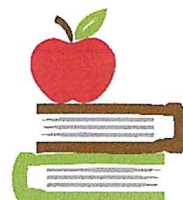


# HOLMES HERALD

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , PO BOX 117, HOLMES, PA 19043

SEPTEMBER

2024



**Pulpit Supply:**

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Angelo LoCastro

**Organist; Choir Director:**

Mark Kalbach

**Youth Director:**

Rebecca Kalbach

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*Please join us on*

*Sunday mornings for...*

**Adult Forum: 9:15 AM**

**Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM**

**Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM**

## WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

The new school season has started and that means change. Starting Sunday, September 8, 2024 our worship will return to the 10:30 a.m. meeting time. Please make a note of this important time change.



We celebrate the role Grandparents play in our lives on September 8th and thank God for giving us these very special family members.



*"Grand" parents Day*

## Newsletter information



Every effort is made to report complete information on all church activities. This newsletter and those in the future will contain the material received by the newsletter deadline. If the group or activity you are looking for is not listed, please contact the person leading that group/activity.

## Running the Race Set Before Us



Philadelphia is famous for many good things: soft pretzels, water ice, pizza, cheesesteaks, hoagies just to name a few. It also has the reputation for being a "sports city" with loyal fans. One thing our city is known for is a special track and field event that occurs each Spring: The Penn Relays. University of Philadelphia hosts this event where the best high school and college track and field stars come to make a name for themselves. Wins at this event have helped make careers. And, of course, there are always many losers and questions, "what happened?" Indeed when things seem to be going well and then, we falter, it's a fair question, "what happened?"

That was exactly what the apostle Paul asked his Christian friends in the churches of Galatia. Using the idiom of the Greek athletic world in which Paul asks, "You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?" The Galatians had faltered in their Christian living. They were not living the faith the way he had taught them. Because he founded their churches, he knew them well. When he had left them to go in his missionary work, they were running the race that is the Christian life. Then, something happened. They faltered. They started lagging behind and falling out of the race. Why?! What happened?

Clearly, we are not the Galatians. While our situations are not exactly like theirs, many of us have faltered in this race that is our Christian life. We start out pretty well. We were excited to dedicate our lives to "living for Jesus!" We were faithful; we worshipped weekly; we read our Bible. But somewhere on this track called life, we ran into trouble. We tripped. We were edged off the track. We got discouraged. Do you feel that way?

Here are some encouraging words for you. The race is not over for us! It is a long run marathon. How can we win the race? Pick up your Bible. Read the Gospel of Mark or the 1st John letter everyday. Bring your thoughts back to prayer. Get back to Sunday worship. Join a small group at church-perhaps a Bible study, start attending Sunday School regularly. You'll be surprised how quickly you can get your "second wind." And soon, you will be able to say with the apostle Paul, "...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

Our Phillies are currently involved in a race for the pennant. It was Hall of Fame ballplayer, Yogi Berra, who said about a game of baseball, "It ain't over till it's over." Don't wait until it's too late to do what you should do! That was Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian Christians. He said, "We urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain...See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation. (2nd Corinthians 6: 1-2). As we move into the Fall season, let us renew our commitment to Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider how God can use your time and talents to assist Holmes Church run the race!

# WE CHOOSE KINDNESS & SERVICE



Like a droplet of water dropped in a pond, which causes a ripple effect, your actions have consequences not limited to these walls. You may never know the impact of your kind actions, the spirits you have lifted, or the kind gestures your actions have inspired. All of you are truly a beacon of light and hope. Below is a recap of what we accomplished in our "slow" summer months.



## Community Garden

Once again this year, the garden at Holmes Church has flourished under the direction of Elaine VanGeyten and her helpers.

The vegetable plants have produced many pounds of produce which was donated to Loaves & Fishes and this year to help our neighbors Elaine/Helen scheduled vegetable plant & vegetable giveaways on the church campus this summer. They met many grateful people and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the community. Thank you to Elaine VanGeyten and all the volunteers who weed, water and harvest the vegetables to be given away.

