

September 2026 **Tabernacle Methodist** Monthly Newsletter

Purpose Over Preference

One of the great gifts of a church with a long history is that we did not arrive here on our own.

Someone taught us the Scriptures. Someone invited us to worship. Someone taught our Sunday School class, sang in the choir, worked with our children, prepared a meal, prayed for us, or simply noticed when we needed encouragement. Long before many of us arrived at Tabernacle, faithful people were already building something that we would one day inherit.

Scripture gives us a beautiful picture of this in Psalm 145:4:

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

I love that picture. One generation experiences the faithfulness of God and then makes sure the next generation knows about it.

That is part of what the Church has always done.

The first Christians did it too. Acts 2:42 tells us that they *"devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* Those simple commitments became part of the foundation upon which generations of Christians have built their lives.

Two thousand years later, we are still doing those same things.

We still gather around Scripture. We still pray. We still worship. We still share life together. We still care for people in need. We still tell people about Jesus.

The surroundings have changed tremendously, but the heart of what Christ called His Church to be has endured.

And that is why I want to share an important phrase with you: **Purpose Over Preference.**

It doesn't mean traditions are unimportant. Quite the opposite. Our traditions often remind us of our purpose. They carry stories of faithfulness. They connect us with people who came before us and remind us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

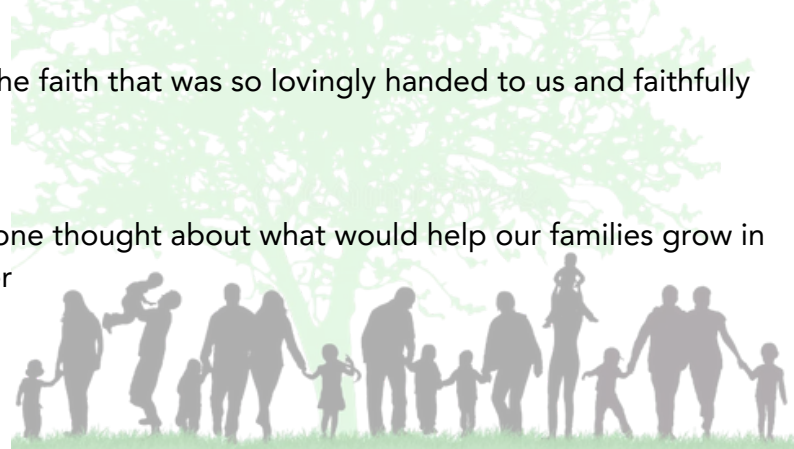
The big question we have to determine is how we take the faith that was so lovingly handed to us and faithfully hand it to someone else.

Someone once made room for us.

Someone cared whether our children knew Jesus. Someone thought about what would help our families grow in faith. Someone invested time, money, energy, and prayer so that there would be a church here for us to inherit.

Now we have the privilege of doing the same.

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STAFF MEMBERS

Matt Morris - Senior Pastor, mmorris@tabernaclemethodist.com | **Joe Essick - Associate Pastor**, jessick@tabernaclemethodist.com
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Steve Nelson - Family Ministry, snelson@tabernaclemethodist.com | **Laurie Golden - Kids Ministry Director**, KidsMin@tabernaclemethodist.com



That is what excites me about the question and study, **Who Are We Becoming?**

This fall, our Discipleship Formation Journey will give us time to explore that question together. We will remember where we have come from, study Scripture, listen to one another, pray, and seek God's direction for our church.

I hope you will join me on this 10-week study journey. You can learn more about the **Who Are We Becoming? Discipleship Formation Journey** on our website: tabernaclemethodist.com. You can sign up there as well. I hope you do. And together, I hope we enter it grateful for what we have been given and excited about what we now have the opportunity to give.

Because perhaps one of the greatest ways we can honor those who built the church we inherited is to make sure another generation inherits a vibrant faith in Jesus from us.

One generation commends His works to another.

May we be faithful with our turn.

