

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Second Creation Sunday

September 20, 2026

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge
Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Rod Pace for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Jane Franck for providing our coffee hour refreshments, and

Judy Ritchie for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of her husband, Joe's birthday.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too

Christ Episcopal Church

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Online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/CCEpiscopal/give/now>

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote

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Cover art: Canticle of the Creatures by Francis of Assisi; Sr Jane Mary Sorosiak, OSF

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Barbara Halsey

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #380

From all that dwell

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant This is the day the Creator has made.

People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise, hymn #376, vs 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Creation Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to active hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People	Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
 That they might keep his statutes *
 and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: A reading from Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #573, vss 1-3

Father eternal, Ruler of creation

Kumbaya, My Lord

*Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
 Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
 Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
 Oh Lord, kumbaya*

Please remain standing, as able.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Kumbaya, my Lord (*lyrics are above*)

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

The Iona Creed

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of male and female.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

EOW, Creationtide Form, pg 176

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:

for the teeming life of the seas,

the flight of birds,

and the diversity of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;

to protect endangered species,

to preserve the variety of habitats,

and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth

of blessings from land and sea;

for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.

We pray for the nations of the earth,

give us the will to cherish this planet

and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,

called to reconcile and heal:

For this parish and The Rev Karla Woggon.

God of grace:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.

We exult in our diversity and giftedness,

we repent of our sins, divisions and violence.

By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.
As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care, and
those on our prayer list. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.*

God of compassion:
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died,
whom we entrust to your eternal love;
may we support and comfort those who mourn.

God of peace:
hear our prayer.

Silence

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our
relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our
mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share
the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent for what we have done to harm them, and for
what we have not done to help them.**

**Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another
and for all creatures, according to your will and in
the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our
Redeemer. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling
work in the world.*

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, EOW, pg 114

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: (sung by all)

The Land of Rest tune

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the

high - est! Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

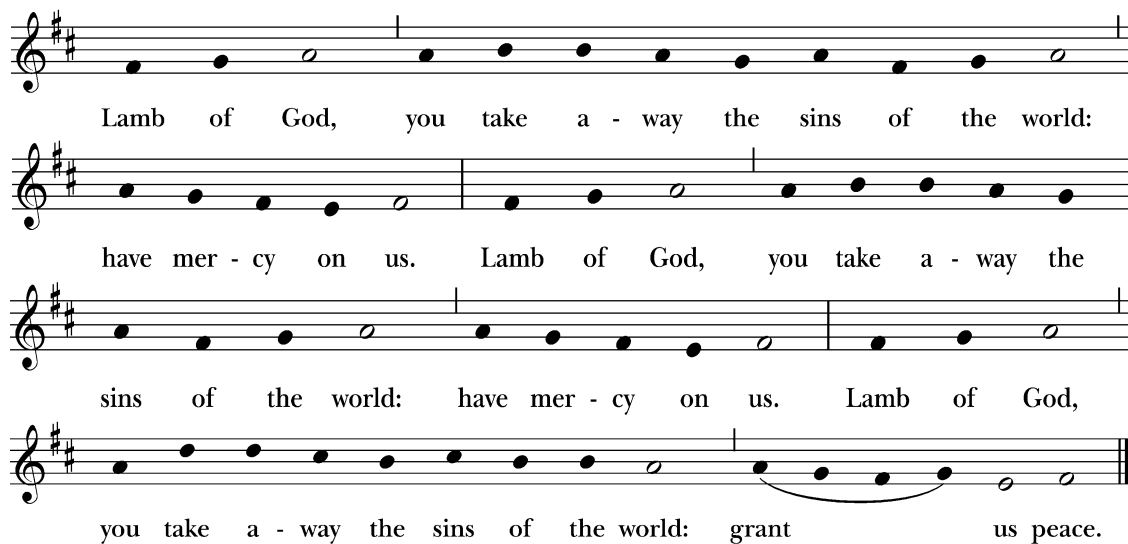
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S161 (*sung by all*)



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Kathy Sugishita

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,

I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

EOW, pg 58

Celebrant Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with Spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #593

Lord, make us servants of your peace

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People Thanks be to God the Creator.

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalice Bearer	Bruce Smith	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Ann Hazard	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Ann Hazard	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Ann Hazard	Patti Phelps
Greeter/Usher(s)	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Brenda Weems, Cara Todd, Carol Greer & family, Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebbber (Cynthia's friends), Denise Seckel, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donald & Audrey Carter (Denise & Larry's friend), Donald Lundy (Pat Hardee's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Janice & Ken Kleva, Jeff (community friend) & his wife Karen, Jerry & Theresa (Ann's friends), John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), John & Jane Gehring, Karen & Dick Dewald (Erin's parents), Langhorne Jones (Geoff's father), Louise Law, Martha Honaker (The Rev), Marybeth Lentz, Michael, Sally & Chuck Besaw, Sara Brown Davis, and Tom Warndorf.

