

The Glovier Messenger

688 Highland Avenue • Waynesboro, VA 22980

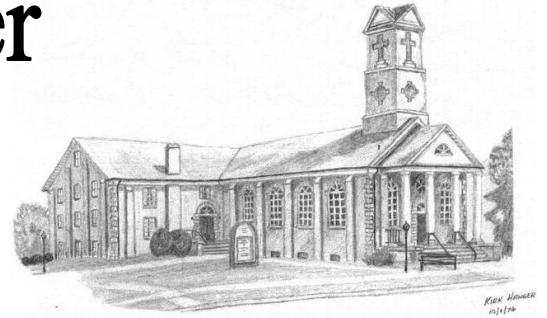
Rev. Dr. Bill Jones, Pastor

Church: 540-943-3071

Pastor Bill's Cell: 434-981-3542

Web Page: glovierumc.com

E-Mail: glovierumc@yahoo.com



Volume 31 • Issue 9

September 2026



From the Desk of Pastor Bill

• **Connected to Christ: The “I Am” Statements in the Gospel of John**

One of the striking features of the Gospel of John is the way it depicts the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The other gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) usually tell us stories about Jesus. Then, like the disciples, we are left to ask, “Who is this, that wind and sea obey him? Who is this who feeds the multitude on a couple of loaves and a few fish?” But in the Gospel of John, there’s never a doubt who Jesus is, because he tells us. Usually he does so with a statement that begins with the words, “I am.” Put him in a situation and he will clarify who he is and what he has come to do.

You can put him in the desert surrounded by people who are chronically unsatisfied, and Jesus says, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35).

You can put him in the midst of people who are confused, people who ask, “Who are you, Jesus?”

What makes you different from all the other gurus, rabbis, and religious leaders?” And Jesus says, “I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture” (10:7, 9). It is an act of self-definition.

You can put him at graveside, in the midst of grief-stricken people, and Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” (11:25).

Or put him in the midst of people who feel disconnected by life’s difficulties, and Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (15:5).

In the Gospel of John, in one situation after another, Jesus defines himself and says, “This is who I am....” John focuses on seven “I AM” stories in his Gospel:

“I am the light of the world” (8:12)

“I am the bread of life” (6:35)

“I am the gate of the sheep” (10:7)

“I am the good shepherd” (10:11)

"I am the vine, you are the branches" (15:5)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6)

"I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25)

Each statement builds upon the others, offering an invitation to dive into the mystery of "the Word became flesh and lived among this..." (John 1:14). The light opens our eyes; the bread nourishes our soul; the good shepherd leads us on the way of the cross; the vine connects us as branches; and ultimately, we find resurrection when death itself could not consume Christ.

Pastor's Bible Study this fall will take us on a journey through these seven "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John, so we may fully love God and be led by the Spirit to love our neighbor as Christ loves us.

Pastor's Bible Study "Connected to Christ: 'I Am' Statements in the Gospel of John" begins on Wednesday, September 9, in the JOY classroom (6:00-7:00 PM). You are invited to attend In Person or on Zoom (To attend via Zoom, please send your email address to billjones@vaumc.org). In the Gospel of John, in one situation after another, Jesus defines himself and says, "This is who I am...." John focuses on seven "I AM" stories in his Gospel: "I am the light of the world" (8:12); "I am the bread of life" (6:35); "I am the gate of the sheep" (10:7); "I am the good shepherd" (10:11); "I am the vine, you are the branches" (15:5); "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6); and "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25) Each statement builds upon the others, offering an invitation to dive into the mystery of "the Word became flesh and lived among this..." (John 1:14).



Jan Bottemiller
Teresa Childress
Freddy Iseli
Judy Mead
Jim Roberson

Pauline & Tobi Broyles
Sandra & Emmitt Eccard
Linda Jones
Nancy Napier
Elsie Spencer



AT HOME MEMBER FOR SEPTEMBER

Judy Mead

316 Ivanhoe Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980

540-221-6975

Judy would love to hear from you. Send her a card, text or give her a call. We appreciate our at-home members as they support us each Sunday with their prayers and love.



Summer is almost over. Time to get started on the Fall season. The next United Women in Faith meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 3 pm in the

social hall. Our program will be presented by Kay Hanger. Looking forward to bringing our women's group together. See you there!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd - Randy Teter
 3rd - Edna Dunn
 14th - Jimmy Roberson
 16th - Eugene Knott
 20th - Freddy Iseli
 24th - Dottie Wiest
 25th - Luke Roadcap
 26th - Cecelia Caruso
 29th - Anita Pullin



For our **RISE Against Hunger** event on Saturday, September 19, from 10:30 to 12:30 at Kate Collins Middle School, 1625 Ivy Street, we currently have 15 Churches, including Glovier, who will be participating and the event funding stands at \$11,384 currently. If you are planning to volunteer for the event, please sign up on the church bulletin board by Sunday, August 30. As we get into September, volunteers are invited to register online prior to the event. The past several years this has reduced the registration lines and enabled the event to start quicker and move faster. The registration link for Rise Against Hunger is: <https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e804287>.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY

24th - James & Beth McGinnis

CROP WALK

The **Crop Walk** is on Sunday, September 20th, 2026 at North Park. Pre-walk activities starts at 1:00 and the walk starts at 2:00. Please call Ana Childress 540-448-3419 if you would like to get a packet for collecting or to donate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1 (Tues) 3:00pm	Choir Practice
September 1 (Tues) 4:30pm	Plummer's Bible Study
September 3 (Thurs) 6:00pm	United Methodist Men
September 8(Tues) 3:00pm	United Women In Faith
September 9(Wed) 6-7:00pm	15Pastor's Bible Study
September 15 (Tues) 4:30pm	Plummer's Bible Study
September 19 (Sat) 10:30am-12:30pm	RISE Against Hunger
September 20 (Sun) 1:00 pm	Crop Walk
September 22 (Tues) 3:00pm	Choir Practice
September 22 (Tues) 6:00pm	Administrative Council
September 29 (Tues) 3:00pm	Choir Practice

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

September 6 Joshua Leads Courageously

Joshua 1:1-11

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your

lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”¹⁰ So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹“Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.’

September 13 Israel Remembers God’s Deeds
Joshua 4:14-24

¹⁴ That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Joshua, ¹⁶“Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”

¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”¹⁸ And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.¹⁹ On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³ For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea^[a] when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

September 20 Joshua Fights for God
Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

⁶ The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”⁷ So Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them,⁸ and the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel. They defeated them and pursued them all the way to Greater Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of

Mizpah on the east, until no survivors were left. ⁹ Joshua did to them as the LORD had directed: He hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots.

¹⁶ So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, ¹⁷ from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and put them to death. ¹⁸ Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. ¹⁹ Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. ²⁰ For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.²¹ At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. ²² No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.²³ So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

September 27 Rehab Welcomes Spies
Joshua 2:8-13; 6:16-17

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea^[a] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.^[b] ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.¹² “Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted^[a] to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.