

I always get excited when autumn comes around. This year, the hot and rainless weather held on for quite a while, but thankfully, with the blessing of rain we've had this last week and the slightly lower temperatures, I think fall is finally on the way. The shifting weather brings many changes along with it. Leaves begin to change color, lawn mowers go into storage, Sunday night football and pumpkin spice lattes are back, and we get to bring out all our fall decorations.

What I love most about the cooling weather, though, is getting to break out the wardrobe that has been relegated to the closet since early spring. We trade in our shorts, tank tops, sundresses, and swimwear for hoodies, cardigans, long sleeve shirts, and warm pants. I know by February, I'll be tired of having to bundle up just to check the mail, but for now, I'm dreaming of snuggling up in a sweater with a good book and a warm latte.

There are certain things, however, that we shouldn't pack away with our summer clothes. The Apostle Paul teaches that there are specific things we can (and should) clothe ourselves with year-round. These are the spiritual garments of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and most importantly, love. No matter what the weather, these things are always in style. Just like looking through your closet, dresser, or clean laundry pile to find the perfect clothes to wear, we can choose, every day, to put on these spiritual practices.



This fall, on a day when it's raining, I might not *feel* like putting on a jacket or getting out my umbrella, but my day would go a lot better if I took the time to equip myself properly for the weather we're having – not the weather I *wish* we were having. The same is true for these spiritual fruits Paul highlights. When our personal batteries are running low, and we come across someone who frustrates us, we might not *feel* like putting on compassion or patience. It might be *very* tempting to be dismissive, snide, or even mean to the person before us, but everyone's day will go a lot better if we pause, breathe, collect ourselves, and *choose* to put on love. Even if you aren't *feeling* it, you can *choose* it.

When Paul wrote these words to the early church at Colossae (which is in modern-day Turkey), there were growing tensions in that region. False teachers were trying to lead the church away from the true ways of Christ, and people were divided on how to live faithfully. It caused a lot of disagreements in their church community, and Paul wrote to encourage them and remind them how Jesus wanted them to live.

Since its writing, Paul's words to the church at Colossae have been read by Christians throughout the generations who have been living with this same tension. Still today, there are deep divisions among Christians concerning how to live our lives faithfully, and there are those who attempt to lead us away from the ways of compassion, empathy, and love that Jesus taught. We know these tensions well, and at times, it is difficult to know what to believe or who to trust.

In this season of our lives, Paul's words remind us that there is *never* a time when putting on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love will steer you wrong. We are not called to be doormats, but we *are* called to face whatever comes our way by first wrapping ourselves in these spiritual clothes. We cannot control others' words or actions, but we can choose to align our own with the faith we profess. Time and time again, Jesus told his followers to love – love God and one another. He said that love would be how people would know we are Christians. So, as we're heading out for the day, whether we're bundled up for the cold, setting out in the rain, or basking in the warm sunshine, let us first pause and make sure we have remembered to put on love. Our day will be *much* better for it.

With Love and Hope, Pastor Christy Smith

St. John Prayer List

Our Local Church Family

Jim Atwood	Chris Bates	Tish Bates	Lois & Stan Clark
Greg Erdmann	Denise Hamilton	Hank Henderson	Pauline Kraemer
Mary Lou Lurtz	Marian Nelson	Lonna Patton	Rogers Family
Kimberly & Ron Tremmel		Lois Winkler	Connie Zimmers

Our Extended Friends & Family

Ken Erdmann	(Greg Erdmann's brother)
Shannon Farrell	(Pastor Christy's cousin)
Sylvia Hoerchler	(Curt Wesselmann's aunt)
Michelle Toennies	(Deb and Dan Athmer's niece)
Rev. Tarrah Vaupel	(Pastor Christy's friend)
Gary & Carol Weshinsky	(Laura Wesselmann's father & mother)
Craig & Lori Wheeler	(Kimberly & Ron Tremmel's friends)
Dean Zurliene	(Curt Wesselmann's uncle)



Pastor Christy is usually in the office Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM but will make appointments if needed. Contact her by calling her cell phone at 618-973-3040. Beverly Adams, office administrator, will usually be in the office 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday, but her schedule may vary. Contact her at stjohntrenton@gmail.com or call 224-9828.

