



NCPC *September* *2026* *Newsletter*

September Events

Tuesday, September 1

4:00 pm, Worship Team Meeting, Library

Wednesday, September 2

5:30 pm, Deacons Meeting, Library

7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsals begin for the fall

Sunday, September 6

Food Bank Collection Sunday

Monday, September 7—Labor Day

Church Office Closed in observance of Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

1:30 pm, Lydia Circle, Library

Thursday, September 10

7:00 pm, Session Meeting, Library

Friday, September 11—Sunday, September 20

Kansas State Fair—get your fair food while it's here!

Sunday, September 13

11:45 am, Fellowship Potluck—Remembering Grandparents,
Bring a favorite recipe Grandma used to make.

Tuesday, September 15

4:30—6:30 pm, 60th Anniversary Open House
for Phil & Janet Marhews, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 23

1:30 pm, Kneedles & Hooks, Promise Room





A Word from the Pastor

Dear beloved,

This month marks a milestone anniversary for one of the most infamous events to ever happen in this country. I'm talking about the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in which almost 3000 people in total were murdered between the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA. Without a doubt everyone reading this can remember distinctly where they were and what they were doing when they received that horrible, God forsaken news on that bright and sunny Tuesday morning.

It is an event that shook us all to the core. No longer did any of us feel safe, for it made us realize that terrorism was not something that happened to people in places thousands of miles from where we live. It is something that is as close as our own backyard. And believe me, having moved to an area only one hour away from New York City just three years after those attacks, that feeling was very evident.

And, as people of faith, it made us confront one of the central questions of our faith – a question that we often struggle with, not only on anniversaries of major atrocities, but every single day. I'm talking about that universal question of the Christian faith - the question of evil. Or, as it is often asked: "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

It truly is one of the central questions of existence – this question of evil; of bad things happening, whether it be to good people or not. Anniversaries like 9/11 bring it to mind. The recent flooding in Nepal, where hundreds of people are known to have died and thousands more continue missing make us reflect on it. We struggle with the reality of evil with every troubling diagnosis or traumatic event we suffer through in our individual lives. The list seems endless.

Putting a human face on it makes some of evil more understandable—we all know that evil people do evil things. One needs look no further than those 9/11 terrorists. The violence of nature is more troubling. How do we deal with natural disasters and disease that do not respect persons, but indiscriminately claim the lives of the elderly, the young, and the disabled along with able-bodied children and adults? Many people—even many Christians—ask, "How could a good God allow such things to happen?"

Throughout the centuries, theologians and philosophers have developed theodicies in an attempt to answer this very question. A theodicy is a defense of God's goodness, His omnipotence (His almighty power) and His sovereignty in view of the existence of evil. Theodicies attempt to answer the questions that, "If God is good why does He allow evil to happen? And since evil does happen, what does that say about God's goodness?"

God has yet to reveal to us a full and final answer to the problem of evil and suffering other than it is the reality of living in a fallen world. But, in the meantime, He has given us much to hold on to in regards to this universal question through His Word. First, there is Isaiah 55, verses 8 - 9 in which God says, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, My ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

The Bible never minimizes the truth of the misery and pain caused by evil. Those confronting it would tear their clothing. They would offer up lamentations to God. They would cry real tears. We need look no further than our Savior Himself, the Man of Sorrows who knew our grief, to understand our response to evil. For in the Garden, in the height of Jesus' anguish, when His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground, He called out, *"Yet, not My will, but Yours be done."* (Luke 22:42)

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But, let us remember this - God is not capricious or arbitrary. He does not act irrationally, nor does He show or permit evil purposelessly. That doesn't mean we always know why a particular evil occurs at a given place or time. Because we don't know all the reasons behind each particular evil, we can't make simplistic connections between guilt and disaster, between a person's sin and the evil that befalls him. Texts like that of Job keep us from universally declaring that pain is a specific punishment for a specific sin. Job's cry that *"the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"* (Job 1:21) was not a superficial display of piety or a denial of pain. Instead, Job bit his lip and clenched his stomach (and, maybe, even his fist) as he remained faithful in the middle of tragedy and unmitigated suffering. Job knew who God was, and he refused to curse Him.

And let us also remember that we are not living in the best of all possible worlds. This world is fallen. Suffering is here only because sin has marred an otherwise good creation. And as long as creation suffers from the sin of humanity, creation will continue to return that suffering. Paul writes of how the whole creation has been groaning with birth pangs right up to this present time. And until Christ returns with the new heavens and new earth, we will continue to deal with those birth pangs in the form of tempests, earthquakes, floods and disease. And with every other man-made evil that evil men will continue to devise.

