

The Federated Messenger

September 2026

“Gifted”

by Paula Adams

There is something special about giving gifts to one another. We discuss gift giving a lot in our home during the fall and early winter months. All three of our children and I have birthdays between the end of September and early January, throw Christmas in there, and we get the chance to give and receive gifts often. We love this time of year because gift giving lets people know they are loved, valued, and thought of. Gift giving reflects the heart of God, because “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” (James 1:17)

But God doesn't only give gifts to us – He also gives gifts through us. He has uniquely gifted every believer so that what He has given us can become a blessing to others. In Ephesians 4:7, Paul says “Grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.” Every believer has been given something to contribute to the body of Christ. Paul goes on to describe the church as a body in which every part has a purpose. “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:16) We aren't all gifted in the same way and we aren't all called to serve in the same way – but every part matters. 1 Peter 4:10, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.” Some are gifted to teach, others to encourage, serve, lead, give, show mercy, or offer hospitality. What matters isn't whether our gift is visible or impressive. What matters is whether we are willing to faithfully use what God has entrusted to us for the good of others.

Three years ago, as we were beginning a new season of the Women's Ministry, 7 women signed on to use their giftings to help lead and build the ministry. They shared their gifts of leadership, administration, hospitality and service to bless the women of our church. This past year we answered the Lord's call to expand our leadership team and mobilize other women to join and share their gifts. We recognized the need to reach more women and expand our reach beyond our church walls. We now have over 20 women who have said yes to the invitation to use their gifts to serve. What a blessing it is to see the mobilization of God's people, using their gifts to answer a call and meet a need.

So, what gift has God given you, and how are you using it to bless His church? Do you know your giftings? If not, we encourage you to go to our website and take the spiritual gift assessment – learn about the unique ways the Lord has blessed you to bless others. Our spiritual gifts were not meant to stop with us – they are meant to be given away! Look for ways to use your gifts and serve the body of Christ. When each of us faithfully gives away what God has graciously given us the whole body is strengthened, Christ is honored and the church grows together!

Take the Spiritual Gift Assessment:

1. Go to our website, www.fedchurch.net
2. Click on the 3 lines in the right corner
3. Click on “Resources”, and then click on “Serving”
4. Click on “Take the S.H.A.P.E. Assessment” (Blue Box)

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

by Joseph Preston

I'm writing this shortly after the church picnic and what a blessing that event was for us as a staff! It was exciting to have lots of great conversations along with the activities, a baptism service at the pool, great food, and then a time of worship and sharing. Singing about the goodness and faithfulness of our great God as well as hearing from some of the summer staff was such an encouragement and a reminder of why this ministry exists. This ministry is here because God has a plan for this particular place to be used for His glory to guide people to Jesus, whether to meet Jesus for the first time or to grow in knowing Him. I'm grateful that He used the church picnic and all of you to encourage me in my walk with the Lord and in my calling of serving Him here at WLD Ranch.

When summer camp ends and before "fall season" proper begins, we get to enjoy an interesting mix of "breathe" and "push on." We get to breathe as the intensity of summer camp has finished and the consistency of fall scheduling has yet to begin. We take a deep breath or two, reflect on what God has done through this ministry, and start to prepare mentally, physically, and spiritually for what is next. But we also push on as August events continue post-summer camp, such as a full church retreat, various day events, and the Federated Church picnic. We also push on as the work continues: horses need fed, grounds need managed, repairs need to be completed, fundraisers need tracked (thanks to those of you who participated in Erie Gives!), second cutting hay needs baled, and we finally have time to get caught up on projects like water system upgrades (all the dirt at the picnic if you were wondering!) and building improvements.

As we move into September, we are refreshed and ready to dive into a full fall schedule, with horse lessons, horse retreat weekends, a few school groups, Stampede, the doubles disc golf tournament, a YFC reunion event in October, more projects, and then planning for upcoming events and future projects! The Blessing Boot collection this summer goes to support maintenance needs for the facilities. Some of what this will support includes some painting projects and door repairs. We are thankful for your support of this project (and we will be looking for some volunteers soon to help with the painting!). Continue to pray for the ministry

of WLD Ranch and may the Lord refresh and strengthen you as you trust in Him.



Springfield Senior Center

Tuesday, September 8

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at 9:45 a.m. **Pastor Rick Plucknett** from the Federated Church will have devotions.