OCTOBER Birthdays



David Kraemer Oct. 2	William Koentz Oct. 18
Jessica Schaeffer Oct. 4	John Groennert Oct. 18
Tom Kuhn Oct. 6	Brandy Sells Oct. 20
Chris Bates Oct. 8	Fred Lucas III Oct. 22
Emily Von Bokel Oct. 11	Abigayle Haller Oct. 23
Christy Smith Oct. 11	Hannah Thompson Oct. 23
Olivia Wuebbles Oct. 11	Don Bair Oct. 24
Ryan Von Bokel Oct. 13	Adam Brichler Oct. 24
Jenn Thompson Oct. 15	Rod Schaeffer Oct. 25
Curt Wesselmann Oct. 15	Dorothea Louden Oct. 28
Jorja Wernle Oct. 28	



OCTOBER Anniversaries



Steve Feldmann & Lonna Patton Oct. 6
John & Lisa Groennert Oct. 12
Ollie & Marie Bair Oct. 27

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEMBER ON DUTY

Hank Henderson



Virtual Worship Services

Virtual services continue for those wishing to attend. We want to make worship as convenient as possible for our members and the community. Please see our website or our Facebook page for the Zoom link.

- To call in with phone audio only, call
- **1-312-626-6799** and then the meeting ID:
- **8436488110** followed by the pound sign.
- Password, if needed, will be: **62293**

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Wurstmarkt has come very quickly on the heels of the Rummage Sale. There are many preparations that are happening. Thank you to:



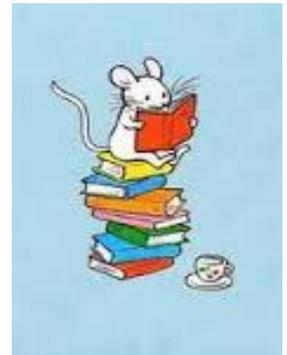
- Jo-Allison Rogers for being the chair-person of the Wurstmarkt
- Margie Bopp and Pehg Zeller for being co-chairs for the quilt raffle
- Laurie Henderson and Beverly Adams for being the publicity duo
- Pastor Christy & Kimberly Tremmel for being the Venmo techs
- Tim Bair for being Wurstmarkt treasurer
- Other thanks go to Mike Williamson for taking all the text messages in stride when there were concerns about building issues
- Special shout out to Tim Bair for being the Elevette Whisperer

Thanks also to those who made applesauce on Sept. 20th. There were 14 people who spent the day coring, cutting and cooking the apples. Jo-Allison manhandled the big corer while singing tunes and her minions helped with cutting and cooking. Thanks to Teresa Von-Bokel for bringing her special corer/cutter which helped things along. We will be doing it again on Thursday, October 2nd!

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BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be meeting again in November to discuss *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Gavin.



Synopsis: A novel about three lonely strangers (a new widow, a paraplegic teenager and a young out-of work man with severe social anxiety) in a rural Oregon town who are each working through life's curveballs, and are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing—and maybe even a second chance—just when they least expect it. This is a hopeful story about the power of chosen family.

This book is in the library available for checkout.

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Fellowship Lunch dates for upcoming months in the year: Oct. 7, Nov. 4 & Dec. 2 at 11:30 AM.

Come join us for an enjoyable meal with others. It's a time for great conversation, food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

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OFFICE NEWS: Starting October 6th our office manager, Beverly Adams, will be going to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. On Tuesdays and Thursdays Pastor Christy will be in the office.

BLOOD DRIVE: On Tuesday, October 7th from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM St. John will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those who can help with the check-in and snack tables. There will be 3 shifts of two people each from 11:45 AM to 5:45 PM. Please sign up if you can help out.



◆ **Wurstmarkt News** ◆

◆ **APPLESAUCE MAKING:** Our next applesauce making will be on Thursday, October 2, at 10:00 AM. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Desserts will be available on October 2. The apple coring and slicing is a sit down job that takes many hands to complete for the many bushels of apples to prepare.

◆ **RAFFLE TICKET SALES:** Raffle tickets are available now. Look for them on the table in the Narthex. The price is the same as last year: \$1 for one, and \$5 for six. Ticket money can be turned into the office or handed to Margie or Pehg. The quilt is in the library and if you have

items to donate to the raffle, they can be put in there, too. Please fill out the form on that table so the items can be tracked.

◆ **PIE ORDERS:** We have two slots left on the sign-up sheet for apple or cherry pies for the Wurstmarkt. Pies will be ordered on Monday, Sept. 29th and delivered from Berkemann's Bakery for \$14.50 each. We are asking 2 pies from each family. Please put your name and the number of pies you want to order and check the flavor you would like. Pay by check or cash in an envelope with your name on it and put it in the offering plate or send it to the office. If you want to bake your own apple or cherry pies or buy them somewhere else, please note that in the appropriate box. This is so we can keep track of how many pies to expect. Please have all pies to the basement of the church by 8:30 AM on the day of the Wurstmarkt, October 5.

