

THE REMARKER

A Publication of First United Methodist Princeton, WV
A Place to Trust ♦ A Place to Become ♦ Church in the Heart of Princeton

The Gospel of Mark - First Among the Synoptics

September 26 - November 14, 2018

MY WORDS

WILL NEVER

PASS AWAY.

MARK 13:31, NIV

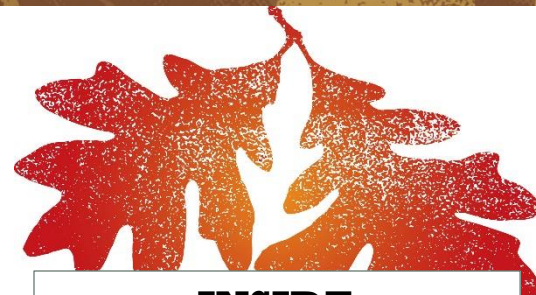


The Wednesday evening Discipleship Study will focus on the Gospel of Mark starting Wednesday, September 26, and running through November 14. We begin at 6:00 pm and end at 7:30 pm.

This particular study will look at the whole Gospel, find ways to relate different portions of the Gospel to our everyday lives, and also offer help to people who might want to lead discussions on the Gospel in other small group settings. No special book is required for this study - just show up!! (Pastor Scott does want you to know that the class will be reading the entire Gospel EACH week between meetings.)

Welcome To Our New Director of Music Ministries

In August, we welcomed Dr. Kipp Cortez as our new Director of Music Ministries. Kipp is originally from Chicago, IL. He is currently the Joseph F. Marsh Endowed Assistant Professor of Music at Concord University and Adjust Instructor of Carillon at Hollins University. Kipp received his B. Mus from Valparaiso University and his M. Mus and DMA in Organ and Sacred Music from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Previously, Kipp served in music ministry at multiple churches in Michigan. He was featured most recently as a recitalist at the Washington National Cathedral in DC.



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*The Church
in the Heart
of Princeton*

NOT QUITE HOME

REV. SCOTT SEARS

Office: 304-425-2283 Email: sears.scott@gmail.com

Now faith, hope, and love remain – these three things – and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

These words are probably quoted more at weddings than any other time in a Christian worship setting. I know that I have used them a countless number of times myself in that setting. Despite the fact that the “love chapter” of 1 Corinthians sounds so appropriate for the celebration of love, covenant, and commitment that a wedding is, these words were not originally written for couples.

The original context of these words, this wonderful reminder of the power of faith, hope, and love – especially love – was one where Paul was encouraging the church to really be the church in their time. They had fallen victim to squabbles over whose teaching was the greatest and had allowed disagreements among families to seep into the life of the church family.

Paul set out in this letter to remind them of the things that were absolutely necessary for a church to survive.

First there is faith. Seems rather obvious that a group of people who come together in belief about a resurrected Savior would need “faith” but from time to time we all need reminders. It is very easy to think that the church is something of a human construction. We work together, give together, and worship together as human beings, so it would only be natural to think that human effort could bring about all that is necessary for the church to be the church.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It takes faith and lots of it for the church to survive.

It takes faith that God is working in the lives of those we call brothers and sisters to allow them to use their gifts to do the work of God. It takes faith in leaders who are diligently striving to discern the will and way of God for our time and place. And it takes a great amount of personal faith in God to give abundantly to the church and allow those gifts to be used by God to do the work of the church in the community and the world.



Some people think that the opposite of faith is “faithlessness” but really the opposite of faith is control.

Whenever we strive to take control so things will turn out “our way” we are really showing a lack of faith.



Some people think that the opposite of faith is “faithlessness” but really the opposite of faith is control. Whenever we strive to take control so things will turn out “our way” we are really showing a lack of faith. Paul reminds us to have faith.

Second there is hope. If there is ever anything that is needed to keep the Good News spreading throughout the world, it is hope. The first century world into which Paul originally launched this epistle is really not that different than the world in which we live. People died, tragedy could strike, and folks struggled from day to day just to make their lives work. Our world, especially the world of Southern West Virginia, where jobs seem scarce, where substance use disorder seems to be king, and where even little children die, is a world that desperately needs hope.