Amy Bovaird, author and motivational speaker, will speak about her life, sharing her testimony about how the Lord has helped her along the way.

Exercises will be led by Jule and a delicious lunch will be served at Noon, all for a \$3.00 donation.



PEOPLE FOR LIFE

Pennsylvania March For Life Harrisburg, September 21, 2026

Seat on the bus - \$55.00

Join us for this very important and powerful public pro-life statement

- **Leave Erie at 5 a.m.**
- **March and Rally at the State Capitol**
- **Return to Erie by 8 p.m.**

For more information and to register, go to PeopleforLife.org

ALSO...

LIFE RUN 5K/10K & FUN WALK

Saturday, October 10, 2026

- **Slade Park, 7840 Slade Rd., Harborcreek**
- **Registration & Sign-In Begins at 7:30 a.m., Race Time: 9 a.m.**
- **Registration Fee \$30.00 or \$15.00 for ages 7-15**

OCC SHOEBOXES

by Beth Rigden



This month our focus is on ministry/shipping costs. Samaritan's Purse requests a \$10 donation per box that we send. This is a critical part of our Operation Christmas Child ministry. This donation covers:

- Collection
- Shipping to over 100 countries
- Processing
- Training Local Churches
- Gospel Materials

Our \$10 donation here helps not only to get the boxes to their intended destination but it helps prepare the areas where the boxes will be given out.

Just like we have year-round Operation Christmas Child volunteers and ministry partners here in the US, the receiving countries need to have ministry partners who will present the Gospel and will help to disciple the children. These ministry partners are supplied with the literature and materials needed to share God's love with the children. The \$10 donation covers this.



I recently heard a story of a man who had faithfully served the Lord in a foreign country sharing the Gospel with children for about 13 years. When he received the materials from Operation Christmas Child prior to getting the boxes, he said that was the first time he had ever had any Gospel material to share with the children. Imagine, doing children's ministry and not having even a colorful picture or poster or a book to share with the children. Yet he kept on ministering. What joy it was for him to be supplied with that literature! All this costs money and we want to be able to donate \$10 for each box.

So for the first 3 Sundays in September we will have a table set up in the Welcome Center to collect the shipping donations. Envelopes will be available and any donation is welcome!

Our next work session will be on **Tuesday, September 22nd in the church dining room from 1-3 PM**. We will be prepping the soccer balls, filling school supply bags and other things to prepare for our packing party. We'd love to have you join us!

Our Packing Party will be on Monday, October 12th from 10 AM to 7 PM in the Family Center. We will be packing 500 boxes for 5-9 year old boys and girls.

Save these dates!

Tuesday, September 22nd – OCC Workday in the Dining Room 1-3 PM

Monday, October 12th - Annual OCC Packing Party in Family Center



Sunday, September 27th, 4:00-6:30 PM

Springfield Bicentennial Park
12525 Main St., East Springfield, PA

Food

Inflatables

Games

Giveaways

Free Event



If we have rain, the festival will be held at the Federated Church Family Center

Don't Forget To Bring A Friend!

FATHER & DAUGHTER CAMPOUT

September 4-6

Registration forms are on the Welcome Center desk. Cost is \$60 per father, \$20 per daughter (18 and younger) and over 18 is \$40. For more info and questions, call Steve Pettis at 814-397-8455 or Sam Ring at 814-504-2097



Congratulations to the following who were baptized at the WLD Ranch on Sunday, August 23

Vivian Pettis
Cindy Pyle
Thomas Shilling



◆ Celebration Class

This class is for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room, studying the

scriptures on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men’s Class** – Studying the book of Mark, led by Pastor Rick, Bob Pettis and others. Meet in the Church Basement Room 32.
- ◆ **Ladies Class** – Studying Esther, led by Suzanne Barton, Room 10 in the church basement.
- ◆ **Faith Chapel Ladies Class** –following an inductive study on Romans led by Christina Corbett. All ladies welcome!
- ◆ **Sanctuary Class** – a verse by verse study of the book of John, led by Jerry Hills in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Everyone’s a Theologian** - What do Christians believe and why? This series on Systematic Theology is designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God’s truth. Meet in **Room 29**, Church Basement
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Room 28 in the Church Basement, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying the book of Philippians with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Couples Class** – for married and engaged couples, led by Rick Fails and Jamie Greig in Room 31 in the church basement, studying The Fruits of the Spirit
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying “The Promise of Heaven, by David Jeremiah.
- ◆ **The Upper Room Class** – led by Pastor Mal Beall and Paula Adams. Open to Young Adults both single and married. Meeting in the big room upstairs in the church and studying a variety of topics.



