



September 8 through September 14, 2024



What do you think of when you hear the word “miracle?” Do you think of things that happen today, or do you think of things that Jesus did in his time?

Miracles are all around, but I often get so busy that I forget to pause and consider how many wonderful, unexpected, absolutely mundane things around me are actual miracles. I sit here typing on technology that boggles my mind! How did we humans get so inspired and determined that we have created these devices, some that fit in our pockets, that connect us with people on the other side of the world!? That is a miracle. Our computers, our phones, from the first telegraph and beyond, are miracles.

But, we tend to take them for granted. They’re mundane. They’re things we interact with every day. And in the everyday, we miss giving thanks to God for these things that, though they are not huge or life-altering for many of us today, were at the time of their creation!

I think about my prescription for contacts and glasses; I have had glasses since the third grade - my first pair has Sylvester the cat on them and his tail wrapped all the way to the end of the glasses arm, ending just behind the ear. Without their invention, I would be unable to see clearly any more than six inches in front of my nose. I think of my sister, Regina, who was night blind until she received Lasik surgery in her 40s and saw the stars for the first time in her life. I think of my many family members with diabetes and consider how incredible it is that something like insulin has allowed them to live. I think of the chemotherapy and radiation and surgeries that have kept my mom alive from the first to the fourth time she’s had cancer.

These things can be explained away with science. But, that makes them no less miraculous than the day they were discovered. Still, I keep my head down, focused on the day-to-day and it is only in a moment when I sit rocking my son to sleep, or give thanks for the wellness that has come from someone receiving medical care, that I find my breath catching, my body relaxing, and my spirit being soothed and renewed, remembering that all good things come from God, and though it may not seem like the miracles of Jesus’ day are all around us, there are indeed still miracles abounding. Not all the time, for we know we were told there may be suffering - but often. Often enough that I invite you to pause today and wonder at the wonder around you.

What do you see? Who do you hear? What do you feel? What do you taste? What do you smell?

(In case you were wondering, today’s for me was the fabulous church member who gave me a delicious iced coffee when I hadn’t had any before heading to the office! Praise be to God for needs unexpectedly being met!)

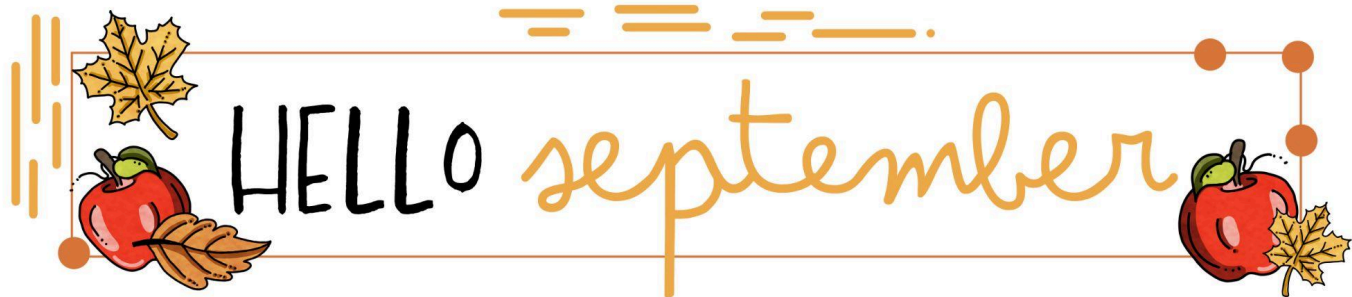
Grace & Peace,
Kalyn

Pastor Kalyn's Schedule

pastorkalyn@gmail.com 724-841-8145

Day	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Evening
Sunday	Worship		
Monday	Church Office		
Tuesday	Church Office	Pastoral Care	
Wednesday	Pastoral Care	Church Office	
Thursday	Sermon Writing Offsite, Available by PPhone/Email		
Friday	Sabbath, Off and Unavailable to Respond to Non-urgent Communication		
Saturday	Weekend, Off but Available by Phone/Email		

When there are evening meetings, she will take off either the morning or afternoon block to balance it out.



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 80 in worship on September 1
- Communion is on September 8
- Choir rehearsal is on Thursday, September 12 at 7pm

Congregational Care

- RALLY DAY is the Sunday School Kick-Off for the 2024-2025 School Year. It is on Sunday, September 8.
All are invited to stay after worship for Mac's Donuts, milk and coffee
- Adult Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 8 at 9am
- Ruth Circle Bible Study is on Wednesday, September 11 At 1pm
- **STORY TIME RETURNS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 10AM**
- **SAVE THE DATE**—Women's Retreat is on October 26th. Details to follow.
- **SAVE THE DATE**—Sunday, October 27 for a special service celebrating our 225th birthday with a delicious meal following the service

Missions

- Manna is Tuesday, September 24. Volunteers needed to bake cakes, to help serve and to clean up. If you can help contact Linda Duganich at 724-622-7929 or lindaduganich@gmail.com

Operations

- July YTD expenses– \$120,759 & YTD receipts-\$118,362
- Property Meeting on Monday, September 9 at 6:30

SESSION TEAMS AND LEADS

Worship Team Lead: Gina Arzberger
 Congregational Care Team Lead: John Martin
 Mission Team Leads: Casey Honess/Rayna Knox
 Operations Team Lead: Wendi Rybicki

WE CELEBRATE 225 YEARS!

When the sanctuary was completed in 1953, it consisted of 2 rows of pews with a single aisle down the middle. Not long after, an extension was added to each side of the sanctuary greatly increasing the capacity. Finally, even more money was raised and an education wing was added. The church also bought a manse which was across the street from the new building.