As people of the Resurrection, we hold the greatest hope of all. Death is defeated! There is NOTHING to fear in this world. And we can begin living as people who know eternal life right now. No matter what we as a community or a

(Not Quite Home, continued)

church face, we should always be a people of hope.

Last but not least Paul reminds them of the greatest thing that remains – love.

Every once in a while I will hear from someone that there has to be more to the Christian faith than just “love”. It just makes it all seem so soft. There’s no bite to love, no requirements to love and it just seems to make grace cheap if all we have to do is love.

Well, let’s remember the basis of love and the example of love that we have been given by God: “For God so loved the world, he gave his son – his only son – so that whoever believes in him would know the gift of eternal life.” (My translation...)

The love that we share with one another, and the love that we share to the world is not easy. It is not cheap. It is not soft at all. It is a love that is willing to put our most cherished possessions, most cherished relationships, and our most cherished thoughts on the cross in order to show others the gift we have been given.

Paul says...“the greatest of these is love”.

And nothing could be truer, my brothers and sisters.

It is God’s love that allows us to have faith and hope. It is our love for one another and for everyone else in this world that will outlast anything we strive to do with our own minds, words, or hands. The greatest power in the world is, without question, love.

Faith. Hope. Love.

May God continue to bless us all with all three of these. But may our hearts and lives run over with an abundance of love.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Sermons

- 9.2.18: "Holding On" based on Mark 7:-18, 14-15, 21-23
- 9.9.18: "One of Those People" based on Mark 7:24-37
- 9.16.18: "Saying No" based on Mark 8:27-38
- 9.23.18: "Welcome" based on Mark 9:30-37
- 9.30.18: "Pass the Salt" based on Mark 9:38-50

2018 Charge Conference Scheduled

The Charge Conference for First UMC, Princeton will be held on Sunday, November 18th at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary with Rev. Joseph Kenaston, Southern District



Superintendent, presiding. Our Charge Conference will elect officers for 2019, set the salary for our pastor, receive reports from various ministry areas and take up any other business needed for us to continue the work of the church. All members of Church Council are voting members of the Charge Conference.

For more information on the charge conference in the UMC, visit this link: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/the-charge-conference>

Transitions

In Loving Memory

June Etta Jones

October 22, 1917 - July 4, 2018

Margaret Elizabeth Simmons Horton

September 3, 1922 - July 31, 2018

Daliah Faye Mattox Pullins

July 26, 1929 - August 16, 2018

Births

Rayla Marie Swift

August 7, 2018

Daughter of Tammy Hill
Granddaughter of Beth Kephart



C.I.A. YOUTH

BRANDON ROLAND, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Office: 304-425-0064 Email: bgroland@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Fri: 9am-3pm; Wednesday: 11am-8pm;

Sunday: 9:30am-Noon, 3:30pm-6pm

This time of year is an exciting time for our youth program and our students. The youth program welcomed in five 6th grade students: Ella Biggs, Joseph Flanigan, Carson Hamm, Jaycee Pritchett and Makenli Roberts. For about a year now, our youth leadership has been discussing, building, praying and preparing for these students. It is exciting to get them involved and be part of our youth ministry!

Special Prayer Request

This time of year for our students brings a lot of excitement as they begin a different chapter in their lives at school. They are involved in their school and community in many different programs. I ask that you take time to pray for these students, their teachers and coaches. Pray that God will be with our young people as they enter their schools and these programs and that He will watch over and protect them. Pray that God will use their gifts and talents to share the love of Christ with everyone that they encounter.

UPWARD SPORTS

Upward is on the horizon! This upcoming season of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading will be our 15th season hosting and partnering with Upward Sports! I am exploring new ideas and ways that we can celebrate our 15th season. I hope and pray that you will take time to evaluate how you can be a part of this outreach ministry that we put together every year for the children in our community. Evaluation dates are:

- Monday, Sept. 24: 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Friday, Oct. 5 at 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Saturday, Oct. 6 at 10:00am - 12:00pm

Youth Activities

Our Youth Bible Study and Discipleship Training is back after our wonderful summer program. On Wednesday evenings, the youth meet on the 3rd floor in the youth room for our Bible Study from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

On Sunday evenings, the youth meet on the 3rd floor in the youth room for our Discipleship Training class from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. We have a lesson and then we have time to fellowship and play games for the last half of that meeting time.

