

# The Good News September 2023



## *The chipmunks ate my sunflowers.*

They were so beautiful, so yellow and green and brown and vibrant. Now they are mostly just eaten. They made the garden so lovely, with their contrast against the blue of the sky. I had plans for those sunflowers. I really did. I planted them way back in the spring and I waited to enjoy them.

When I think on it though, I know that I owe some credit to the sun and the rain and the soil. I may have contributed to the process, but if left on my own I do not have the ability to grow a sunflower. However, it is still my garden, right?

I recently referred to NPC as “my church.” There is such a wonderful sense of family, isn’t there? But ultimately it is and always should be God’s church.

Just like I can only be responsible for a part of growing the sunflowers (and I can only take a small part of the credit when they bloom and reach to for the sky) no matter how much I invest in my church, there is only a portion that is mine to enjoy and, if I am relying on the Holy Spirit, none that is mine to control.

That can be so hard. Church is a source of comfort. It is a place of belonging. Some folks go to the same church their whole lives and rely on the consistency of weekly visits to this building and this sanctuary in this place with these people as a salve for the stresses and frustrations of the week. It is easy to feel a sense of ownership. But God didn’t create the church for those reasons. The Bible does not mince words. God created the church with a purpose – the Great Commission. Our responsibility as Christians it to go and share the Word of God and the Love of God and to welcome people to join us freely to learn about the God who loves us so much that He gave His only Son for us.

And that can be *uncomfortable*. *And it is just like sunflowers.*

Sharing “my” sunflowers with the creatures in my yard isn’t what I had planned. I had planned on harvesting the seeds for my birdfeeder. I had considered using the blooms as a centerpiece. I planted them. I watered them. I grew them. I wanted to use them myself - so that I could watch the birds at the feeder, not feed the chipmunks that dig holes and leave messes behind.

They were my sunflowers, after all, or so I had thought.

Ultimately, though, it is always good when someone who is hungry is fed. In this case the sunflowers may have provided sustenance to those pesky chipmunks, but in the church I pray that it will be the neighbor, the stranger, the child – all those who hunger for something more than this world has to offer.

*For we, the Church, are gifted with the very Bread of Life.*

*-Jennifer Abdoo*

## FROM THE SESSION

The Session met on August 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Session actions/discussion included:

1. Clerk: The new church directory was proofed and returned to the printer. It should be arriving in early September.
2. Mission and Evangelism: Don Davies reported about the service at North Church and the NOC team who participated.
3. Property and Finance: Karyl Neubauer outlined needed repairs and bids being made. Session voted to change the division of the offerings so that 10% goes into Capital Improvement and 2.5% into Mission, as the Mission fund has a good reserve. This is for the rest of this year only.
4. Worship and Music: Peter reported that the Deacons will resume making the Host and pouring the grape juice for Communion, and it will be distributed in the pews by the ushers as before. We will still offer the sealed communion cups and wafers for those who prefer them. Karyl Neubauer will be setting up the schedule for Lay Readers and Guest Pastors for the rest of the year.
5. Nominating: Michelle Williamson and the Nominating Committee will be asking for people to be on the Pastor Search Committee. Several Session members asked to be considered: Dylan Maholm, Deana Fenn, Don Davies and Renell Noack.
6. Daycare: Kathy Moore reported that the Daycare Director Search Committee had several promising candidates scheduled for interviews in the coming week.



### *Farewell, Pastor Peter*

Pastor Peter's last Sunday was August 27th. He will be serving as the Interim Pastor for Rocky River Presbyterian Church as they begin their search for a new permanent Pastor.

The first Sunday in September, we will welcome Pastor Wally back into the pulpit, and will have several pastors serving us in the near future.

We wish Pastor Peter well in his new position.

### *September Birthdays*



Nancy Damon	3-Sept
Beth Wiggins	5-Sept
Tara Russo	8-Sept
Dwayne Smith	9-Sept
Cindy Kokenos	11-Sept
Sue Foote	11-Sept
Trudy Polcen	12-Sept
Debbie Czech	13-Sept
Gil Polcen	14-Sept
Tyler Fenn	14-Sept
Casey Harber	17-Sept
Billie Mordas	19-Sept
Donna Patz	22-Sept
Genny Pauley	23-Sept
John Gallagher	23-Sept
Richard Griffith, Jr.	30-Sept

## Finance/Building & Grounds Committee

“Did you notice the pot hole repair in the parking lot? We contracted with Infinity Paving to provide some TLC to our parking lot. We are working to help keep everyone safe.