-Pastor Matt

Parables Class News...Fall 2026



The Parables Sunday School Class will be starting a new Bible study on Sept. 20. The study is entitled, “Romans: From Guilt to Grace”. The book of Romans speaks directly to humanity’s deepest struggles—doubt, pride, fear, and shame. With 30 lessons covering 16 chapters, our study of Romans invites us to discover the truth about our sin and the incredible gift God offers through His Son, Jesus Christ: a right relationship with Him. We will discover how the gospel leads us from guilt to grace, peace, life, confidence, faith, security, surrender, redemption, service, and genuine community.

The Parables Class is a mix of women, men, couples and singles of various ages. We meet in Room 126 each Sunday from 10-10:45 AM. If you are interested in an in-depth Bible study with lively discussion, we would like to have you join us for this study.

Brad Ehrhardt and Dan Cockman, Co-leaders

WHO ARE WE *Becoming?*

A Discipleship Formation Journey

TWO OPTIONS TO ATTEND:

 **SUNDAYS**
AT 4PM

 **WEDNESDAYS**
AT 10AM

STARTING SEPTEMBER 13

 **CONTACT PASTOR MATT TO SIGN UP**

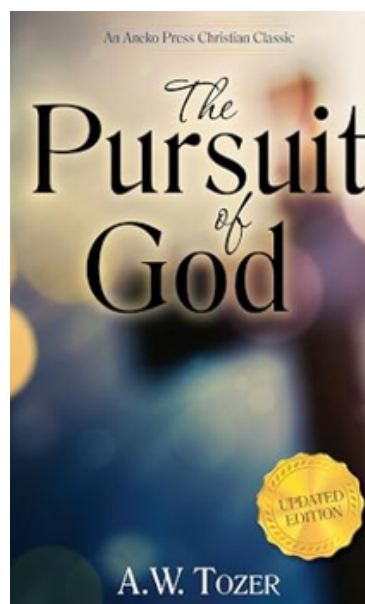
 mmorris@tabernaclemethodist.com



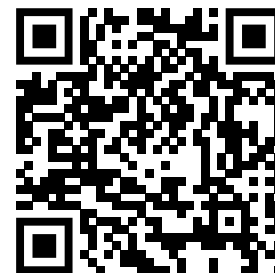
SIGN UP

Have questions?
Please reach out
to Pastor Matt
or contact the
church office
at 336-674-2941

The Pursuit of God



(Updated, Annotated)
by Aiden Wilson Tozer
(Author), A. W. Tozer
(Author), Ruth Zetek
(Editor)
Format: Kindle Edition
Free today!!



A MESSAGE FROM FINANCE

As Summer Fades, Faithful Giving Sustains Our Mission

As summer draws to a close, autumn returns us to a familiar, more structured rhythm. Year-end approaches, and with it comes the natural focus on the tasks and commitments that prepare us for a strong finish to the year. Among the most important of these is meeting our shared commitment to the church.

Through July, giving totaled \$333,671 while operating expenses reached \$408,375, leaving a shortfall of \$74,704. We invite you to prayerfully consider your role in helping eliminate this deficit before year-end. Your faithful generosity enables the vibrant ministries of our church to continue serving, growing, and sharing God's love in the months ahead.

Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Cemetery Plot — PRICE INCREASE —

Tabernacle Methodist Church Cemetery Plot Price Increase

Please be advised that effective **October 1**, the price of cemetery plots at Tabernacle Methodist Church will increase from **\$300 to \$500**.

Church members may purchase plots at the current price of **\$300 through September 30**. Beginning October 1, the new price of **\$500** will apply.

Please note that the purchase of **one cemetery plot is for one burial**.