Thank you to all the people who generously donated to our community blessing box this summer. With children not receiving school lunches and parents trying to meet school supply needs, the blessing box was very busy this summer.



## School Supply Collection



For many years, Holmes Church has collected school supplies to help children in need start off their school year.

This year, school supplies were once again collected to benefit the children in the Grands Stepping Up organization. Twenty four backpacks along with four cartons of school supplies, and 10-\$25 gift cards for school clothes were delivered to a very happy Karen Barnes and staff.

The sewing circle would like to thank all the people who donated school supplies to help ease the financial burden of these grandparents at the start of this school season.

Many thanks to our "Over The Hill Gang" who faithfully work at the church year round on Mondays to solve a multitude of issues. Your service to this church and the church family is greatly appreciated.



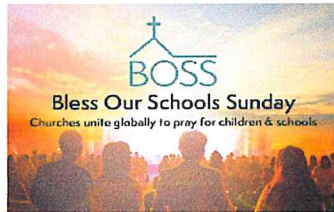


Everyday we are given the opportunity to grow spiritually if we choose to take it. We have the option to pray, study God's Word, and of course attend worship on Sundays. On Sunday, October 6th we will have the opportunity to grow spiritually and nourish our souls as we observe World Communion Sunday. Please take advantage of this privilege and join your church family along with millions of other Christians at the Lord's Table.

Please join churches and people worldwide as they unite to pray for students, teachers and schools August 1 thru September 30th.

Please pray that:

- 1) Educators are filled with the wisdom, strength, and endurance to teach with excellence and compassion.
- 2) students will be protected and led by the Lord and have the passion to learn and live out their faith
- 3) schools will be a safe haven where children can learn, be inspired, and safe.
- 4) God's hand of protection will be upon the students, school and staff.



## Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will resume on Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 pm. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please join us!



The Holmes Youth Group will have its first Fall meeting on September 15th at 6:00 to 7 pm. All

6th Graders through 12th graders are welcome! We look forward to seeing everyone!

Please make note in your directory of this contact number for Leeann McCullough 484-995-9397



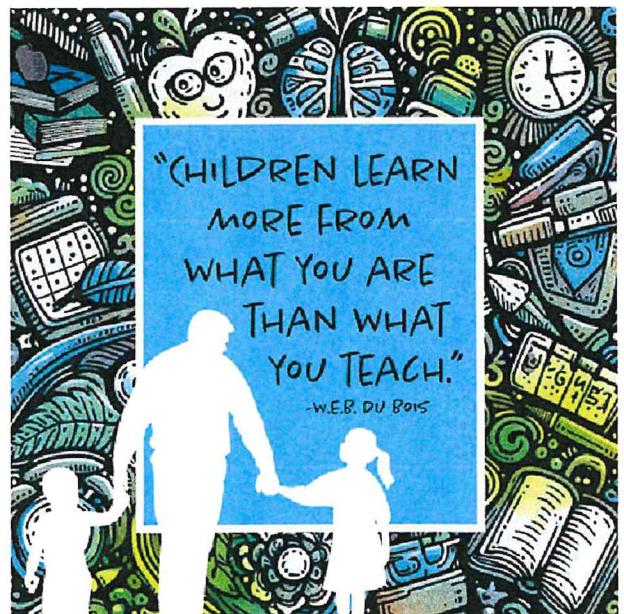
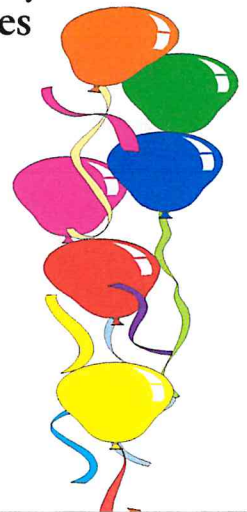
## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Happy Birthday to:*

