



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

9/2—Bob Morris, David Canfield, Kinley Clayton
 9/3—Cheryl Lockwood, Scott Ewing
 9/4—Bill Ludwick
 9/7—Emma Kain
 9/9—Dennis Dursky, Jessie Eveland
 9/11—Marilyn Porter, Kim Benson
 9/12—Candy Nelson, Jim Nelson
 9/15—Justin Clayton
 9/20—Linda Lindgren
 9/22—Gary Shrader
 9/27—Sandy Powers



Attendance Records

8/2	70
8/9	66
8/16	53
8/23	73

Financial Reports

July 2026 Income	\$17,486.38
July 2026 Expense	\$15,935.86
Difference	\$1,550.52
Total 2026 Yearly Income	\$147,313.09
Total 2026 Yearly Expense	182,642.27
Difference	(\$35,329.18)

CHIMES

Vol. 46 No. 9

September 1, 2026



*"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you
 will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and
 rampart." (Psalm 91:4 NIV)*



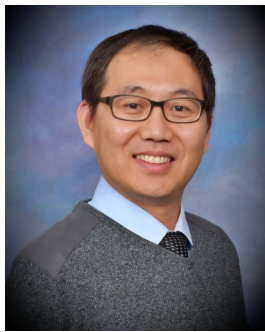
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Dear Friends Growing in the Grace of Ordinary Days,

September is full of photographs. On the first day of school, children stand by the front door with new backpacks and new shoes, sometimes holding a sign that announces the grade they are beginning. Parents straighten a collar, smooth down a shirt, and say, "One more picture." College students pose outside dorm rooms. Families mark beginnings because beginnings feel important.

But almost no one takes a picture on the forty-third day of school. By then, the backpack may be scuffed. The excitement has worn off. It is just another Tuesday. The alarm rings. Breakfast is rushed. Someone cannot find a shoe. The bus comes. Classes begin. Homework waits. Nothing about the day seems worth photographing. And yet that forty-third day may be doing more to shape a child than the first.

That is true of much of life. A pianist is not made on the night of the concert, but during hours of practice when no one is listening. A marriage is not built on the wedding day, but through thousands of ordinary meals, conversations, apologies, irritations, and small acts of care. An athlete does not suddenly discover discipline in the final seconds of a close game. The body reaches for what it has practiced again and again. **We photograph the moment. But repetition forms the person.**

There is a small phrase in the book of Daniel that I have come to love. When King Darius signs a decree forbidding anyone to pray to any god or person except the king, Daniel knows exactly what it will cost him to disobey. He goes home, opens his windows toward Jerusalem, kneels down, and prays three times a day. Then Scripture adds four quiet words: *"as he had done previously"* (Daniel 6:10). That may be the most important line in the story.

We remember the lions' den. That is the dramatic part. That is the scene children draw in Sunday School: Daniel surrounded by lions, trusting God through the night. But Daniel did not become Daniel in the lions' den. Long before anyone threatened his life, he had been opening those windows. Long before his faith became dangerous, he had been kneeling. Long before courage was required in public, faithfulness had been practiced in private. **The crisis did not create his faith. It exposed it.**


End of Month
Meals


Tues. Sept. 22 & Thurs. Sept. 24

St. Mary's Parish Center
301 High Avenue E



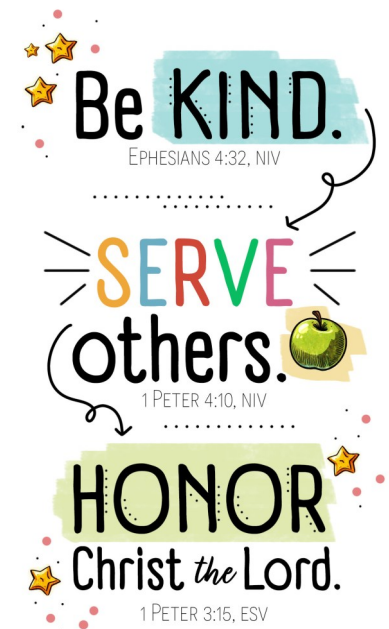
**FREE
Community
Meals!**

Doors Open @ 5 - Meal @ 5:30

EOMM hosts and helpers are: Central UMC, St. Paul Congregational UCC, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Mary's Catholic Church



We need 60 pocket pillows total. If you are needing the pattern instructions for the book pillows, please contact the church office. The pillows will need to be turned in mid November, so that they can be distributed in December.