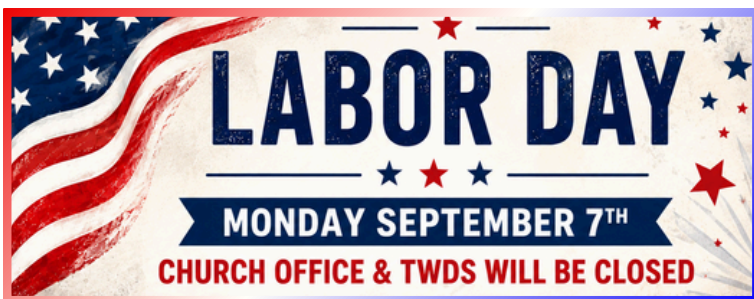
Members who wish to purchase a plot at the current price are encouraged to do so before the October 1 price increase.

For any questions or purchase inquiries, please contact the church office at 336-674-2941 or email at office@tabernaclemethodist.com.

Our Table @ Tabernacle

Sept 9 & 23 | Dine-in or Take-out Bring a dessert to share!

Volunteer: Matt/Emily (704) 213-0035



LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT



College students and/or parents of college students please send your address for the new year to the church office or to ksmoore43@gmail.com.

And don't forget to check your mailbox for uplifting and encouraging mail.



with a GRATEFUL HEART thank you

Teresa Ehrhardt's family would like to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers over these last few weeks. Your abundant generosity, kindness and love are heartfelt and deeply appreciated. Thank you so much....Brad Ehrhardt

To my Tabernacle Family & Friends,
Thank you for your prayers, cards and concerns during my recent illness.

~Fred Greeson

A heartfelt thank you to our church members, volunteers, TWDS, staff, friends, and family for your continued dedication and support throughout the year.

Let's continue to stay strong in the Lord, support one another, and keep going forward together.

Thank you for all that you do and, most importantly, for who you are!

~ From all of us

Dear Tabernacle Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, your visits and the get well cards for Larry. As many of you know, he is being treated for pulmonary embolism. That treatment is with blood thinners and oxygen and will last a long time.

We are grateful that through God's grace doctors and tests were able to pinpoint Larry's condition and get him on a treatment plan that hopefully will lead to a full recovery.

God is good.

Annette Heath

Dear Church Family!

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, encouragement, and concern during Andy's cancer diagnosis. This has been a difficult and unexpected journey. Your calls, messages, visits, meals, and especially your prayers have been a tremendous source of comfort and strength. We have been reminded that we are not walking this road alone.

As we continue this journey, we appreciate your continued prayers for Andy, his medical team, and our family. We trust that God is with us every step of the way and are thankful for the many ways He has shown his love through all of you-

With a heartfelt gratitude,
The Family of Andy Griffin

CELEBRATING LIFE & LOVE

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Frank Hairr | 16 Glenn Cook |
| 2 Dianne Hinson | 16 Jerry Panzner |
| 3 Grayson Carlisle | 17 Jessica Nelson |
| 4 Laura Fogleman | 17 Bryce Whiteside |
| 4 Larry Heath | 18 Mary Sue Laws |
| 4 Judah Morris | 18 Astor Vazquez |
| 5 Brenleigh Kimbro | 19 Denise Nixon |
| 5 Mary Kathryn Smith | 20 Jonathan Branson |
| 6 Paula Henson | 20 Emma Lou Moss |
| 7 Sam Andrews | 20 Abbey Stewart |
| 8 Braden Dunlop | 20 Gina Sweeney |
| 8 Terry Spence | 21 Judy Merrill |
| 11 Chris Meyers | 21 Isley Morrow |
| 11 Ben Rafferty | 22 Doris Brien |
| 12 Ellen Blake | 22 Jay Gordon |
| 12 Cami Burke | 22 Chelsea Griffin |
| 12 Remy San Miguel | 22 Carson Lee |
| 12 Georgia Timmons | 22 Lily Morrow |
| 13 Bob Sosnowski | 23 Hannah Sweeney |
| 13 Meagan Stewart | 25 Bryan Fields |
| 13 Sally Vick | 25 Joel Gordon |
| 14 Alan Byrd | 26 Angie Greeson |
| 14 Charlotte Martin | 28 Crystal Carlisle |
| 15 Tami Fields | 29 Allen Griffin |
| 15 Justin Greeson | 30 Jimmy Horney |