But, above all, let us always remember, and let us never forget - evil is not ultimate. The Christian faith never denies the horror of evil. But neither does it regard evil as having any power over and above God! Scripture's final word on evil will always be triumph!

Creation groans as it awaits its final redemption. And anniversaries of evil events just help to remind us of that. But let us never forget that this groaning is not futile. For, over all creation stands the resurrected Christ—Christus Victor—who has triumphed, and will always triumph, over the powers of evil and who will make all things new. And because of that – because of Him – we can know that no matter what we face, we will persevere! As the apostle Paul proclaims in Romans 8:38-39 - *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"* And that, beloved - God's love for us that is in Jesus Christ our Lord - that will always be the answer to humanity's universal question. Thanks be to God!

As always, see you in church!

Pastor Craig



NEW COVENANT WOMEN'S NEWS



Lydia Circle

**Tuesday, September 8,
at 1:30 pm, in the Church Library**

**Ladies, please join us as we gather on the
second Tuesday of each month for Bible
study. Our study this year is entitled:**

MADE FOR HIM:

Rest In Christ for Restless Hearts.

We will cover Lesson One in September.

"MADE FOR HIM: Rest in Christ for Restless Hearts, traces the theme of rest from Genesis to Revelation, uncovering what true rest looks like and how we can come to realize this very rest in Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.....As you study Scripture from beginning to end, you'll learn the comfort that comes from a heart resting and rejoicing in Christ."

A Note From Janet

Military Music – Part 4 of 4

It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes. This points out the significance of faith in our Triune God to those who commit their lives to preserving our nation. Starting this year and continuing for the next eight years, our country will recognize the founding of our democratic republic through the times of the Revolutionary War that began in 1776 until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1784.

U.S. Coast Guard: This branch of our armed services was formed in 1790. Composed in 1927, “Semper Paratus” is Latin for “always ready”. That phrase is the name of their song, their march, and their official motto. Their hymn is the “**Eternal Father, Lord of Hosts**”. Its words ask God to “Watch o’er the ones who guard our coasts”.

U.S. Space Force: This is the sixth and youngest branch of our military. It was established in 2019 and is the smallest armed service with the Department of Defense. It is responsible for space warfare operations. Their song, “Sempra Supra” (Always Above) begins: “We’re the mighty watchful eye, guardian beyond the blue”. In 2020 Former Air Force Captain James G. Linzey wrote a prayer and the music for the Space Force hymn. His hymn, “**Creator of the Universe**” celebrates the creation of our world and universe by a Divine God.

National Hymn (Anthem) of the United States of America: Written during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem that has inspired generations of Americans. John Stafford Smith set this poem to the tune of a popular British song, “To Anacreon in Heaven”. It wasn’t until 1931 that by a joint resolution of Congress, President Herbert Hoover signed into law that “**The Star-Spangled Banner**” become our national hymn/anthem. Its four verses serve as a reminder of our American values and history.

State Fair Turkey Legs

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 4 skin-on, bone-in turkey drumsticks (10 to 12 oz. each)

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 325°. In a small bowl, combine butter, rosemary, thyme, salt, and pepper.
- Pat turkey legs dry, then generously coat with butter mixture. Using your hands, rub butter mixture under skin.
- Wrap each turkey leg in foil and place on a wire rack set in a baking sheet (you can also use a large baking dish; tightly cover top of dish with foil).
- Bake turkey legs until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 165°, about 2 hours.
- Unwrap turkey (or uncover dish). Heat broiler. Broil turkey on high, watching closely, until skin is crispy, 8 to 10 minutes.

Let rest at least 10 minutes before serving.

September Recipes

Homemade Lemonade

Ingredients:

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- Ice and lemon slices, for serving

Directions:

- In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring 1 cup water to a boil. Stir in granulated sugar until dissolved. Let cool.
- In a large pitcher, stir lemon juice, cooled simple syrup, and 8 cups cold water. Serve over ice. Garnish with lemon slices.
- **Make Ahead:** Simple syrup can be made 1 week ahead. Store in an airtight container and refrigerate.

Recipes were found online at: delish.com



*You Are Invited
to
Philip & Janet Mathews'
60th Anniversary
Open House
Tuesday, September 15,
4:30—6:30 pm
New Covenant Presbyterian Church
700 East 25th Street
Hutchinson, KS*

*The couple requests no gifts please.
Cards and your best wishes are
warmly welcomed.*

Kneedles & Hooks

Kneedles and Hooks will meet on September 23, (We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month) at 1:30 pm.

We'd love to have you join us in making scarves and other warm items for those in need.