◆ **WORKERS:** We have many people signed up, but the following slots are still open: On Saturday, October 4th we need 4 more people to help with cooking and applesauce serving starting at 8:00 AM to Noon. On Sunday, October 5th we still need 3 people to set up signs and canopies, 1 food server, 1 gravy server, and 1 raffle helper. In the kitchen we have 2 cooks, but we need 5-6 helpers for the cooks. For other areas, we need 2 dishwashers plus 3 more for the much needed clean-up crew. Sign-up sheets for all of these jobs are in the narthex or you can call the office to see what is needed to be filled. Thank you to all who have signed up!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

This past month we have been collecting items for 10 hygiene kits for Church World Service. On Sunday, September 28th, we completed our collection and put the kits together. These are kits that will be given to people in disaster areas where they may not have access to hygiene items.

Items collected through the congregation's generosity were:

gallon Ziploc bags washcloths nail clippers bar soap toothbrushes
stick deodorants lotion shampoo combs toothpaste

So when storms like hurricanes and tornadoes strike, it's inspiring to see people come together to help their neighbors find hope. After the hurricanes in Florida, Saint James AME Church gave out CWS Kits, with hygiene products like the ones we have just collected, to give a bit of dignity to families facing unimaginable challenges. St. John UCC Trenton has become a tangible expression of God's love and care through these donations.



CWS Hygiene Kits



Rainbow Preschool News

A Joyful Start to the School Year

Happy Fall! It's truly amazing to think that we have already wrapped up our first month of school. The students have been busy learning and finding their rhythm in the classroom. They walk into the classroom each morning and hang up their backpacks on their own. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our parents for keeping the flow of drop-offs and pickups smooth, and for your patience as we escort the students out each day.

Classroom Activities and Learning

Both classes have been hard at work mastering their alphabet letters, colors, counting, cutting, shapes, learning classmates' names, and practicing writing their own names. Over the past month, we've tackled a variety of projects—from letter and color activities to cutting exercises, number work, and painting. The children have been diligent in finishing their projects and returning all assignments sent home.

Special Guests and Events

We were delighted to welcome Pastor Christy, who shared the stories "The Lost Lamb and The Good Shepherd," "The Good Shepherd and The Lost Lamb", which was a story that told both perspectives from the lamb and the shepherd, and "Room on the Broom". The students truly enjoyed these books, and we look forward to discovering what she will read with us in October.

Share Day Highlights

Our first share day of the year was a great success! Students brought in their favorite farm animals, including chickens, cows, horses, pigs, and rabbits. Everyone practiced being attentive and respectful while their classmates shared their favorite farm animal. Special thanks to Lyle J. and his mom for bringing and sharing their chickens with our Tuesday/Thursday students.

Birthday Celebrations

A cheerful birthday shout-out to Wrenley S. (9/15), Trevor L. (9/17), Violet H. (9/17), and Peter K. (9/24). The classes enjoyed the tasty snacks these students brought to celebrate their special days.

Reminders for October

- October tuition is due by Thursday, 10/2 and Friday, 10/3.
- The Fire Department will visit on Tuesday, 10/7 and Wednesday, 10/8
- No school Monday, October 13th—Columbus Day.
- October book orders due Friday October 17th.
- Pajama Day/Movie Day will be on Thursday, 10/30 and Friday, 10/31. Students may bring a stuffed animal and a blanket for the movie. Please be sure these items fit inside their backpack.

As the weather cools, please remember to pack a light jacket in your child's backpack. Weather permitting; we will continue to spend time outdoors.

We look forward to another month filled with fun and learning!

Ms. Misty, Rainbow Preschool Director



Details

Kenneth L. Samuel

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. - Psalm 139:1 & 3 (NIV)

Details.

They can be interesting. They can be boring. They can be disturbing.

Most often, we'd rather deal with the finished product and be spared all the cumbersome details. The details of government raise too many eyebrows, the details of sausage making are repulsive, and the details of life seem easier to accept when they're glossed over.

Many of us take painstaking efforts to present the appropriate version of ourselves to the appropriate audiences at the appropriate times. Not everyone can relate to the totality of our complex personalities. Motown singer Smokey Robinson wondered how a person could be daylight and darkness at the same time.

It's been said that having someone who loves you is having someone who pays attention to the details of your life. We would be little more than faces in a crowd or statistics on a spreadsheet if it were not for those who look after us with care and specificity, and who get to know us personally and intimately.

If loving someone is indeed paying attention to the details of that person's life, we should take supreme delight in the love of God. All the bittersweet, idiosyncratic, nice-nasty, self-conflicted details that make us who we are... all those details are more evident to God than they are to us.

Yet we are redeemed by grace, anointed to serve, endowed with heavenly treasure, and deemed more than conquerors, despite all the details that would disqualify us.

Love so amazing can only be received gratefully and shared liberally with others.

Prayer

Gracious God, in the words of Sly & the Family Stone, I want to thank you for letting me be myself again. Amen.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Decatur, Georgia.