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 7 Labor Day, Church Office and TWDS Closed
- 9 Our Table @ Tabernacle, 5-6:30 PM CLC
- 20 Churchwide Picnic, 4-7 PM Hagan Stone
- 20 Due date for Newsletter Content for October
- 23 Our Table @ Tabernacle, 5-6:30 PM CLC
- 24 Senior Adult Lunch, 11am The Cutting Board
- 24 Brunswick Stew: Prep, 6 PM CLC
- 25 Brunswick Stew: Food Prep, 8 AM FH & FH Kitchen
- 26 Brunswick Stew: Cooking, 5 AM FH & FH Kitchen
- 26 Brunswick Stew: Sale, 2 PM FH & FH Kitchen

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

(Classes Meet From 10-10:45am)

- Parlor** Discerning the Voice of God
- Rm 126** The Parables Class
- Rm 130** Adult Disciples
- Rm 134** Curiosity Class
- CLC** Men's Bible Study
- CLC** Women's Bible Study

MONTHLY

- Kids Choir Practice* - **Sundays 11 am Rm 132**
 - Alive Praise Band practice - **Sundays 7 pm CLC**
 - A "Good Start" Bible Study - **Mondays 6 am CLC**
 - Women's Fitness Fellowship* - **Mondays 5:30 pm CLC**
 - Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts - **Mondays 6:30 / 7:30 pm FH**
 - Sunshine Circle* - **3rd Monday 7 pm Rm 130**
 - Men's Basketball Fellowship - **Tues/Thurs 6:30 pm CLC**
 - Kids' Tumbling* - **Tuesdays 4:15 pm CLC**
 - Backpack Ministry - **Wednesdays Basement**
 - Quilt Ministry - **2nd Wednesday 10 am Basement**
 - Chancel Choir practice - **Wednesday 6:30 pm Sanctuary**
 - Our Table @ Tabernacle - **2nd & 4th Wed. 5 - 6:30 pm CLC**
 - Methodist Men* - **2nd Sunday 8 am FH**
 - Fellowship & Friendship Circle* - **2nd Monday 2 pm Rm 130**
- * Not meeting during summer months

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Richard & Cynthia Baker | 17 Joe & Sarah Turner |
| 1 Jerry & Susan Panzner | 18 Donald & Anne Marlow |
| 8 Alan & Marie Byrd | 21 Bob & June Coyle |
| 12 Dean & Sandra Kiger | 27 Brandon & Erin Burke |
| 13 Jamie & Matthew Jones | 27 David & Karla Stapleton |

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Loving Memory of John Dyson by
David Dyson

In Loving Memory of Sandy Jones by
Ellen Blake
Loretta Allred
Jackie Fogleman
Floyd Fogleman
Betty Watson
Charlotte Fogleman
Kellie Capps
Carolyn McKinney
Brian & Laine Tousey
John Todd Allred
Alan & Marie Byrd
Mike & Lisa Lee
Linda Allred

In Loving Memory of Ida Jenkins by
Rumsey & Anne Helms

In Loving Memory of Rev. Ned Owens by
Tabernacle TLC Committee

In Loving Memory of Ada & Paul Fields by
Jack & Marty Fields

In Loving Memory of Anne Norris & Maron Hollenback by
Jack & Marty Fields

In Loving Memory of Kay Kiger by
Vicky Wheeler

In Honor of Madelaine's birthday by
Shellia Williamson

In Honor of Ed & Peggy Christenbury's 60th Wedding Anniversary by
Alan & Rhonda Branson
The Dodson Family
Jay & Linda Gordon