Kids Church is for children 4 years old thru 5th grade in the Family Center. The children should be signed in at the Family Center desk by a parent/caregiver before services and promptly picked up afterward.

Infant and Toddler care: During the 8:15 a.m. service, unsupervised Infant/Toddler rooms are available for families to use. Also, there is a nursing mother’s room available during both services at the back of the sanctuary. Infant and Toddler care *is* available during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Center. **MORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to care for the children. If you can help, please contact the Church Office or the Welcome Center Desk.

If you are interested in being part of the cleaning/packing work team for the **Pill Bottle Recycling Program**, please contact **Amy Bovaird at 814-431-4266** or **Suzanne Barton at 814-392-4383.**



The times for the recycling operation will be as follows: **(meet in the Church Dining Room)**

September 10, 1-4 PM October 15, 1-4 PM
November 9 1-4 PM December 7, 1-4 PM

More Volunteers are needed



Congratulations to Corey and Hannah Shinko on the birth of their son, Carter Samuel, born August 11th, 8 lbs., 14 oz. Carter is welcomed by big brother Hudson and Grandparents, Guy & Tracy Shinko.

Congratulations to Trevor and Katie Gettmann on the birth of their son, Trevor Alan Gettmann III, born August 17, 7 lbs. 3 oz. Trevor is being welcomed by big sister Eden and proud grandparents, Jeff and Pam Duncan and Great Grandparents, Perry and Jean Duncan.

The Federated Praise Choir will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 13th at 4:00 p.m. Ages 15-95 are welcome to join in!



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
		1	2 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	3 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	4	5 Father and Daughter Camp Out Thru Sunday
6 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Father and Daughter Camp Out	7 *Happy* LABOR DAY	8 9:45 AM Senior Center 6:30 PM Leadership Meeting	9 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	10 10 AM Mom's Meet Up 6:30 PM CR	11	12 8 AM Men's Prayer Brkfst.
13 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 3 PM Bow Shoot & Fellowship 4 PM Praise Choir	14 7 PM Men's Bible Study	15	16 10 AM Golden Circle NO Prayer Mtg.	17 5:30-7:00 PM Ministerium Program, Albion Fair 6:30 PM CR	18	19
~ALBION AREA FAIR~						
20 8:15 & 11 AM Worship COMMUNION 9:45 AM Sunday School 6 PM Ignite	21 7 PM Men's Bible Study	22 1-3 PM OCC Workday, Dining Rm. 	23 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY KICKOFF! 7 PM Prayer Mtg.	24 10 AM Mom's Meet Up 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	25	26
27 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4-6:30 PM Fall Fest @ Springfield Park	28 12:00 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Study	29 3:30 PM SALT	30 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Mtg.			



SEPTEMBER CHILDCARE SCHEDULE

VOLUNTEER 2	VOLUNTEER 1	SERVICE	DATE
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Sept 6
		9:30 Check In Desk	
Mary Ellen Hulley	Amy Swartzfager	9:45 Toddler Room	
		9:45 Nursery	
		10:45 Check In Desk	
	Amy & John Swartzfager	11 Toddler Room	
	Keah Bush	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Sept 13
--	Liz Bright	9:30 Check In Desk	
	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler SS	
	Jacki Manley	9:45 Nursery	
Brooke/Violet/ Savannah	Emily Corbett	11 Toddler Room	
--	Liz Bright	10:45 Check In Desk	
	Jaelin Snyder	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids church helper	Sept 20
--	Taylor Billings	9:30 Check In Desk	
Amanda Nagle	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler Room	
Nolan Gilroy	Sydney Anderson	9:45 Nursery	
Connie Solomon	Josiah Merrit & Amy Pettis	11 Toddler Room	
--	Taylor Billings	10:45 Check In Desk	
	Azalea Ring	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Sept 27
	Terena Snyder	9:30 Check In Desk	
Tamim Fenton	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler Room	
		9:45 Nursery	
	Terena Snyder	10:45 Check In Desk	
Violet/Savannah	Melissa Greig	11 Toddler Room	
	Jaelin Snyder	11 Kids church Helper	