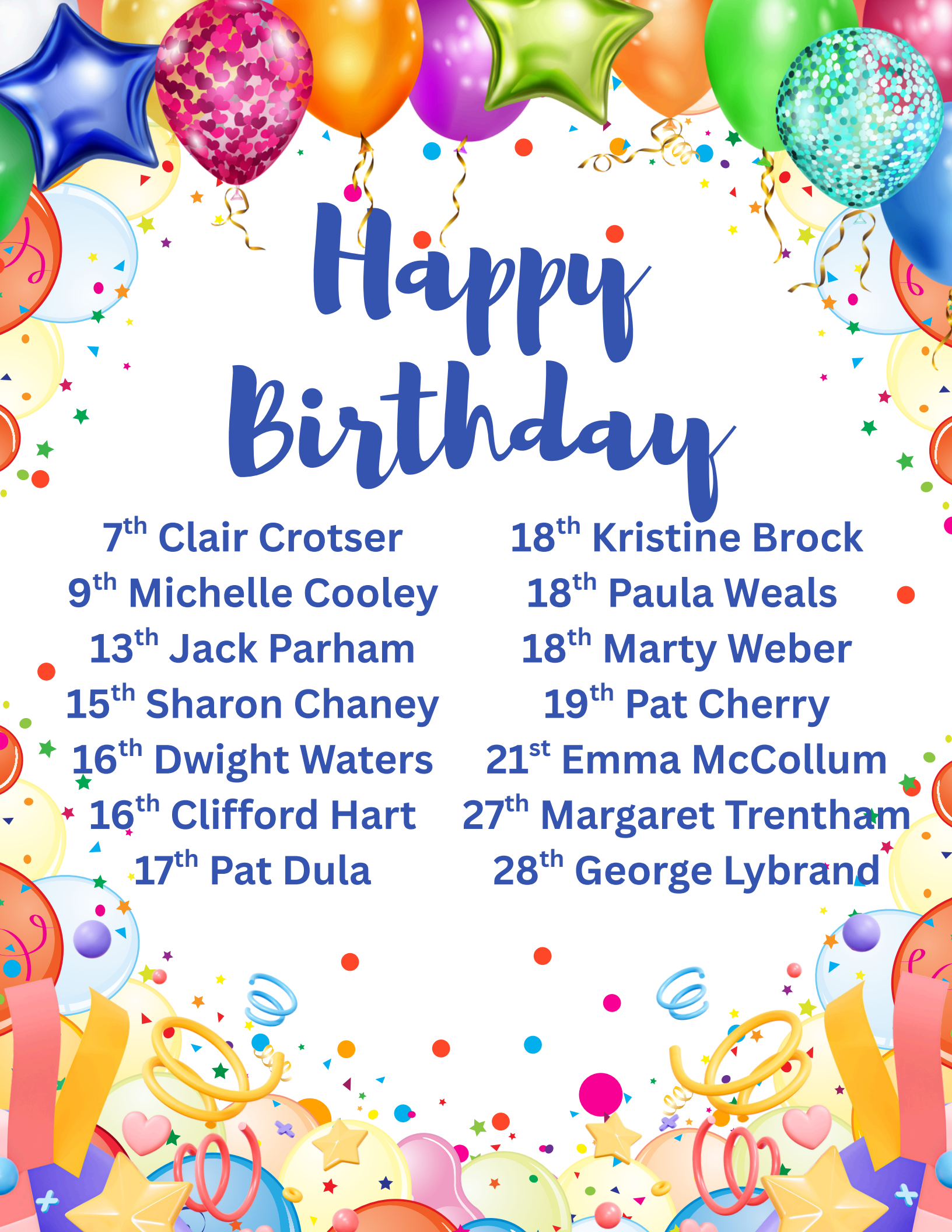
***I used to walk unaided, dance, run, ride a bike, bounce on a trampoline, and pick up my kids when they were little**

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

***Being a homemaker and helping people with their medical problems.**

What qualities do you admire most in others?

***Authenticity, thoughtfulness, healthy work ethic**



Happy Birthday

7th Clair Crotser

9th Michelle Cooley

13th Jack Parham

15th Sharon Chaney

16th Dwight Waters

16th Clifford Hart

17th Pat Dula

18th Kristine Brock

18th Paula Weals

18th Marty Weber

19th Pat Cherry

21st Emma McCollum

27th Margaret Trentham

28th George Lybrand

HUMAN ICE CREAM SUNDAE



SEPTEMBER 3RD

6:30-7:30

AT TRINITY HOUSE



EVERYONE WELCOME!

BAH BAH ORANGE SHEEP

SEPTEMBER 17TH

6:30-7:30

AT TRINITY HOUSE

**All children are
welcome!**



Pictures from....



Candy Wars



**Thank you everyone who donated candy,
came and supported, and prayed for this
night to be a success!**

NEW!

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BRAD

EVERY TUESDAY FROM 10-11:30 A.M.