The last Sunday of every month we will have a two-hour game night from 4:00pm to 6:00pm starting at the end of September. September 2nd we will have a game night at FUMC and we will play host to the youth group of Immanuel Baptist Church. This game night will be from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. There is no school the next day, but students can come late or leave early as needed. Sunday School continues at its regular time 9:30am in the 3rd floor youth room.

As always, the youth group and Upward thank you for your continued love and support. Christian education is very important to our young people. Sharing the love of Christ with them and letting them know that they have a place where they belong and they are loved is incredibly important. I thank you for providing that to our youth students, children, and those who are in our Upward program.

Thank you! In Christ's Love,
Brandon Roland

Parents – if you have not yet received a fall calendar, please see me!



@fumch2oyouth



@cia_fumc_youth

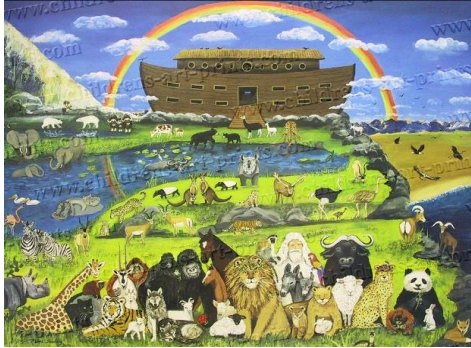


BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Office: 304-425-0064 Cell: 304-920-8186 Email: fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com

Office Hours: Mon: 9-10am; 11-12pm; Tues: 1-2pm; Wed: 12-2pm, 5:30-8pm

Sunday: 9:30am-Noon



"Ark on a Lark" Is Off and Running!

The children have resumed their Wednesday night fellowship program with our Noah's Ark study. The first week Roger Topping visited during story time to portray God and share how He came to make the sad decision to flood the earth. Wonderful storyteller Becky Kidwell joined Roger in relating God's instructions and Noah's faithfulness in obeying them. As their first craft activity the kids were each given a Noah's Ark bank to paint. This week, Thread-Loving Crafters Miss Marcia and Barbara Phillips will lead a creative bead-making activity.

In the weeks to come, we look forward to having vet Dr. Alex Bay and mom Kim share their vast knowledge and experience with animals, and perhaps bring a surprise visitor!

Having guest storytellers and game and craft leaders greatly enhances the learning experiences, and we'll be looking for folks willing to visit one week and lead in either area.

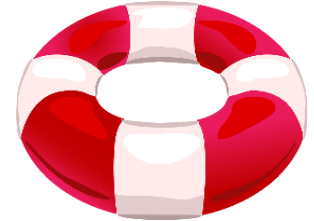
Special Prayer Request

*With school resuming so soon after VBS, let us pray that the kids will remember the Bible points that **JESUS RESCUES** when they're lonely, worried, struggling, do wrong, and are powerless, when they face difficult situations.*

"Shipwrecked" VBS

Mixing Learning & Fun

With the support of scores of church volunteers and youth leaders, we were able to provide a week's worth of crafts, games, music,



theme-related snacks, stories and drama to our children and community guests. The music was led by Sherrie Price, games by Brandon Roland, snacks by Marcia Anderson, Imagination Station by Raegan Biggs and Amanda Wenisch, craft by Barbara Phillips and Dreama Swecker, and wonderful dramatic performances by Stan Tucker, Pastor Scott, Kim and Alex Bay, Becky Veneri, Wes McKinney, Russ Crump, Jeremy Wenisch, Becky Kidwell, and Roger Topping, and the Kid-Vid station was led by Bob Davis and Danny McNamara. Kathy Tucker helped us learn about and collect money for seeds in Haiti. Sarah Johnson did a great job of taking pictures of all the kids for the "Spotlight VBS", so the kids could be shown portraying the Bible story during closing. As always, Rick Dooley and Larry Cook provided great sound and music support for both opening and closing sessions. We were so fortunate that Jon and Kathy Casey and Kristine Price were willing to use their computer skills to make the registration process go smoothly each evening. Our nursery worker, Sabrina Mick, made herself available for our leaders and church family who needed childcare during the event. Martha Cook provided a snack supper each day for our volunteers.