From its earliest days, I remember our church as a vital extension to the community. Almost every summer as I was growing up, our church had a week of revival filled with speakers and music. Missionaries the church supported or Billy Graham crusade ministers came to Hopewell for a week. I remember the church being completely full and wooden chairs even set up in the narthex. Plus, there was no air conditioning in our church yet. We just used the good old cardboard fans that had pictures of Jesus on them and advertisements for funeral homes!

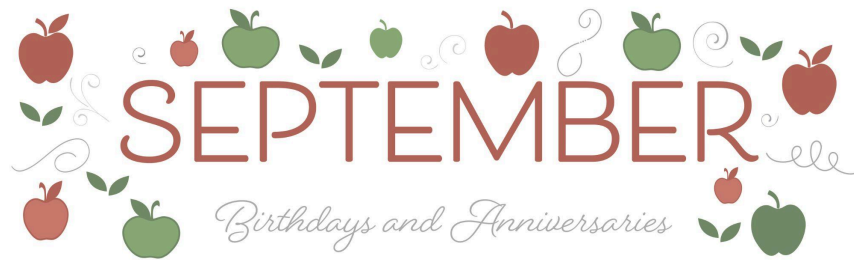
This area was also booming with children. In fact, when I was entering first grade, my classroom was in the education wing of our church! It was downstairs close to the bathrooms. My second grade classroom was upstairs in what is now the choir room. It seems our church was centrally located and so was rented by the Hopewell-Independence-Raccoon (HIR) school district for classrooms! (As a side note, Vacation Bible School was started back in 1950 when Dr. McKnight suggested it upon noting the large number of kids in the area.)

As a final note, the area around our church was named Scottsville before it was called Hopewell. This, of course, was due to the fact that it was originally settled by the Scott family. There is one place in our church that still has that name on it. Look at the wooden sign above the church's main entrance. It reads: The Ohio United Presbyterian Church of Scottsville.

See you next time,

Lynn

**Don't forget to send in your remembrances! Just email them to the church office. I need to have something to write about in my final article.
(office@ohioupchurch.com)**



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Chris & Kristy Otto 9/2	Edward Burak 9/1	Audrey English 9/12	Nicholas Barth 9/22
Charles & Linda Hendrick 9/4	Michael Knox 9/2	Lois Davie 9/14	Linda Hendrick 9/22
Ed & Evelyn Lawson 9/14	Karen Gartley 9/3	Chris Hurni 9/15	Parker Hoth 9/23
Elizabeth & Alan Repman 9/15	Kenneth Jones 9/5	Charles Hendrick 9/17	Emma Diccico 9/26
Donna & Mark Olexick 9/25	Michael Saxon 9/5	Karen Keller 9/17	Kiara Kapton 9/28
Eleanor & Richard Pike 9/26	Sue Hughston 9/10	Alli Feszko 9/19	Michael Sardo 9/28
Diane & Jack Gennaro 9/30	Pat Wozniak 9/10	Scott Riddle 9/19	Ella Mae Spieker 9/28
	Ginny Adams 9/12	Terri Owczarzak 9/20	Isaac Feszko 9/30



Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 8 from 9am to 9:45am.

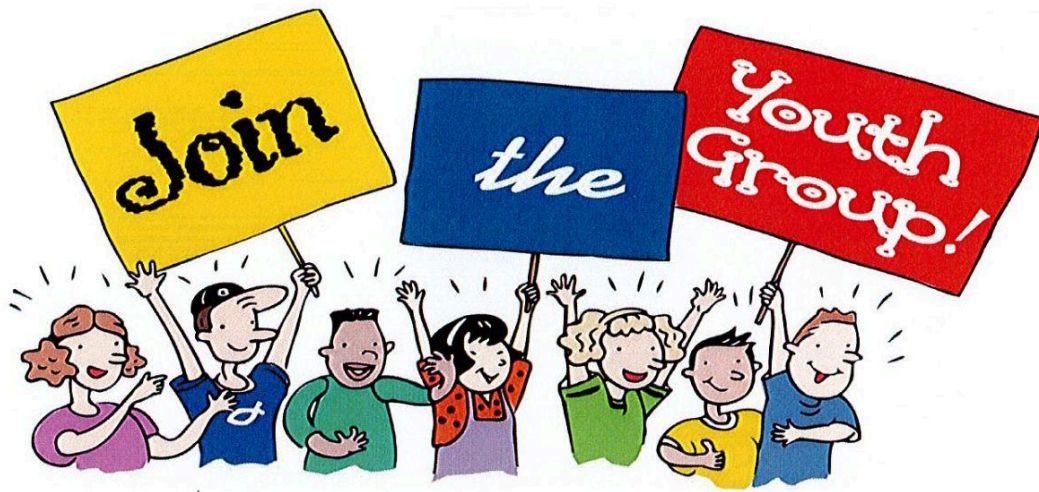
The choir will meet every Sunday until the performance of the musical on Sunday, December 8. They will meet in the downstairs Sunday School room.

Youth in first through eighth grades are encouraged to join. Need not be a member to participate.



- Eleanor Pike's brother, Michael Kamenski, who had cataract surgery on Tuesday.
- Jack Gennaro who had a PET scan on Tuesday to determine future care.
- Diane Gennaro who is home now but needs to isolate for a few weeks
- Shirley Fluharty's brother Don who is in hospice.

Women's Association is asking if anyone is interested in starting up Prayer Partners. It's an adult member of the church paired with a child from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade. The group meets here at the church twice a year and sends the children birthday and Christmas cards. If interested, see Sharon Neville.



Please Note: Youth Group is now on
Monday from 7:00 - 8:30

September 9 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

September 16 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

September 23 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

September 30 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

Parents please volunteer where you can!

Our Church Pantry is very low on food

YG will be holding a food drive for the church.

If anyone has experience in running a food drive I would love to pick your brain 😊