

# Bethany

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219

School pictures.

If you are a mom, dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or friend, you probably have those little pictures in your wallet, on the refrigerator, or if you are like me, you have school photos from past years tucked away in drawers-- but I keep the newest ones on my bulletin board. Maybe even some of the photos you have collected over the years are of children you don't even remember. I recently was cleaning out an old box and I found my class picture from kindergarten. Talk about a goofy looking crowd - except for Brenda - she always looked perfect. As I looked at that paper, I remembered each and every face in every photo. Chris who was the friend down the street who would play with me. Cy who would die in a car wreck in high school. David who was the first boy I sent a love note to in 3rd grade, but not my first love - that was Alan. Sarah, Christa, Brenda, etc. Those were the people who helped form my first social interactions - for ill or for good. Pictures store memories. They are a snapshot of a certain time, some from our lives, and some from years before we were born. That being said, memories are stored in other ways, not just

pictures. We keep memories of our students in more forms than just their school photos-- we keep memories in our minds, letters that they may have written us, or text conversations asking about our day. And before photos were even invented, we stored memories in drawings and in stories. We remember those who came before us through the stories passed down through generations-- and those stories include the bible. Through these stories we create our own images in our minds. Whenever we talk about Adam and Eve an image appears in our mind. When we think of Job, we visualize suffering. With Jonah, we see the whale. When we read of Mary, Martha, Paul, Luke, we see them. With Jesus, I think we all have many images - friend, brother, savior, servant etc. We are creatures of vision in our mind's eye.

October is a time of great change-- a changing in seasons and finding change within ourselves and our community. During this change it is essential we remember the stories of our past. So, take out those old photos - smile, tell stories, cry - it's all important as we see God in each image.



Love, Pastor Denise



## Lectionary Readings

### October 2, 2022

-Lamentations 1:1-6  
 -Lamentations 3:19-26  
 -Psalm 137  
 -Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
 -Psalm 37:1-9  
 -2 Timothy 1:1-14  
 -Luke 17:5-10

### October 9, 2022

-Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
 -Psalm 66:1-12  
 -2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
 -Psalm 111  
 -2 Timothy 2:8-15  
 -Luke 17:11-19

### October 16, 2022

-Jeremiah 31:27-34  
 -Psalm 119:97-104  
 -Genesis 32:22-31  
 -Psalm 121  
 -2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
 -Luke 18:1-8

### October 23, 2022

-Joel 2:23-32  
 -Psalm 65  
 -Sirach 35:12-17  
 -Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
 -Psalm 84:1-7  
 -2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
 -Luke 18:9-14

### October 30, 2022

-Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
 -Psalm 119:137-144  
 -Isaiah 1:10-18  
 -Psalm 32:1-7  
 -2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
 -Luke 19:1-10

## Liturgists

### October 2, 2021

Mary Johnson

### October 9, 2021

Eva Staley

### October 16, 2021

Lataine Shaw

### October 23, 2021

Mary Johnson

### October 30, 2022

Eva Staley



### A reflection for Psalm 46

Life is full of movement. Movement isn't a bad thing. We all, in some sense, want to be moving. If we're moving, we are living. We are making progress, we are not in the same place we were before and we're not the same person as we were before. Movement, however, is also exhausting. The physical movement that many of us experience in a given day from one appointment to the next, one obligation to another can leave us dead-tired.

Then there is the mental movement that a busy life requires. Our brains are constantly moving to keep up with our schedules and our responsibilities, our goals and our hopes. In some ways, all of the movement can be paralyzing. We feel stuck or caught because though we are moving all over the place there is no direction or meaning behind it.. We know that we are going but we wonder if we are really getting anywhere.

The scriptures place an importance on intentional time taken to be still before God. It is in those times that we know God. It is in those times that our ever moving minds stop and know and remember who is in charge. We remember the one who should be directing our movements.

Take a moment to be still and open yourself to God's presence.

### Prayer - Psalm 46

God, my life is full of movement, help me to be still. My life is full of people that demand my attention. My day is full of obligations that demand my allegiance. Help me to be still and know that you are God. You deserve my attention totally. As I open myself up to You in these next few moments, remind me that You are with me and You love me. Let that knowledge direct my steps today. Amen.