Unique to our VBS, John and Gina Moore brought their wonderful petting zoo for a fun culminating activity on the last night. Also, Bryce Veneri joined us one evening with his very good-natured pet parrot, which went great with our "Shipwrecked" theme!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, CONTINUED**Fall Sunday School Classes Starting - A Great Time To Try a New Class!****Adult Classes**

In the Family Ministries Center, Martha Cook leads the **Renewal Class** which studies the David C. Cook lessons. They meet around a table and often enjoy singing hymns before class begins. **The Young Adults** meet in the library and are led by Brandon Roland, Wes McKinney and B.J. Price. They encourage discussion and are open to welcoming those "young at heart." On the first floor of the main church building are two additional adult class options. Larry Cook is the facilitator of the **Exploring Faith** class in the Etta Belcher Room. Some class members also take turns leading lessons based on DVD studies or books. Discussion is also a big part of this group's meetings. Joanna Thompson teaches **The Adult Class**, which also studies the David C. Cook Adult Sunday School lessons in the Holliday Room. This is a group of faithful attendees who enjoy Joanna's teaching style. All of these leaders are knowledgeable Bible teachers and study hard to present each lesson and be prepared for the discussion and insights discussed by the class members.

**Children and Youth Classes**

On the second floor of the main church building, the younger children, taught by Miss Sandy and Miss Barbara, are continuing with their "Deep Blue" Cokesbury curriculum and the older elementary (Intermediate Class) is using a study specifically designed for their transition between elementary and youth levels on the third floor. Amanda Wenisch is leading this class in exploring the Bible and working on their own personal log books, which connect the lessons to their daily lives.

Brandon and Wes also alternate teaching the youth class, held on the third floor of the main building. They are using a comprehensive curriculum, which eventually takes this age group through the entire Bible.

Nursery care by Becky Helmick is available during the Sunday School hour for infants and toddlers whose parents are interested in attending any adult class.

Backpack Giveaway Celebrates 7 Years of Back to School Community Blessings

Due to the ever-increasing generosity of our church family and the United Methodist Woman, we were, once again, able to provide a wonderful assortment of backpacks full of supplies, from which our community guests were able to choose their favorite from the large variety provided for kids from preschool to high school. The UMW also donated hotdogs with delicious homemade chili and the youth made their popular slushies to make this event even more special.

We're already collecting both backpacks and supplies in totes outside the Christian Ed. office to prepare for next year's event. As always, we can't thank you enough for your role in providing this ministry for our grateful community families.

MINISTRY NEWS



The biggest college news of the month is that we have 34 members of our church family engaging in education beyond the high school level and they are located at 14 different school campuses!! We have students learning in their chosen fields at Concord University, Marshall University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, New River Community College, Fairmont State, Appalachian School of Law, Alderson Broaddus, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Johnson and Wales, Summit School of Cosmetology, University of Auckland, Washington and Lee, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. And among those 34 students, we have everything from freshman to doctoral students. Please pray for them and the challenges they face as they prepare for a wide variety of vocations.

Thread-Loving Crafters (TLC)

Joining Thread-Loving Crafters (TLC) means you become part of a ministry and a group of friends. All skill-levels are welcomed! Want to learn to sew or crochet? This is the place! TLC meets every Friday at 10am and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 5:30pm. Use the Schell Hall entrance to make your way to Family Ministries Center Room 2.

Upcoming Events

- **September 15: Painting Class**
- **September 29: Autumnfest in Downtown Princeton.** We will sell novelty hats and other items. The proceeds will go to Missions.
- **October 20: Blanket Day.** A blanket-making marathon full of fellowship and fun.

Ongoing Projects: Woven mats for the homeless, newborn hats and blankets, prayer shawls, lap robes, lap quilts, hat and scarf sets for local children, and even more.

Parish News

Contributions to the Parish House are continuing to come in. Thank you for supporting this mission. There were bags of food and/or clothing delivered to Kee Street all but two weeks over the summer.

Volunteers are always appreciated. If you have an hour or two any Thursday, just drop by and tell them to put you to work. The basement door under the sign is open and there are people right inside that will direct you. Workers start about 11:00am and work until 2:00pm.

