

A Prayer for Labor Day: Finding a New Pace

Daniel Heath offers a prayer that recognizes workers and reminds us that we are not defined by our work.

Monday, September 4, is a holiday to celebrate the many contributions of work and workers. This prayer calls us to slow down and imagine a pace of life that resists prioritizing hurry, grind, stress and production. As we recognize workers let's remember that we're not defined by our "work" but as children of God. Jesus did not rush in his ministry but completed every assignment in God's time which is always on time.



Finding a New Pace

Holy God, we give you praise for journeying alongside us with patience and with a steady tempo. We ask for your

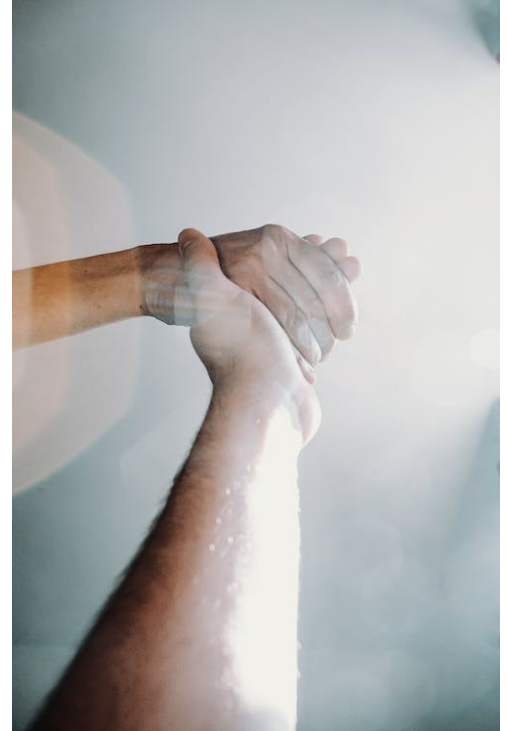
peace in our hearts and minds as we discern how we might participate in your work. Equip us to offer our gifts, education, and resources, not for a faster world, but a world that would move according to the rhythm of your heart.

We pray for our neighbors that serve at nearby restaurants and gas pumps, our neighbors whom we pass on the lanes of local highways, and the aisles of the local grocery store.



(continued)

*We pray that we might slow down
enough to say,
“Good morning” and “Thank you.”
Lord, help us to pause and see each person as a
beloved child of God. Teach us how to fight
injustice, protest evil, protect the earth, and
pray for the infilling of your Guiding Light that
alerts us when we are inching ahead of your
timing. Lord may your healing touch and hands
of justice move swiftly but...*



Lord, teach us the pace of Christ.

Batteries for Solar Panels in Honduras



Our church will be providing two batteries for solar panels for the church in El Horno, Honduras. Church members worked with Solar Under the Sun to install solar panels a few years ago in the church as well as in homes. Duke M. traveled to Honduras several times and helped this community, which had no access to electricity, install solar panels. Debbie, Glenn, and Mary Jane also participated in one of the trips. They were able to work and worship with the Solar Under the Sun team and the church and families receiving solar panels. After several years the batteries have to be replaced so our church will be providing two new batteries for their church building.

August Report from Session:

Session met on August 19. September 30 is the date for annual reports of the committees to be submitted. The budgets for the year 2023 will also be submitted at that time. A Congregational Meeting will be set later in the year to present the reports and allow congregation members to respond. A nominating committee will be elected to find the elders for the class of 2025.

Water and Snacks for Our Food Pantry

Our community food and clothing distribution ministry could always use snacks, especially tuna and chicken salad meals, individually packaged servings of cheese crackers (we have enough peanut butter; a certain number of people in the population have peanut allergies) ramen noodles, bagged snacks, **and T-shirts**. Vienna Sausages won't move very fast for awhile, after a rumor got around about the safety of that brand among the community. Thank you!



Keeping God's House Clean

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

The Session will meet at 1 pm on Sept. 9th

The Ordinary Time Acts of Kindness Challenge

“Ordinary Time comprises all the days [on the ecclesiastical calendar] not marked by a specific season [such as Christmas or Lent]. Those periods in between holidays give us time to catch our breath and return to regular life. [Ordinary Time] stretches on for 27 to 29 Sundays (not counting the Sundays of the Transfiguration, All Saints and the Trinity).