November 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church.

Engraving of John Wesley

John Wesley was fond of All Saints Day. "John Wesley. Stipple engraving by J. Posselwhite" licensed under CC BY 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love."

In an All Saints Day journal entry dated Monday, November 1, 1756, Wesley writes, "How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!"

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us.

The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.

(written by Joe Lovino for UMC.org)





## Harvest Time

Spring is the time when farmers and gardeners plant their crops, and these crops are left to grow all summer long.

When autumn comes around, the crops are ripe and ready, making fall harvest season. The harvest is meaningful because it is the result of months upon months of hard work planting seeds, watering crops, weeding, and harvesting. It meant that the access of one's crops would go to one's neighbors-- so it was a time of celebration and abundance for the whole community and not just the farmers. Many cultures all over the world have a festival surrounding the harvest season. Even today, although we have new inventions and technologies that make it possible to have a harvest season year-round, there are still celebrations and festivities. You can go to farmers markets, apple orchards, and pumpkin patches to participate in the harvest festivities.

There are a wide variety of celebrations in many cultures all around the globe: In China, they celebrate a Mid-Autumn Festival every year, celebrating the autumnal equinox and the harvest moon. Jews celebrate the week-long harvest festival of Sukkot. Mehregan is a festival celebrated by Persians and Iranians in early October. Us Americans celebrate Thanksgiving later in the harvest season. The harvest is a universal time of joy and abundance for much of the world, and has been since humans first began planting crops, and will continue to remain significant far into the future.

## The History of the Jack-o-Lantern

Going to pumpkin patches and carving pumpkins is a favorite Halloween activity for many. But where does this tradition come from? Why do we carve faces into pumpkins? This tradition stems from Ireland and the Scottish Highlands, when people used to carve grotesque faces into turnips or mangel wurzel. They would do this at Samhain, the Celtic celebration of the end of harvest season, when they believed spirits walked the Earth. These carved turnips were made to ward off evil spirits on the night that the barrier between the living and dead was the thinnest. The story of the jack-o-lantern is similar to the story of the will-o-the-wisp in many aspects, but one of the most common iterations of the story, told across Western Europe, is of a man named Jack who made a deal with Satan. Jack had stolen from a church and was met by the devil, who said it was the time of his death, but Jack made a deal with him. He tempted Satan by giving him a chance to bedevil the churchgoers who were chasing him. He made a plan that Satan (who could take the shape of any form he wanted) would turn into a coin, which the churchgoers would then fight over. Satan agreed to this plan. But as soon as he turned into a silver coin and jumped into Jack's wallet, he found himself next to a cross Jack had just picked up. The cross stripped the devil of his powers and he was trapped in Jack's wallet. When it eventually came time for Jack to die at the end of his long life, he was not able to get into heaven, but also could not get into hell as Satan had agreed not to take his soul. So, Satan tossed Jack a piece of burning coal, mocking him. Jack carved out a turnip, his favorite food, and placed the coal inside, using it as a lantern to eternally wander the Earth. This is one of the many stories told of the origin of the jack-o-lantern. In later years, in adaptations of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", the Headless Horseman is pictured with a jack-o-lantern as a head. Even today, these stories are re-told and remade. Even though these stories of ghosts wandering the Earth are not true, carving pumpkins has become a long-lasting tradition among those who celebrate Halloween, and will continue to be a widely loved tradition for many years to come.

# October 2022

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

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2

11AM Worship  
Guest Preacher-  
Rev. Mike Bergmann

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11AM Worship  
Guest Preacher-  
Aerin Bender MTS, MAT

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13

Terry Kaiser  
BIRTHDAY

14

15

16

11AM Worship  
Communion  
Administrative Council  
Meeting  
Remembering Jacob

17

Terry Thompson  
BIRTHDAY

18

Terry and Linda Kaiser  
ANNIVERSARY

19

20

21

22

23

11AM Worship  
Remembering the  
Harvest

24

25

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30

11AM Worship  
Remembering Our Loved  
Ones

31

## All Saints Day

On October 30 during our worship time together, we will remember our loved ones who live on in our hearts and in the heart of God. If you wish, bring photos of your loved ones and you will share your stories of them during worship.