The change over from Summer to Winter clothing will be happening around the middle of September, depending on the weather. Watch the bulletin for the exact date. Extra hands for this process would be appreciated. With the advent of cold weather, toboggans, coats, gloves, scarves, and boots of all sizes, both male and female, adult and children's will be needed.

If you receive any type of printed devotionals (Upper Room, Angels, etc.) that you want to get rid of, please put them in the container in the office hallway. The devotionals are included in the bags of groceries that are distributed.

Thank you again for your continued support for the community.



MINISTRY NEWS, CONTINUED

Feeding Hungry Children

With the 2018-2019 school year starting, the Feeding Hungry Children Program is gearing up for another year of providing weekend food bags to children that have been identified by teachers as being at risk of not having enough food over the weekend. We partner with four area schools, Mercer, Straley, Princeton Primary, and Silver Springs Early Learning Center and served approximately 130 children during the last school year. Please be in prayer for the team and for the children and families we serve.

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

Make a Moment Campaign - Extended to September 15th



Hopefully you received a letter earlier in the summer about this special matching campaign. As we wind down our summer, one of our members is offering a special challenge to us to help us provide for the funding of the moments we spend in our community of faith. They have offered up to \$25,000 in matching funds for every dollar others are willing to give to our “Make a Moment” Special Gift Campaign. Money given to this campaign will go toward the General Fund which encompasses projects that affect the building, the ministries, and the mission of this congregation.

Remember, this is a matching campaign. Every dollar we receive, up to \$25,000, will be matched to allow us to raise \$50,000. If

three families give \$5,000, five families give \$1,000, and ten families give \$500 dollars – we have raised \$50,000. If 20 families give \$500, 25 families give \$250, and 54 families give \$125 – we have raised \$50,000. There are so many ways to meet this match – there’s no way to list them all.

All of these gifts will help us provide more “moments” for people to be with God in our community and beyond.

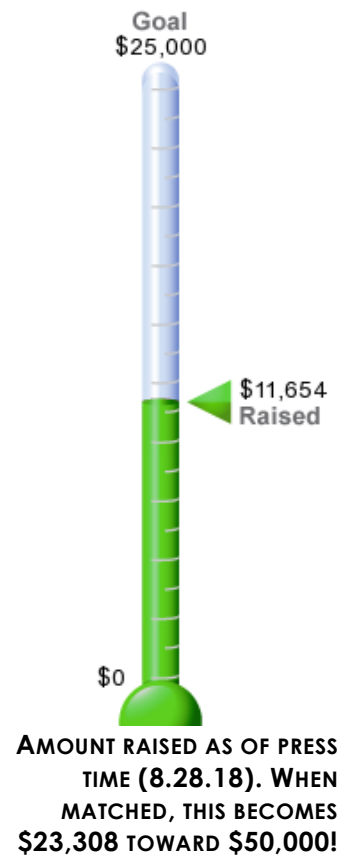
Please take some time to think about what God is calling you to give to this special campaign. Make a special gift to help this challenge provide as much as possible for the special moments that our regular gifts already provide.

If you did not receive a special offering envelope, simply write “Make a Moment” on a regular envelope or contact the church office.

Thank you so much for taking part in this campaign. I pray that the very moment you make this sacrificial gift, you will find your faith and hope growing!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Scott Sears



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts were given to the Feeding Hungry Children ministry of FUMC Princeton in loving memory of Margaret Horton by:

Linda Alvis	Tony and Becky Veneri
Kathy and Louis Clay	Princeton Community Hospital Volunteers
Betty Cutlip	
Shirley Evans	
Mary Lou Fensom	
Jerry and Patty Flanagan	
Ott and JoAnna Fredeking	

A gift was given to the Gas Card ministry of FUMC Princeton in memory of June Etta Jones by Jerry and Patty Flanagan.

THANK YOU NOTES

To the Odell Huffman Scholarship Committee and Congregation of FUMC, Princeton:

Thank you for your support, love, and prayers as I continue with my journey. It is so very appreciated. Much love and much gratitude!

