



FALL 2023

# The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF CHESTER BETHEL UMC



Check out your NEW website at [www.chesterbethel.org](http://www.chesterbethel.org)

We've been working hard to update our face to the community and to let parents of preschoolers see their kids at school in a safe way. Thank you for your input, encouragement, and additions!

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**All the trees are losing their leaves and not one of them is worried!**  
-Donald Wilson

## Camp Pecometh Cabin Repairs Begin!



# It's The Season

**Rev. Kelly  
Conner**

It's barely September, and already the leaves are starting to fall. Every time I see the beginnings of new colors on the trees –shades of red, orange, yellow, and even brown spreading over the summer green – I remember a writing prompt assigned by my 4th grade teacher: “If you were an autumn leaf, what color would you be and why?”

To an adult, such a question seems frivolous. Why would we want to spend our time thinking about our answer to a question that has no utility whatsoever in our lives? I will never be a leaf; I will never need to choose what color I would be; I have things to do, so I should be attending to those instead of pondering leaves. But I'm sure that you all are interested in what I had to say as a 4th grader, so here it is: I remember choosing to become a “multi-colored” leaf. In effect, I chose all the colors, as I simply could not decide between red, orange, and yellow! (I think I might have even thrown some green in there for good measure.) I remember that I wrote a flowing story about being that multi-colored leaf on the tree, my stem separating from the branch as I floated toward the ground. Now, at age 33, I could only dream of being as creative as I was at age 9!

Nowadays, when leaves begin to fall, I am reminded that everything in life has its season. Ecclesiastes 3 is all about the transition of seasons in our lives; it tells us:

**For everything there is a season and a time  
for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
...a time to break down and a time to build up;  
a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance...” (NRSV) (cont.)**

## Dates to Remember

Sept 12 - 3:30- SPRC Mtg; 6:00-Trustees Mtg

Sept 16 - Emmanuel Dining Room

Sept 12,19,26,& Oct 3,10 - Zoom Bible Study at 7 PM

Sept 14,21,28,& Oct 5, 12 - Bible Study at 10 AM in person, rm #1

Sept 21-23 - Pastor away at NC Conference

Oct 1 - World Communion Day

Oct 8 - Blessing of the Animals @9:30 AM

Oct 12 - Charge Conference Reports signed and due in church office

Oct 12 - Preschool Harvest Day

Oct 16-24 - Pastor on vacation

Oct 25&26- Halloween parade and parties

Oct 28 - Trunk or Treat 3-5PM

Oct 29 - Joint worship at Mt Lebanon at 11 AM

Oct 31 - Fall Bible Study begins at 10; SPRC mtg-3:30 PM

Nov. 4 - Charge Conference, 10 am at St Paul's UMC

Thursdays - Al Anon @ 7 PM now in Room #1



## FALL BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS: OCT 31 & NOV 7, 14, 28 & DEC 7 AT CHESTER BETHEL @ 10 AM

TUESDAYS: NOV 2, 9, 16, 30 & DEC 5  
ON ZOOM @ 7 PM

A MODERN LOOK AT THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS  
IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT,  
HOW JESUS REINTERPRETED  
THEM, AND HOW EVERY THOU-  
SHALT-NOT POINTS TO A LIFE-  
GIVING "THOU SHALT."  
IN A CULTURE OF  
WORKAHOLISM, MATERIALISM,  
AND SOCIAL MEDIA-DRIVEN  
ENVY, GOD'S PATH LEADS TO  
GRATITUDE, CONFIDENCE, AND  
PEACE.

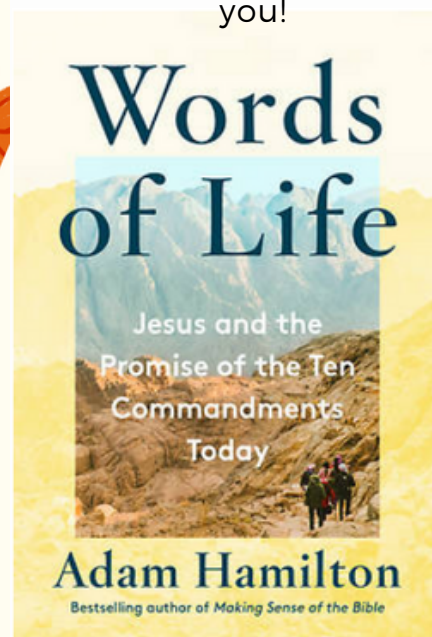
Based on Adam Hamilton's book: "Words of Life"  
available online or through the church office

### CONTACT US:

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Books can be purchased for \$19 by contacting the church office. Please mark your check "Words Of Life" and place in the secretary's mail box before Oct 20th to ensure the correct number of books are ordered--thank you!



*Continued from page 2*

Ecclesiastes reminds us that we must move from one season to the next – that no time in our lives may last forever. Such is the human condition.

There are times in our lives when we might not particularly want to transition to a new season. Perhaps our children are going off to college, and we wish that they would stay “little” forever; perhaps our parents or grandparents are beginning to lose their independence with old age, and we wish that everything could stay the same – that our loved ones might never find themselves with declining health, or that we would never have to lose them in the future. Or on a lighter note, perhaps we are finishing up a glorious and sunny vacation, and we wish that we could stay there and enjoy it forever instead of coming back home to work, to school, or to our other responsibilities!

On the other hand, there are times in our lives when we might be perfectly willing to move on to a new season. This may include times when we find ourselves unhappy in our job, and we seek a new one that might be more suitable. And if we find ourselves in seasons of chronic pain flareups, illness and treatment, or rehabilitation from an injury, we want that season to pass as quickly as possible so that we can get back to a sense of normalcy! Those kinds of seasons in our lives might be emotionally or physically painful; abiding in them is hard work for us. Such seasons tend to steal our joy and wring out all our energy.

But if we are honest, we know that the colorful leaves must fall. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that no matter what, there will be new seasons in our lives, whether we want them or not. Whether you are experiencing a good season right now, or you’re experiencing one from which you’ll be happy to move on, I pray that God will help you to remain fully present in all of your experiences. I pray that you may seek the everyday blessings of God where they may be found, and that you do not lose sight of hope. For summer will return next year, and winter after that; the “good” and “bad” times will trade places in our lives until we pass on into the Church Triumphant. There can be hope in that knowledge: God is always moving, and a new season may bring exactly what we need.

# World Communion Sunday, Oct 1

Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Remembering our Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine, here's a tasty recipe to remind us of them:

## MANAKEESH PALESTINIAN FLATBREAD RECIPE



### Ingredients

#### Dough:

1 kg flour  
 Water (as needed)  
 10 g salt  
 10 g sugar  
 20 g yeast  
 100 g oil (corn or olive)

#### Dressing:

Zaatar (dried thyme with sesame) or white cheese topped with black seeds (optional)

*We suggest halving this recipe*

1 kg flour = 8 cups

10 g salt = 1.75 tsp

10 g sugar = 2.33 tsp

20 g active dry yeast = 2.35 tbsp

100 g oil = 1/2 cup

**Let rise for 15 minutes to an hour until doubled and then shape into a flat round, sprinkle with zaatar, bake at 375 for 15 minutes, or until brown on the bottom**

## Please Pray for:

The Lamparelli family (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Josie Manocchio (H); Linda Conner (H); Cecelia Steele's family (L); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (H); Mabel, Evert, & Alan Ladd (H); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (H); all people impacted by war (LT).