Long-term prayers:

Antje & Bill, Buck Hunnicutt, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Gary Medley & Allan Joyce, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman, Rita Woodruff, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), and Vanita.

Departed: Carl Greer, Jeanne's BIL

Birthdays: Tammy Blevins (Sept 20, TODAY!), Louise Law (Sept 25), Cliff Hudgins (Sept 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, Presiding Bishop, our Bishop Search Committee, and Karla, our Priest-in-Charge

In the Anglican Community: the Anglican Church of Australia

In the Diocese of WNC: Church of the Messiah in Murphy

In Alleghany County: Mt Zion United Methodist Church and the Main Street businesses & individuals impacted by the recent fire

Schedule

Sunday, September 20 – The Creation Season (CC is celebrating Sept 13-Oct 11)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

4:00 pm – Outdoor Celtic Christian Eucharist at Wildcat Rock

Monday, September 21

11:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, September 22

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, September 27 – The Creation Season (CC is celebrating Sept 13-Oct 11)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00 – 1:00 pm – Living & Dying Well

Monday, September 28

10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Sauntering with the Sacred

The Office will be closed today

Tuesday, September 29

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

TODAY: Sunday September 20 at 4:00 pm: Outdoor Celtic Christian Eucharist marking the fall equinox. Bring a camp chair and a friend! We will meet at **Wildcat Rock**, which is just past the Bluffs Lodge in Doughton Park on the BRP. {You keep bearing to the left and drive to the parking lot beyond the Lodge. We'll meet right at the base of the water tower.} Bring a camp chair to sit on and invite a friend.

Living & Dying Well – NEXT Sunday Sept 27 and Sunday, Oct 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Join us for a three-week series exploring the acclaimed PBS Frontline documentary *Being Mortal*, based on surgeon and writer Atul Gawande's bestselling book. The first two sessions include a portion of the film followed by open, faith-grounded conversation. The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. You're welcome to attend one or all three weeks. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by The Rev Karla Woggon.

Sauntering with the Sacred, Monday, Sept 28th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Doughton Park. Come slow down and wander. Join Karla Woggon for a half day of **sauntering** on holy ground. Open yourself to the guidance of the wilderness. Move slowly among the trees, and learn from their rootedness, resilience, and community. Grounded in the Celtic Christian tradition and open to all seeking quiet and connection, we will cross a threshold into **sacred time**, carry an intention into solitude, and let the land mirror back what it will. **What to bring:** lunch, water, hiking boots, and a camp chair. For more details about the exact meeting spot and to **SIGN-UP, contact Karla at 828.638.0533.**

There's a shopping list for the Solid Rock Food Closet in the red wagon. See what's most needed and contribute what you can. *A new notice from the food closet asks that we double-check expiration dates because they cannot accept expired items.*

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion groups continue on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm The Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue learning more about the enneagram. If you have any questions, contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com. All are welcome to join either or both groups.

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
Sept 20	Judy Ritchie	Rod Pace	Jane Franck
Sept 27	Cynthia Grant	Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant
Oct 4	Jeanne Green	Jim Halsey	
Oct 11	Louise Law	John Franck	Louise Law

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing, and restoring our relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. At Christ Church, we will celebrate creation season September 13 – October 11 with special liturgies and activities.

Our Sunday morning liturgy will reflect the focus on creation. We will be using new prayers, a creed, confession, and Eucharistic Prayer recommended by the National Episcopal Church. The hymns will also reflect creation themes.

October 11 at 2:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals will be held in the lower parking lot of Christ Church. We encourage all who would like their pet to be blessed to arrive before 2:00 pm and make sure you have control of them at all times. If your animal friend is *not able* to be around other animals, let us know and stay with your animal in your vehicle.

The 25th Anniversary Team needs your help!

The Anniversary Team has started the review process by looking at pictures, scrapbooks and documents to create some storyboards (pictures, scrapbook stuff) for display, a written history document, and a slide show.

If you have anything of historical interest – pictures, bulletins, newsletters – bring them to the church. You'll see a sign in the Parish Hall indicating the appropriate space to leave your contribution.

We also need individuals who can volunteer time to help with the creation of the above-mentioned items. If you're interested, let Nancy Wilson know as soon as possible.

Hearts to Serve Community Fair

Sponsored by the Alleghany Co Ministerium

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Sparta United Methodist Church

Presentations by community leaders & discussion on topics related to homelessness, law enforcement, children, families, food disparity, and subsistence needs. On the schedule are Sheriff Shane Glenn, Stacey Presnell, and Mitch Callaway.

Are you looking for ways to **SERVE** your community?

Wondering about the **NEEDS** of Alleghany Co residents?

Who is meeting those needs & **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**