Delaney Quesenberry

The United Methodist Women would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their generous support of our Mother's and Father's Day bulletin inserts. These are our biggest fundraisers of the year. And because of your contributions, we wanted to let you know the types of mission work your donations support. This past year we provided: a complete crib for Mary's Cradle, meat for the breakfast at the 30/70 fast, backpacks for the Backpack Giveaway, hotdogs for the Backpack Giveaway, baskets for the members of the church who are unable to join us in Worship, the Community Meal at Kee Street, two UPWARD scholarships, Christmas gifts for some of the residents at Princeton Health Care, contributions for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners given out by Tender Mercies and our pledge to Missions for the United Methodist Women State Organization.

The UMW of First Church are dedicated to doing the most good with the resources we have been given and will continue to be good stewards. Thank you for providing your financial support for missions in our community.

JULY - AUGUST ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
7.1.18	46	112	11	8.5.18	50	107	13
7.8.18	54	128	20	8.12.18	56	128	15
7.15.18	58	127	14	8.19.18	55	115	22
7.22.18	60	119	16	8.26.18	49	132	*
7.29.18	66	109	17				

*Unavailable at press time.



September 01 – Ann Struble
 September 05 – Adeline Bowling
 September 11 – John O’Dell
 September 11 – Sam Thurmer
 September 12 – Cole Hollifield
 September 14 – David Knight
 September 14 – Seth Vaughn
 September 15 – Lelia Fry
 September 16 – Sabrina Mick
 September 17 – Michael Bowling
 September 17 – Terri Vest
 September 17 – Terry Wells
 September 18 – Mia Christ
 September 18 – Chelsea Hollifield
 September 18 – Adam Sarver
 September 21 – Melody Jenkins
 September 21 – Brenda Larue
 September 21 – Mary Ann Thomas
 September 22 – June Griffith
 September 26 – Joseph Flanigan
 September 27 – Jett Bowling
 September 28 – Carroll Barth
 September 29 – Jean Cline (92)
 September 29 – Mary Lou Fensom
 September 29 – Pam Sears
 September 30 – Russ Crump



October 01 – Michael Lee Clark
 October 01 – Keagan Conley
 October 04 – Karen Henkes
 October 05 – Mary Ball (97)
 October 06 – Cindy Lewis
 October 08 – Leah Comer
 October 08 – Andrew Fama
 October 08 – Rosanna Reaser
 October 08 – Cale Veneri
 October 08 – Cory Williams
 October 09 – Britt McNew
 October 10 – Joshua Beachler
 October 10 – Morgan Forbes
 October 10 – Payton Forbes
 October 10 – Emma Graham
 October 11 – Logan Elmore
 October 12 – Joe Hampton
 October 12 – Delaney Quesenberry
 October 13 – Dreama Swecker
 October 15 – Clinton Jones
 October 16 – Carol Stafford
 October 16 – Robert Vest
 October 17 – Kristi Lewis
 October 17 – Greg Price
 October 18 – Heather Bostic
 October 18 – Whitney Graham
 October 18 – Patti Smith
 October 18 – Pat Veneri
 October 19 – Cade Fix
 October 20 – Stephanie Knight
 October 20 – Maleko Townsend
 October 21 – Ginger Craft
 October 21 – Janet Vaughn
 October 22 – Sherrie Price
 October 22 – Kent Thompson
 October 24 – Marshall Lytton
 October 26 – Robbie Fix
 October 28 – Ben Gay
 October 30 – Nate Rowe
 October 31 – Jessica Pritchett

Happy Anniversary!

September 01 – Moe and Kelley Rose
 September 05 – Victor and Jessica Lohr
 September 07 – Seth and Lindsay Price
 September 08 – Randy and Kelly Beachler
 Sept. 22 – Jeremy & Amanda Wenisch
 September 30 – Jack & Carol Stafford (57)
 October 01 – Brent and Joni Veneri
 October 02 – Joe and Barb Hampton
 October 05 – Todd and Ginger Craft
 October 06 – Dan and Betty Farley
 October 10 – Giff and Pam Coulbourne
 October 16 – John and Gina Moore
 October 17 – Scott and Pam Sears
 October 23 – Roger and Becky Topping
 October 28 – Terry and Jerry Childress