Son-Rise Guys

**Every Thursday morning—7:00-8:00 am
In the Church Library**



We are continuing our study of "The Gospel of Jesus Christ," by Paul Washer. The Gospel reveals that God has come and won the victory for us in a hopeless world. Guys, join us for Coffee, Snacks and Fellowship!

Deacons Corner

Deacons—our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:30 pm, in the Church Library.

September Greeters

Alex Patterson Shirley Power

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Psalms 100:2a

FAMILY NEWS

Condolences to...

The family and friends of Sherry Brooks, who passed away on August 7, 2026.

If you know of any information that should be included in the newsletter, please notify Julia in the church office.

Did You See the Recent Lunar Eclipse?

A partial, (96%), lunar eclipse was visible in the Kansas night sky on Thursday, August 27, 2026. In case you missed it, here are some photos from Bob and Julia Berdahl.





September 2026 Mission Prayer Notes



Murray and Kathy Trim – TEAM – (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) – Japan

Praise GOD with **Murray and Kathy** – They recently came to the point in time when it was necessary to replace their car. They were pleased to find a car that was in good condition and suited their needs, especially being able to provide transportation to church for some of their acquaintances. **PRAY** for Murray and Kathy as they share the message of GOD's LOVE as they continue their labor in Japan: **Kathy** - teaches classes and has a ministry with women; and with **Murray** as he has contact with people, times for preaching and other activities. Continue to **PRAY** for health and strength for each of their mothers, Murray's Mom celebrated her 100 birthday, in April in Nebraska. Kathy's mom is in her 90's and lives in Pretty Prairie. **Murray** and **Kathy** plan to stay about two more years continuing their ministry in Japan. They have four grown children, one living in Japan and three here in the U. S.

Shelly Zadina – Medical Ambassadors – Albania

Shelly would very much like to come and visit New Covenant, let's pray that she will be able to do that soon, so that more of us have the opportunity to know her personally. She continues working for **Medical Ambassadors** as she lives near Salina where she can help care for her mom and dad. She and her parents all have physical needs that require attention. Her dad remains in a nursing home in Salina, as a result of a stroke he had a few years ago. Shelly lives with her mom and helps care for her physical needs and concerns. Shelly has been writing Bible study lessons for the women involved with their mission in **Albania**. She also prepared the program for the **DVBS** there this past summer, but due to health concerns was not able to go and help with the DVBS program. It is imperative for her **TO GO TO ALBANIA BEFORE THE END OCTOBER IF SHE IS TO KEEP HER PERMANENT RESIDENCY STATUS THERE**. **PRAY** that she will be able to make this trip, if it is **GOD'S PLAN** for her to continue this mission activity.

Katelynn Robinson – She has sensed a **calling from GOD** to go into full time Mission Work. She will be participating in **Project Video's Immersion Program**, starting work in Thailand in January with a 1-year commitment. She is presently taking a Perspectives class on Monday evenings to help prepare her for her upcoming activities and service for the LORD. Let's keep **praying** for her as she is looking forward to this change in her life.

Fredy and Djana JAVIER – Macedonia –

Pray for the Javier's – as they work with the mission project they set up in Macedonia and for their children **JAVI (Shavi)** and **SHARON**. We are excited and eager to have **Fredy** here in Hutchinson to meet with any of our congregation who can attend shortly before this letter goes to press, so there will be more information coming soon.

FOUNDATION HAITIAN CHILDREN OF HOPE - School in Haiti



Haiti continues to have many needs and certainly our prayers. Our communication with this school is minimal, but I think we will be able to get a little more information and updates very soon. **PRAY** that there will **soon be an end** to the **gang activity** which is so very dangerous, destructive and disruptive to many areas of Haiti, and includes the area where this school is located. **PRAY** for people there – students, faculty and others, as they continue to endure the dangerous activity by the gangs. **PRAY** for **VOLVICK**, one of the founders of this school and also the current principal. The school has classes for both elementary and secondary students. He continues to live and work in Port au Prince, some distance from the location of the school, supporting himself, so that all money sent goes to support the school. In the past, **Volvick** was able to get back and forth and in the summer, he went to the area of the school and supplied the students and their families with food. **PRAY** for **safety** for **VOLVICK**, the **teachers** and **students** and their **families**. **PRAY** that we will be able to safely send money to the school soon.

(Missions continued on next page)

LOCAL MINISTRIES

FOOD BANK – THANK YOU for your generous giving to the **Food Bank**. If you wish to donate, items may be put in the basket (under the coat rack) designated for the **Food Bank**. Donations are distributed through the **Food Bank** to those in need in our community. Donations can be put in the basket any time, they are usually taken to the **Food Bank** early each month. **THANKS** to **CARL** and **Jean Sidebottom** for your faithful delivery to the **Food Bank** of items collected here.