God is faithful in every season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Central UMC Choir**—The fall choir season begins September 2! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced, and the choir sings on the third Sunday of each month. On September 20, we will join singers from other churches for a combined choir at the Ecumenical Worship Service. Everyone is welcome! Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to sing.
- **Caring Committee**—Going out for lunch at Coffee Cup Café in Sully meet at the church on September 16 at 11:00am. Sign-Sheet in the Narthex.
- **Ecumenical Worship Service**—On Sunday, September 20, Central UMC will host this year's Ecumenical Community Worship Service, joined by First Presbyterian, St. Paul, and St. Mary. We will worship as one Christian community, celebrating the faith that unites us through music, prayer, and shared leadership from our participating churches. Come and be part of this joyful celebration of our life together in Christ!
- **Children's Sunday School Volunteers Needed**—Children's Sunday School begins September 13. We are looking for 9–12 teachers and helpers to serve on a rotational schedule, so no one has to serve every Sunday. Please consider joining our team and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex!
- **College Care Packages**—We are inviting the church family to participate in the support of our college students and any military personnel that we know. In order to do this, we are inviting EVERYONE in our church to share a card or note to these members. Notes of encouragement, what is happening in our church family, what's going on in your life, will give them sense of belonging and connection to us. There will be a list of the students so you can write a note to all of them. There will be a basket located in the Narthex, clearly marked, where cards can be dropped. These will be mailed as a group to each person. Dates have been designated for **Congregational Card Shower**.

October 11, 2026—December 6, 2026—February 8, 2027—April 11, 2027

We sometimes imagine that when a difficult moment comes, we will simply become the person the moment requires. We will suddenly have courage. Patience. Wisdom. Faith. Perhaps. But more often, when pressure comes, we reach for what we have been practicing all along. That should make us pay attention to ordinary days.

We are always practicing something. Every repeated choice is quietly teaching the heart where to turn—the way we speak to those closest to us, the attention we give another person, the prayers we offer when nothing dramatic is happening. Gratitude can become a habit. So can irritation. So can generosity. So can hurry. **Small things repeated cease to be small.**

September will soon stop feeling new. The first-day photographs will disappear. School will become school again. Choir rehearsals, meetings, workdays, meals, worship, errands, and ordinary Tuesdays will settle back into rhythm. And perhaps that is when some of the most important work begins.

The days we remember are not always the days that form us.

So as September becomes ordinary again, perhaps the question is not simply, "What am I doing each day?" A better question may be: **What are these days making of me?**

Pay attention to the days you do not photograph. They may be making you.

In Christ,
Pastor Jihoon Lee

**The Taylor Scholarship would like to announce
that the 2026—2027 recipients for the Clark and
Ethel Taylor Scholarships are:**

Callie Lindgren & Lawson Morris

**Congratulations! Blessings to you both as you
continue your academic journey!**

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Educ. Committee—6:00pm Choir—7:00pm	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Offices Closed	8	9 Finance—6:00 Trustees—6:30pm Choir—7:00pm Admin. Sec. Office Closed	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 AD Council—6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal — 7:00pm	17	18	19
20 9:30am Ecumenical Worship Service—CUMC	21	22	23 Worship—6:00pm Choir—7:00pm	24 10am—5pm Professional Interviews	25	26
27 S.M.—Tim Foster 1pm—5pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	28	29	30			