

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2024

RALLY DAY THEME AND WORSHIP SERIES KICK-OFF

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

—Matthew 22:37-39



Join us on September 15th for our Rally Day and new worship series kick-off! “Love Your Neighbor” will feature the many different messages of love, acceptance, kindness, and authenticity of Rev. Fred Rogers, known around the world from his educational show, “Mister Rogers Neighborhood.”

For such a time as this, messages of our faith to push back against the noise and chaos of our polarized society will be crucial to our beliefs and our mental health as we draw ever closer to November 5th. This series will also give us an opportunity to “simply be” and find respite from the racing world outside our sanctuary walls.

Invite your neighbors to join us for this series that combines the nostalgia of a “simpler time” intertwined with our faithful response to our modern culture.

SCRIPTURE READERS

Scripture readers are always encouraged and welcomed to take part in our worship services. Please sign-up to be a reader of our sacred scriptures on any given Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table. Thank you!!

SPECIAL MUSIC OFFERINGS

Are you interested in providing special music for one of our upcoming services? Do you know someone or a group that you think would be a terrific addition to one of our upcoming services? Please reach out to Pastor Tarrah so we can get you/them on the worship schedule. Thank you!!

UPDATED DIRECTORY AVAILABLE NOW

We are pleased to announce that we have a new church directory available! Special thanks to our Office Admin, Kim Weekley, for her diligent work in pulling everyone’s updated information together so we are better able to keep in touch!

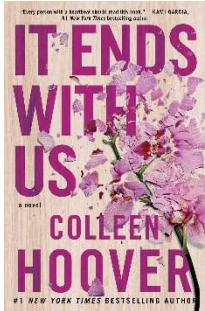
CONFIRMATION 2024-2026

A new confirmation class will begin in September 2024. Traditionally, confirmation is extended to youth in 8th grade for a 1 year program. While this is the “way we’ve always done it”, Pastor Tarrah recognizes that it is time for a “new way” to allow and encourage youth to engage their faith and denomination towards confirmation. This new confirmation program welcomes all youth beginning 5th grade for a 2 year program that will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following worship. The first year of the program will dive into our treasured bible stories and build their biblical literacy. The second year of the program will expand to include confirmation curriculum to explore their beliefs, our denomination, and our local church. If you have any questions, or are interested in assisting Pastor Tarrah with this new program, please let her know as soon as possible. A meeting for confirmands and parents will be held on Sunday, September 29th immediately following worship. Bibles will be presented to the Confirmands during class presentation on October 6th during worship.



BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is “Fall-ing in Love” with a new book this September. We will get together at Holy Ghost Darmstadt at 6pm on September, 26th for our next discussion. Hope you will consider joining us!



***It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover**

“Every person with a heartbeat should read this book.” (NEW YORK TIMES) Lily hasn’t always had it easy, but that’s never stopped her from working hard for the life she wants. She’s come a long way from the small town where she grew up—she graduated from college, moved to Boston, and started her own business. And when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid, everything in Lily’s life seems too good to be true.

Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He’s also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft spot for Lily. And the way he looks in scrubs certainly doesn’t hurt. Lily can’t get him out of her head. But Ryle’s complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming the exception to his “no dating” rule, she can’t help but wonder what made him that way in the first place.

As questions about her new relationship overwhelm her, so do thoughts of Atlas Corrigan—her first love and a link to the past she left behind. He was her kindred spirit, her protector. When Atlas suddenly reappears, everything Lily has built with Ryle is threatened.

An honest, evocative, and tender novel, *It Ends with Us* is “a glorious and touching read, a forever keeper. The kind of book that gets handed down” (USA TODAY).

ADULT EDUCATION/SPIRITUAL GROWTH

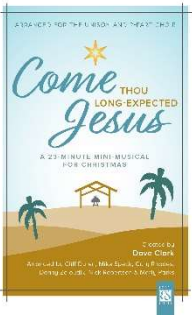
A new educational opportunity will be starting on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30pm. Pastor Tarrah will be facilitating a bible study over the Book of Revelation. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation is a book of hope that has sustained the oppressed through the ages. In the nine lessons of *Journeys Through Revelation* the author, Barbara Rossing, leads us to a renewed creation in which God comes to live with us on earth. This brilliantly hope-filled vision speaks to us in the midst of the urgent crises of our day. In a time when all creation stands at a turning point, Revelation can help guide the choices we make as we seek to live into the renewal that God promises for the world. Whether you are a seasoned student of the Bible or new to its study, gain a deeper understanding of this often misunderstood but ultimately reassuring text. The cost of each book is \$8 and Pastor Tarrah will be placing an order for these books on Sunday, September 29th. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let her know. Classes will meet on the following dates:

October 15th @ 6:30pm
November 12th @ 6:30pm
December 10th @ 6:30pm

October 22nd @ 6:30pm
November 19th @ 6:30pm

October 29th @ 6:30pm
December 3rd @ 6:30pm

3RD ANNUAL COMBINED CHOIR CANTATA



It's time to prepare for the most wonderful time of the year! Our cantata this year is entitled, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Invitations have gone out to our friends at St. John UCC, New Athens and Friedens UCC, Marissa to join our voices together for what has become a treasured event in our congregations. This cantata is easy to learn and is unique for choirs that are geared towards "Unison" singing (there are still 4 parts to sing from if you choose). It also caters to a more limited vocal range instead of singing up into the rafters with off the scale notes. The books are large print for easier reading AND...the musical score doesn't include any repeats so there is less flipping

pages. How awesome is that!! Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, October 15th at 5:30pm at our Holy Ghost Darmstadt location. The cantata will be performed on Saturday, December 14th in the early afternoon. Mark your calendars now with these rehearsal and performance dates:

October 15 th @ 5:30pm	October 22 nd @ 5:30pm	October 29 th @ 5:30pm
November 12 th @ 5:30pm	November 19 th @ 5:30pm	December 3 rd @ 5:30pm
December 10 th @ 5:30pm	December 14 th @ 12pm (Dress rehearsal)	
December 14 th @ 2pm (performance)		

HARVEST & PET BLESSING SERVICE



During our Schlachtfest preparations, it was mentioned to Pastor Tarrah that there used to be a tradition of having a "Harvest Blessing" service at our Trinity Biddleborn location...and we are going to attempt to revive this treasured event!! On Sunday, October 6th, we will have a worship in the pavilion with a focus on the harvest and creation! If YOU, or someone you

know, would be interested in bringing out a tractor or two...and perhaps even a combine...that would be amazing!! If YOU, or someone you know, would be interested in bringing out some "livestock" animals for the kids to enjoy that would be great as well!! This service will also feature a "Pet Blessing" for our furry, feathered, or scaly family members. ALL are welcome to bring their pets (on leash or in carriers/cages) with them to worship for a blessing and a special treat from Pastor Tarrah. ALL God's Critters will have a place with us for worship on this special day!!



IF WEATHER PREVENTS THE EVENT FROM OCCURRING ON OCTOBER 6TH, WE WILL HOLD THE SERVICE ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September

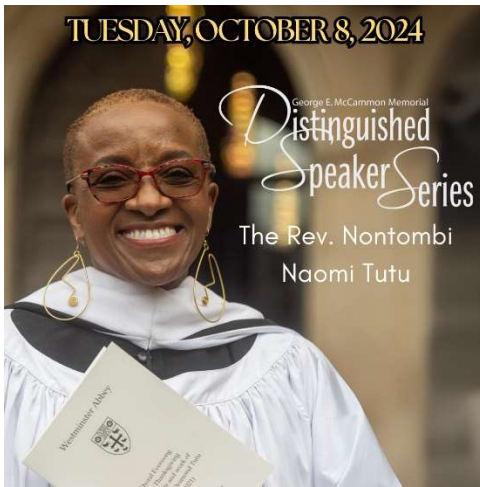
1 Mason Shubert
17 Mark Leonhardt
20 Frieda Feig
20 Katie Wagner
26 Tyler (TJ) Jones

September

5 Caitlyn (CJ) & Zac Henson
23 Cathy & Lee Harms
29 Nancy & Scott Shubert



INVITATION TO DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES AT “THE HETT”



Pastor Tarrah has purchased a block of 10 tickets for anyone interested in attending with her to a Distinguished Speaker Series event featuring Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu on Tuesday, October 8th at 7pm. This is the Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s daughter and it promises to be a riveting sermon and lecture. Here is a synopsis of Rev Tutu’s presentation: “The challenges of growing black and female in apartheid South Africa have been the foundation of Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu’s life as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught her that our whole human family loses when we accept situations of oppression, and how the teaching and preaching hate and division injure us all. Rev. Tutu started her public speaking as a college student at Berea College in Kentucky, when she was invited to speak at churches, community groups and colleges and universities

about her experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa. Since that time, she has become a much sought-after speaker to groups as varied as business associations, professional conferences, elected officials and church and civic organizations.”