Safety is always on our mind when we take action. M&M welding installed new railing at a step next to Daycare playground. The teachers and the children have additional safety when entering the playground area.

As you know, Pastor Peter Lawson has taken a position at the Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Session is scheduling Pastors who will lead our worship each week. Also, we will continue with congregants assisting in the worship service.

The schedule for September is listed below:

Sept 3 Rev. Wally Scofield, Scott Williamson

Sept 10. Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, Chris Louis

Sept 17 Rev. Wally Scofield, Alan Gruber

Sept 24 Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, Karyl Neubauer

Oct 1 joint worship with Victory Baptist  
Rev. Lavelle Gibson, Chris Louis

Anyone interested in assisting, please contact Karyl Neubauer : [Karylneub@att.net](mailto:Karylneub@att.net)

If you already received an email from Karyl, please be sure to respond with your available Sundays to assist in 2023 thru Winter 2024. Thank you!

### INCOME AND EXPENSES

	Jan - July 23	Jan - July 22
Total Income:	\$93,205.59	\$107,031.33
Total Expense	89,618.11	115,945.32
Net Income	3,587.48	-8,913.99

Peace and Blessings to all of you!  
Members of the Finance  
/ Building Grounds Committee

## Suicide Loss Support Group

*We understand the struggle.*

*You are not alone*

Mondays 6 PM - 8 PM Sept. 18, - Nov. 6, 2023

Meal provided at the start of each meeting Meal and materials provided with support from Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation by way of donations made in the memory of Adam Miley

St Timothy's Episcopal Church  
8667 Shepard Rd, Macedonia

This suicide loss group is a group for bereaved family and friends of those who have died by suicide, and will be facilitated by an Episcopal priest whose daughter died by suicide in 2010 and a Nurse Practitioner whose fiancé died by suicide in 2020. We strive to provide a safe place for survivors to support one another as they cope with the painful feelings and questions that follow suicide. Group members can talk about their experiences and receive helpful information on how to cope with their loss. The purpose of this group is to provide support to one another as fellow suicide survivors.

For more info and how to register:

330-554-2852/ [Jennings4@roadrunner.com](mailto:Jennings4@roadrunner.com)  
216-408-6351/ [joanluthanen@gmail.com](mailto:joanluthanen@gmail.com)

## Communion Update from Deacons:

Starting September 3rd we are going to begin using a combination of pre-filled communion cups and the traditional wafers and juice.

When the servers pass the plates with the wafers, there will be several of the pre-filled communion cups also on the plate.

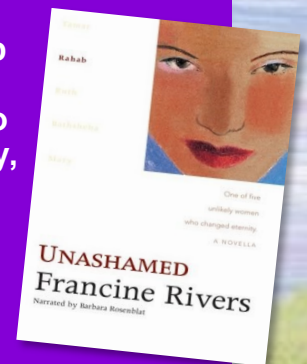
You will be able to take whichever you are more comfortable with.

We will continue to serve communion this way for at least the remainder of the year.

## Comforting Words Women's Book Club:

Join us for a discussion of *Unashamed: The Biblical Story of Rahab* a fictional but historically accurate expansion of the story of Rahab in the Bible. Rahab was a business woman and prostitute in Jericho who changed from an idol-worshipping pagan of ill-repute to a godly, faith-filled heroine in the Hebrew conquest of the Promised Land... and Jesus' ancestry!

All women are welcome to join our discussion of *Rahab* on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00, in our Living Area. No requirements — just read and come!





# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6  10am Property & Finance meeting	7  7 pm Choir 8pm AA	8	9
10 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	11  7pm Session	12	13	14  7 pm Choir 8pm AA	15	16
17 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	18	19	20	21  7 pm Choir 8pm AA	22	23
24 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	25	26	27	28  7 pm Choir 8pm AA	29	30

## From the Missions and Evangelism Committee:

### Missions:

Representatives from the missions we support will be visiting the following Sundays to provide us with updates.:

Sept 17 - RAHAB, Russell Pratt

Oct 1 - The Emergency Assistance Center, Joyce Hunt

Peace and Blessings to everyone,  
Members of the NPC Mission Committee



### *Hello New Members*

Last month we said Hello to a new family, though Baptism. We welcomed Courtney and Chris Leahy and their daughter Everlee Rose.

Courtney was welcomed into the congregation through profession of faith and Baptism. Two weeks later, we had the opportunity to also Baptize Everlee .

We wish the family the best and are so happy to have them here!