Ordinary Time is a time for us to discover that in Christ; our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness and hope. We live as people of faith, ‘new creations in Christ,’ not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place.” (Excerpt from *Presbyterians Today*, July 3, 2020.

“Ordinary Time is Extra-Ordinary” by Kathleen Long Bostrum)

We have joined together as a congregation to participate in the **Ordinary Time Acts of Kindness Challenge**. We will try to share ordinary acts of extraordinary kindness at least once per week during Ordinary Time.

Here are some of the example experiences from some of the participants in the Challenge for the month of July:

“Knowing we were grieving, a friend from FPC brought us comfort food.”

“Helped a day laborer with water and called his boss to pick him up.”

“I welcomed a new neighbor to the neighborhood.”

If you have inspiring stories from this challenge, please email them to the office, place them on an index card in the “Acts of Kindness” basket at church, or call and leave a message. We’d love to share them anonymously in the next newsletter. Let’s encourage one another to good works!

Bible Book Study

Join us for lively discussion and snacks each Wednesday at 10 am in the church parlor.
Everyone is invited to come.

Potluck Sept. 3rd and Oct.1st!

Our next monthly Community Lunch/churchwide potluck will be on September 3rd from 11:30-12:30. We will be serving a hot meal and friendship in a welcoming environment.

Want to Be Involved?

Bring a potluck dish to share. Plan to stay and break bread together with our neighbors so that they can feel the love of community as we have been blessed to know it. You can also sign up to help with set up, clean up or serving by using the sign-up sheet near the offering plate at church.

Help Us Spread the Word

Help us spread the word by sharing this information in places the local public might gather: other churches, community centers, the library, gas stations, and grocery stores. If you need flyers to hand out, please let us know!



Special Guests at the October Potluck

At the October Potluck Lunch we will welcome the members of City Year. They are part of an AmeriCorps student-mentoring program working at Jacksonville Elementary School this year. Their leader, Jennifer Cobb, will be here as well as the seven volunteers who will be helping the young students in a variety of ways, including greeting them as they get off their buses and providing tutoring. The Superintendent of the Jacksonville North Pulaski School district, Jeremy Owoh will also join us. Please plan to be here as we show our appreciation for their contribution to our city.



[Find out more about AmeriCorps and City Year here!](#)

Covering Our Church, Communities, and World With Prayer

Please pray for:

- all families and people affected by the tornadoes in our city, state, and in Alabama and Mississippi;
- cooperation among churches and the government in Jacksonville to address the burgeoning needs of our people;
- families in need in our community and for the donors who have supplied food, water, toiletries, clothing, and bedding for those families;
- our Community Lunch Program, its volunteers, and the people it serves;
- the people of Ukraine, Russia, and Sudan and the leaders whose decisions affect peace in those regions;
- the leaders of our nation, state, city, church, and communities;
- those affected by disasters in Turkey and Syria;
- teachers, bus drivers, students, and school employees, especially those in our city;
- our church family;
- youth of our city, state, and nation;
- those who are traveling; and
- all first responders.

Attendance for August

August 6: **31** August 13: **28** August 20: **27** August 27: **32**

Preachers and Scriptures for Worship services for September

September 3	Mary Lee	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 18:15-20
September 10	Rev. J Michael Vinson	Psalm 119:33-40	Matthew 18:15-20
September 17	Jeannie	Psalm 114	Exodus 14:19-31
September 24	Mary Jane	Psalm 105:1-6,37-45	Exodus 16:2-15

Individual Prayer Requests From August

Pam N and family following the
loss of her husband Tim

Barbara M

John P

Marianne P

Catherine C and family

Michael R

Family and loved ones of Diane A

Stephanie P

Barbara M

Kainan S

Kevin and Heather F

Karyn P

Kara N

Michael K

Etsuko C

Matt F

William F

Frank L

Terri L

Elizabeth L and children

Keith L

Harvey and family

Tommy T

Royce W

Barbie M

Amie S

Wendell P

Donna E

Jerry Deen D

Lisa and Randy N

Steven and Elizabeth P

Buck B

Stu E

Becky J

Danielle and Ivan S

James S

Ben T

Sydney C

Family and loved ones of Tom B

Bob F

Bill P

David G (Buck's brother-in-law)

Lynette S

Billie Ann M

Stephanie H and family

Jennifer J



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

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PLACE
STAMP
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If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!