Tickets are \$20 each and Pastor Tarrah is willing to drive anyone that may not be comfortable driving in the dark. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, September 29th so none of these tickets go unused.

VISIONING / FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



It is from the rootedness of our history and traditions, that we glean the wisdom to move into the future with the Spirit’s guidance. If you are interested in adding your voice to the conversation about the direction of our congregation and ministry, please prayerfully consider being a part of our Visioning Committee. This new committee will work alongside Pastor Tarrah and the Joint Church Council in an effort to keep their finger on the pulse of the congregation, as well as face the realities of the changing

world our church is thriving and forging into. Please let Pastor Tarrah know if this is something you are interested in being a part of and stay tuned for more information upcoming about ways to get involved.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Calling all men! You’ve likely seen when you are out and about in neighboring communities, “Little Library” boxes in front of schools, churches, businesses, etc. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful gift to the community to have a place where children (and adults) were able to choose a free book to read?

If you are interested in bringing one of these inspirational libraries to life in front of our Holy Ghost Darmstadt location, please speak with Pastor Tarrah to learn more!

All skill levels welcome and needed 😊





3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars for our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat, Friday, October 25th, 5:30-7:30pm at our Holy Ghost Darmstadt location! We are in need of volunteers to help with the event, as well as candy donations. The St. Libory Fire Department will once again be bringing out one of their trucks for the kids to explore and enjoy! Please let Pastor Tarrah know if you are available to help with this fun community outreach event!

ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

All are welcome and invited to attend the Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 19th at EVUCC in Highland, Illinois. Our church delegates are required to attend; however, anyone is welcome to attend and join in the festivities of this unique meeting that will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Illinois South Conference! Advanced registration is required for anyone wanting to attend as a “visitor.” There

is also an opportunity to participate in a “Conference Wide Choir” during the worship service that will be held at the conclusion of the meeting at 4pm. A rehearsal for the choir will be held on Sunday, October 13th at 3pm at EVUCC in Highland. To reserve your spot in the choir, please RSVP to Joan Schuetz at joan.schuetz@icloud.com no later than October 1st. Please speak with Pastor Tarrah for more information about the meeting and/or the choir. She will also be able to obtain a copy of the choir music for anyone interested.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are blessed beyond measure to be a growing, thriving, congregation! There are many different ways to “get involved” and serve on Sunday mornings and beyond! If you are interested in ANY of the following areas, please let Pastor Tarrah know. See a need in our congregation that isn’t listed below? Let’s chat about ways of making it happen!

Sound System Tech	Videography Tech	Ushering
Communion Steward	Website Maintenance	YouTube Integration
Hospitality	Social Events	Decorating Committee
Groundskeeping	Mowing	Fundraising
Building Maintenance	Special Events Committee	
Community Outreach	Ministry Partnership Committee	
WISE Mental Health Ministry	Children/Youth Programming	
Adult Programming/Education	Advertising/Marketing	Church Life Committee



PRAYER LIST (long term)

Richard Juenger, Bradley Funk,
Lucas (5-year-old with leukemia in Darmstadt),
and Charlie Darrigrand.

PRAYER LIST (short term)

People of Ukraine, People of Maui,
People of Israel and Palestine, Frank Lee, Kenneth Erb, Jeff Leonhardt, Ruth Triefenbach,
Margie Bahan, Fredrick Denison, Hayden Dudenbostel (Granddaughter of a friend of Joe Weekley),
Mary Jane Dietz, Gene Schifferdecker, and Rick Harriman.

Please contact Pastor Tarrah, Kim Weekley, or Frieda Feig if you wish to add someone to our prayer list. If you have a private prayer request, please contact Pastor Tarrah directly.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October

1 Lena Rose Juenger
7 Mallory Shubert
9 Eva Kinzel
11 Daren Bollmeier
14 Brooklyn Lovlace
18 Steven Steinheimer
21 Casey Trentmann
22 Michael Triefenbach (Mike)
25 Joe Weekley
26 Betty Triefenbach
31 Courtney Sinn

October

1 Rev. Tarrah & Jasen Vaupel
10 Charly & Seth Weymouth
11 Larry & Eva Kinzel
15 Dustin & Rachel Weekley
18 Judy & Michael Feig
20 Brandon & Christa Leonhardt
28 Sandy & Mitch Prosis