YOUNG LIFE – Both junior and senior high students may be involved in the **YOUNG LIFE** program. The local **Young Life** program is presently focusing on students in the Buhler school district. The local leaders hope to start work in the Hutchinson schools - starting with those in the 7th and 8th grade and going to the high school. This will most likely be next school year. **PRAY** for the activities planned for the young people in the coming months, **PRAY** that the message of knowing JESUS CHRIST and having a personal with HIM will be made very clear. **Note from Grant (local director)** – WE are continuing to look for more adults to be **PRAYER PARTNERS** for the local program. **PRAY** for dedication and good stewardship of people's time and talents as the leadership committee is being rebuilt. **PRAY** for the current need for more adults to work with Grant and the local

YOUNG LIFE program.

STERLING COLLEGE - **PRAY** for the faculty, leadership and others who work at **STERLING** during this school year. **PRAY** for the faculty as they work with and teach the students, that GOD will be honored in all things. Classes started **August 19**. **PRAY** for the students as they return to campus and for the new students going there for the coming school year, including one from New Covenant. **PRAY** for ways for **New Covenant** to help and support **STERLING COLLEGE** and its activities. Some of us went to Sterling, **Saturday, August 15** and had the opportunity to meet some of the students and be involved in an activity for them. **STERLING** is giving New Covenant some great opportunities to be involved with the college and activities there. Hope many of us can be involved in some of the special activities coming up. **PRAY** for **Jose Carrillo**, campus pastor. **Pray** for the students who went on the summer mission trips, **PRAY** for them to know **GOD'S PLAN** and leading in their lives.

OTHER MISSION CONCERNS

Zach and Ellie - **PRAY** for wisdom for them as they continue to minister to people that **GOD** brings into their lives in the country where **GOD** has called them to serve and for them to be sensitive to the **LORD'S LEADING** in all of their activities, for ministry with people **GOD** puts into their lives, and activities in which they are involved and as parents. They are serving in a country that is not really friendly to Christianity. If you have more questions about them, you can ask Pastor Craig or Glenda Riley. **PRAY** for their young sons, **Roman** and **River** as they grow and develop, Zach is the grandson of Tom Robson, a member of New Covenant.

Our special family - **PRAY** for them as they continue their lives here. **Pray** for concerns for **family** (parents and other relatives), and **friends** who still live in their native country, pray for their safety and well being. **PRAY** for their girls, the older daughter is in 4th grade this school year, pray for her to have a good school year. **PRAY** for the younger daughter, as she develops and learns many new skills. **Pray** for **GOD'S leading** and for wisdom for the parents as they make decisions for their family and for their future. We are glad to have them here at this time.

PROJECT VIDEO – **PRAY** for **PROJECT VIDEO** and those who work with it. This is the mission that **Kevin Evenson** is involved with, and he will be happy to talk to you if you have any questions, or if you would like more information on this Mission and its activities. Also, this is the mission with which **Katelynn Robinson** is becoming involved.

PRAYER WALK MINISTRY – **PRAY** for those from **New Covenant** who have developed a local mission, **walking and praying around the neighborhood of our church** each week. If you would like to join them at any time, you can check with Kevin Evanston or Pastor Craig for more information.

“There are times when we worry about everything, even about our salvation. It is the devil who tries to pull us away from God. As soon as we look up at the cross, however, we see again that it is ‘not I, but Christ.’ God sees us in Christ. He can fulfill the law, and He did it when He died on the cross. Our salvation lies in Him, so we need never doubt. ‘...our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that...we might live with Him.’”

~ from *This Day Is the Lord's*, by Corrie Ten Boom, page 85



September 2026
Newsletter

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Fellowship Footnotes

September Fellowship Potluck:

"From Grandma's Kitchen"

Sunday, September 13, at 11:45 am

What was your favorite thing about visiting grandparents? Favorite memories often included some treats that were secretly passed to each child. Usually, it would center around a meal. As we remember our grandparents on September 13, Grandparent's Day, let's celebrate some of those favorite dishes that came from grandma's kitchen. Please join us for our next Fellowship Meal at 11:45 am, on Sunday, September 13, and bring your favorite dish from Grandma's recipe book to share. See you around the table.



Looking Ahead...

Sunday, October 11 will be our next potluck and the theme will be Italian food, in honor of Columbus Day, which is October 12. Did you know...Christopher Columbus was Italian, though he was sailing for the Spanish monarchs?