**WE ARE STUDYING
PHILIPPIANS AND JAMES**



EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

Women of Faith Fall Shop and Brunch

November 8th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church
at Heritage High School

3741 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN, 37804



Guest Speaker:
Laura & Maleka West
with Blind Faith Ministries

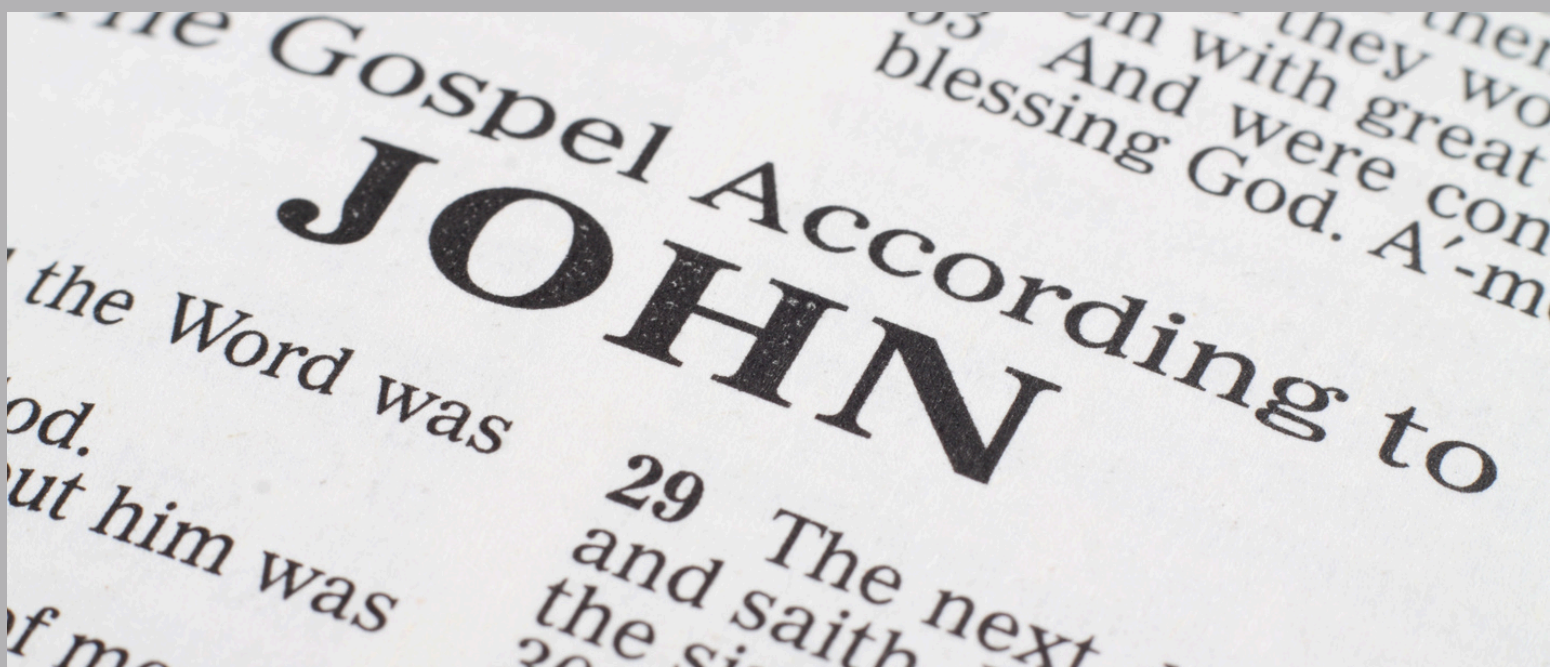
- **Appetizer Brunch**
- **Special Guest Speaker Testimony**
- **Small Business Vendors**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Basket Raffle**

FREE EVENT!



SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL QUARTER PROGRAM

STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 7
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN. WE
WILL USE THE WESLEY ADULT
BIBLE STUDY AS A GUIDE. JOIN
US AT 9:30 ON SUNDAY
MORNINGS IN THE CHOIR
ROOM. PLEASE SEE KRISTINE
BROCK FOR MORE DETAILS.



Men's Luncheon

**Monday, September
15th at 11:00 a.m.**

**Calhouns in
Maryville, TN**



***All men are welcome to attend for great food
and Christian fellowship!***



The Mission Team is collecting items for the Pregnancy Resource Center!

Newborn Diapers (Size 1)

Wipes

Shampoo

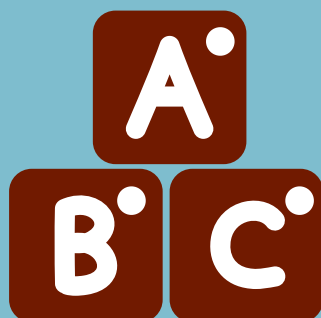
Baby Wash

Baby Powder

\$10.00 gift cards for gas or fast food restaurants



Please bring your
donations to church or the
Trinity House by
September 28th



CHURCH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 4



10:00 AM

at the Trinity House



In loving memory of

Rev. Rowland Buck

1961-2025



And I heard a voice from Heaven, saying unto me,
“Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
from henceforth.’” “Yea,” saith the Spirit, “that
they may rest from their labors, and their works
do follow them.” -Revelation 14:13

HOW CAN I HELP!

**SEP
5**

**HANDING OUT
MATERAILS AT HOME
FOOTBALL GAMES**

**FEEDING THE
BAND AT 4:30**

**SEP
12**

**SEP
27**

**COLLECTING
SNACKS ITEMS
FOR THE BAND**

**COLLECTING ITEMS
FOR WOMEN'S
EVENT**

**NOV
8**



MORE INFO:

SEE PASTOR BRAD

Got Facebook?



**We need help growing our
church's facebook page!**

***Come see Pastor Brad or his wife
Jenny Brown for help! ***