In Loving Memory of Paul B. Christenbury by
Ed & Peggy Christenbury

In Loving Memory of Stanley Walter Smith by
Ed & Peggy Christenbury

In Loving Memory of Teresa Ehrhardt by
Sharon Neece
Jackie Neece
Bob & Joyce Sosnowski
Tony & Valerie Routh
Beth, Adam & Ellen Blake
Alan & Marie Byrd
Kathryn Edmondson
Charlie & Shirley Pratt
Gil & Kim Strader
Jerry & Susan Panzner
Alan & Rhonda Branson
Mike & Lisa Lee
Vicky Wheeler
Warren & Paula Ginn
Rumsey & Anne Helms
Dan & Janie Cockman
Ed & Peggy Christenbury
Dean & Sandra Kiger
June Sofley
Phyllis Horney
Randy & Phyllis Love
Sam & Angela Jones
Dennis & Liz Wyrick
Seth & Lisa Brinkley
Patsy Helms
Freo & Cindy Webster
Ronnie & Glenda Stout
Parables Sunday School Class
Pete & Brenda Stephens
Mike & Barbie Garrett
Dr. Mary John Baxley
Jo Heather Dodson & family
James & Karen Moore
Michael & Sarah Thomas
Fran Griffin
Larry & Annette Heath
Tim & Judy Shoffner
Jerry & Iris Brothers
Richard & Linda Smith
Fellowship & Friendship Circles
Jimmy & Janice Horney
Margee Wrenn
Patricia Gonan
Robert & Rebecca Eller
Ron Hedrick
Curiosity Sunday School Class
Evan & Chelsea Lawson



\$10
Per Quart

"STEW SALE DAY"
2PM FELLOWSHIP
HALL KITCHEN

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE



DONATE

A cooked hen/chicken,
chopped with broth in
separate container.

Bring to the church kitchen.
Fri., Sept. 25 or 6 AM Sat., Sept. 26.



DESSERTS

(cake, pie, bread, cookies)
to sell.

Bring to the church kitchen
by 12 Noon Saturday, Sept. 26.

STEW PREP SCHEDULE



THU
SEPT. 24
6:00 PM – UNTIL
Help get out
and clean pots.



FRI
SEPT. 25
8:00 AM – NOON
Peel potatoes
and onions.
*Please bring a sharp
knife & large bowl.*



SAT
SEPT. 26
6:00 AM – UNTIL
"STEW SALE DAY"
Help needed all day!
Men needed at 5 a.m. in stew shed.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BRUNSWICK STEW SALE!

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Save on shipping

Spend \$35 and
SAVE \$5 on Shipping!

SHOP NOW

Use Code **SHIPDEAL** at Checkout

Convenient one-stop shopping for Brides, Graduates and Summer Vegetables!

Get a head start on Christmas Shopping!

The Sunshine Circle is selling 100% made-in-the-USA tools, packaged mixes and other items by RADA Cutlery! Every purchase supports the Sunshine Circle mission projects.

Please visit <https://rb.gy/7vtgy> or scan the QR code. Contact the Church Office for assistance.

TMC KIDS CHOIR Kickoff
Sunday 9/13/2026

All Kids
(1st-5th Grades)

Sundays
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Room 132

Contact Tami Fields at (336) 558-1418

BE THE CHURCH **DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH, Be the church** **\$16-\$25**

Wear Your Faith. Live the Mission.

NEW TABERNACLE T-SHIRTS! **LONG SLEEVE AVAILABLE!**

DESIGN 1
LOGO FRONT –
DISTRESSED TEXT BACK

DESIGN 2
DISTRESSED TEXT FRONT –
LOGO BACK AT COLLAR

DESIGN 3
LOGO FRONT –
CURSIVE TEXT BACK

CLASSIC & BOLD! **MAKE A STATEMENT!** **FAITHFUL & TIMELESS!**

3 GREAT COLORS to choose from!

DESIGN 4: LOGO ONLY \$12-\$18

GRAY INDIGO BLUE HEATHER DEEP TEAL

SOFT. COMFY. MEANINGFUL.
Perfect for every day.
Made to share your faith.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!
ORDER FORMS IN CHURCH OFFICE
OR CALL/TEXT PAULA GINN **336-908-5019**

OPERATION Christmas Child **Samaritan's Purse**

Shoebox Blessings

Shoeboxes and donation options are now available.
-a list of idea's are on the next page-

PACK A SHOE BOX

SEND GOOD NEWS GREAT JOY!