8 Sarah O'Donnell  
22 Elaine VanGeyten  
28 Jean Porteous

*Happy Anniversary to:*

21 Bill & Beth Carpenter





## CHANGE

I have been thinking a lot about change lately, not just the coins I get from the Dollar Store, but all of the things that contact me in my life. I used to be closed to change. I only liked one flavor of water ice and one flavor of ice cream, one color of pants, one color of shirt, one color of car, one style of music, only Szechuan shrimp at the only Chinese restaurant I would go to, well you get the idea. In retrospect change has been the constant in my life. My wife and I moved from southwest Philadelphia to Delaware County, I have changed careers a couple of times, changed jobs about a dozen times in my life, I changed churches, from Catholic to Presbyterian. I haven't changed my wife. Thank you, Carol and God. I used to be fearful of change. The unknown can be very stressful. But every time it has worked out for me, and I realized that God has been guiding me and standing with me at every turn. Some of those jobs I had were dangerous and very stressful. It was a blessing that change happened. Over the last couple of years change has started at our church. The manse was sold and Pastor Bill retired. For some of our members change was not welcome. They were nervous about what the future held, but for some it was a great opportunity. The monetary savings by selling the manse and the pastor working one day a week is keeping us afloat. Unfortunately, some of the members who left were very negative, they wanted instantaneous change, a new pastor right away. That can't happen because it is a slow process. They weren't happy about how the manse was being sold, even though it was a very simple process that was fair to the congregation and the Pastor. Change is still coming to us. We are starting again on the mission study which again will probably bring more changes to us. One of the possible changes was to rename the church. I don't know exactly what the name proposal will be but, just keep a cool head and an open mind. Whether you like the changes or not God is guiding us. The changes might feel or sound weird but, in my experience, God knows what he is doing.

Thank you.

Angelo LoCastro

Elder, OTHG, MENSA, Treasurer

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## COMING IN SEPTEMBER...

CREW 143

**FIRST THRU FIFTH GRADERS,**

JOIN OUR AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, ON **WEDNESDAYS,**  
**FROM 4:00PM TO 5:30PM.** OUR 90 MINUTES TOGETHER IS JAM-

PACKED WITH STORIES, DISCUSSIONS, CRAFTS, MUSIC AND ALL KINDS OF SURPRISES. IT IS ALL FREE, BUT WE DO ASK THAT YOU REGISTER FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES. WE'VE GOT A PLACE JUST WAITING FOR YOU! **WE START ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH!!!**

**A REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED. THE FORM MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR BRING IT WITH YOU THE FIRST DAY.**

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE SIGNED IN AND OUT BY AN ADULT.

FOR FURTHER INFO EMAIL: [suziwaldie3@gmail.com](mailto:suziwaldie3@gmail.com)





## Fall Fest

Fall Fest will be held Saturday, September 21st (Raindate 9/28) from 9:30 am until 2 pm. We will be selling mums, pumpkins, fall decor, baked table goods, food, raffles, and Grandpa's Attic (gently used treasures). We will have kids' face painting and kids crafts. If anyone

has any gently used items for Grandpa's attic, they can place the items in the music room on the designated signed table. If anyone has designer purses they would like to donate, or gift cards that they don't intend to use, candles or soaps, or items that can be used for a raffles basket, your donations would be greatly appreciated. \*Vases will not be accepted for the Grandpa's Attic table.

**All proceeds will go to the General Fund to help defray the costs of the new boiler and roof.**

If you have any questions, please see Suzi Waldie, Becky Kalbach, or Dyan White.

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As stated in the June newsletter, the Deacons have started a clothing closet within the church to help members of the community in need. To reach more people before winter, they are collecting clean, gently used clothing (no tears, stains or missing parts please) any size, gender or season of clothing, but especially childrens. The Deacons will hold a clothing giveaway as part of Fall Fest this year. If you have clothing items to donate, please place items on the designated pews in the music room.

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## The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.


Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!

# SEPTEMBER

Holmes Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	<b>2</b> 8:00 AM OTHG 	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Knitting/Sewing	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Men's Support Group	<b>6</b> 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
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