Get Ready to Pack a Shoebox

Start with a quality "wow" item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box. See our gift suggestions according to age and gender listed below for other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoebox.

(Special ideas for girls and boys are indicated by  for GIRL and  for BOY.)

Ideas for All Ages

"Wow" Items

- Doll (For children from 5-14, please consider including accessories such as doll clothes or a small doll bed.) 
- Soccer ball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- An outfit of clothing to wear

Personal Care Items

- Comb
- Hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container)
- Adhesive bandages (Colorful ones can

help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment.)

- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space.)
- Blanket

Clothing & Accessories

- Shirts and pants
- Pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress) 
- Underwear
- Shoes and socks
- Flip-flops
- Hat/scarf/mittens
- Sunglasses
- Tote bag/purse
- Hair bows 
- Friendship bracelets (yarn or embroidery thread)

Crafts & Activities

- Puzzles
- Sketch book/sketch pad
- Crayons/colored pencils

Toys

- Foam ball
- Kickball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Tennis ball
- Slinky
- Etch A Sketch

A Personal Note

- You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and an address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include



- Candy
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- War-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures
- Chocolate or food, including seeds, fruit rolls or other fruit snack, or drink mixes (powdered or liquid)
- Liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Ages 2-4

Crafts & Activities

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Pencil case
- Markers

- Pens
- Coloring pads
- Coloring books
- Picture book
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape
- Watercolor set [Finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper]

- Playdough (Consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use with the playdough.)
- Stickers
- Skipping rope/Jump rope
- Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

Toys

- Finger puppets
- Play cars/trucks/boats 
- Plastic tools
- Plastic dinosaurs
- Interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries)

Ages 5-9

"Wow" Items

- Backpack
- Toy truck or boat 

Personal Care Items

- Non-liquid lip balm
- Flashlight (solar-powered or hand-crank; if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed)
- Compact mirror 

School Supplies

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Blank index cards
- Solar-powered calculator
- Safety (blunt tip) scissors
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape

Clothing & Accessories

- Wrist watch

Crafts & Activities

- Coloring books
- Watercolor set [Finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper]
- Playdough (Consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use with the playdough.)
- Stickers
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Binoculars
- Building blocks 
- Skipping rope/jump rope 
- Tool set 

Toys

- Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.
- Costume items to play dress-up, such as crowns and costume jewelry
- Plastic toys and toy figures
- Baseball and mitt 
- Tennis ball
- Plastic dinosaurs, animals, action figures (nothing war-related) 
- Toy cars
- Yo-yo
- Small Frisbee
- Small kite
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Hacky sack

Ages 10-14

"Wow" Items

- Backpack
- Toy truck or boat 

Personal Care Items

- Non-liquid lip balm
- Flashlight (solar-powered or hand-crank; if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed)
- Compact mirror 
- Stick deodorant
- Washable/reusable cloth menstrual pads 

School Supplies

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Blank index cards
- Solar-powered calculator
- Safety (blunt tip) scissors
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape

Clothing & Accessories

- Hair bows, ribbons, accessories 
- Wrist watch
- Bandana 
- Bead jewelry/bead kit 

Crafts & Activities

- Binoculars
- Compass
- Chalkboard with chalk
- Tool set with work gloves 
- Fishing kit 
- Brightly colored rope or twine
- Gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds)
- Magnets
- Kaleidoscope 
- Skipping rope/jump rope

- Playing cards
- Marbles
- Sewing kit, fabric (1-2 yards), & ribbon 
- Laminated decorative pictures with looped ribbon attached as a picture hanger 

Toys

- Foam ball
- Kickball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Baseball and mitt 
- Tennis ball
- Yo-yo
- Small Frisbee
- Small kite
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Hacky sack 