



Dear Friends,

Lynn Mosher, in her blog, asks: “Are we as Christians, as faithful as the Marines? Do we thump our chests with our fists and say, “*Semper Fi*” to our Christian comrades-in-arms? Are we loyal, reliable, devoted, constant, steadfast, consistent, responsible, and true to our word? Are we faithful in our work, wealth, witness, worship, and the vows we make? Are we faithful to our friends and neighbors? Are we quality citizens? Are we faithful to each other? Are we faithful in our behavior, speech, and dress? Do we keep the highest standards, ethically and morally? Are we faithful to our Christian comrades-in-arms? Do we have an attitude of unbreakable commitment, in combat and in life, so that we don’t leave our wounded brothers and sisters behind when they are in battle? Are we courageous and disciplined warriors in our efforts to fight off the enemy? Do we long to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” (Matthew 25:21).

It can be rather unnerving to think about how Summer is traditionally a season dedicated to, at least, a time period of rest and relaxation when all around us is unrest. It's difficult to turn the news on these days because of the anticipation of what will be heard. News of war, chaos, and violence. I rarely watch network news but did tune in the other day. So, I turned the TV channel to the nightly news and started to watch. The first 20 minutes was nothing short of unnerving. All negative, depressing, and rather alarming. Indeed, we live in a scary world.

So how important is our faith? Quite frankly, our faith means everything. In uncertain times, it will be our faith that can, or should I say, will be the glue that holds our lives together. So, the words of Lynn Mosher ring very true. It's a good thing to evaluate or re-evaluate one's faith and put into question, through faith, one's commitment to our God. Are we dedicated and steadfast to the things that matter? I mean...when the world around us falls apart what will be the one thing left standing? Hopefully it will be one's faith. Faith gives us a sense of hope and reassurance that when we find ourselves lost, our God will always find us, embrace us, and bring us comfort. Like the lyrics to a famous hymn that echoes the sentiment of "O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee..."

THE GOOD NEWS? OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL! FIND REST AND PEACE IN THAT.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Needle & Pins 10:00am.....	Aug 2
Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Aug 3
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 5
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 6
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 7
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 8
Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Aug 10
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 12
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 13
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 14
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 15
Worship/Facebook Live 10:30am/.....	Aug 17
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 19
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 20
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 21
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 22
Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am/.....	Aug 24
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 26
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 27
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 28
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Aug 29
Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am/.....	Aug 31



On behalf of myself and my family we would like to say thank you to the Ours and Decker family for all their help in assembling, decorating, throwing candy and disassembling of the 4th of July parade float. It looked awesome as always and we had such a great time that day. Also a special thank you to all those who donated money for the candy for that day. We made 1002 bags of candy to throw to the children. Without our church family we couldn't have made this happen. What a way to honor Jim Miller and I know he's smiling down seeing the cabin he built so many years ago still going strong. God Bless our Church Family.
Sincerely,
Kerri Caldaro

FACEBOOK LIVE DEVOTIONS:

The first week of August the Facebook live daily devotions will only be live on Facebook. The link will not be sent out as Kerri is on vacation. She will resume sending the links on August 12th. Have a great week! Make sure you tune in live on Facebook or catch it later on our Facebook page. The church office will only be open in the morning of that week.



First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

The September issue will be published on the 1st. The deadline is August 25th Please submit articles to the church office or by email to: office@washingtonfpc.com



Those ill or recuperating at home: Janet Young, Nancy Vlossak, Geri Ross, Fred Kulick, Vicki Morgan, Eleanore Jensen, Doug Foley. Kerry & Lynn Webb, Charlene Jones, Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello, Tempe Schramm, Marion Kingsbury, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Pauline Albrecht's cousins Kathy & Bill, Harold Teabo, Judy Ours cousin Aurelius Newbold, Jim Morgan, Joe Kresser's brother John, Charlie Kugelmeyer, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter & son in law Jill & Ross Duncan, Joe Caldaro, Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski, Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie, Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Bob Pesaniello, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's mom & dad Gail & Fred Mosher.

Those in care centers: Connie Allen and Joan Vasko, Bob Pesaniello.

Those in mourning: The family and friends of Marion Kingsbury.

Friends of the church: Diane Van Dongen and family, Grace Sweet, Fred & Karen Graf's friend Renee Wise, Karissa Caldaro's friend Annabelle, Carol Kain's friend John Vybihal. Joe Groff friend of Doug & Jolene Foley, Melinda Velez friend of Don Johnson, Gale Soler & Ellen Gulick friends of Joan Miller, Barbara Miller's friend Patrick O'Malley, Carol Novak, and Vlossak family's friend Hallie.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Caldaro's friend Aaron Dante, Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



August 7

Emily Andersen
Peggy Westlake

August 10

Melanie Plenge
Janet Young

August 12

Bob Stoskus

August 13

Bob Pesaniello

August 14

John Burd

August 19

Jim Lawson

August 25

Stan Kubbishun

August 28

Ian Allen

August 31

John Boreman
Leslie Schott
Karen Wilson



**MUSIC NOTES
AUGUST 2025**

Summer is a time to refresh, relax, spend time doing things that perhaps you do not have time for during the “school year”. Yes, I still live my life based on the “school year”. All those years of being a student and then a teacher leave a permanent mark! One of the things that I truly enjoy doing is planning the music that I will play or that the choir will sing in worship in the upcoming months. I like to research the scriptures and learn which hymn texts/tunes match when I prepare music for each Sunday. One reliable source that I use is hymnary.org which recommends music for specific scripture readings. I am grateful that Pastor Jim follows The Lectionary of the liturgical calendar so that I have advanced notice of the readings for each Sunday and have a pretty good idea of what he might choose to preach on for that day. This is truly helpful when planning choral anthems because it takes a few weeks of our short rehearsals together to learn the music.

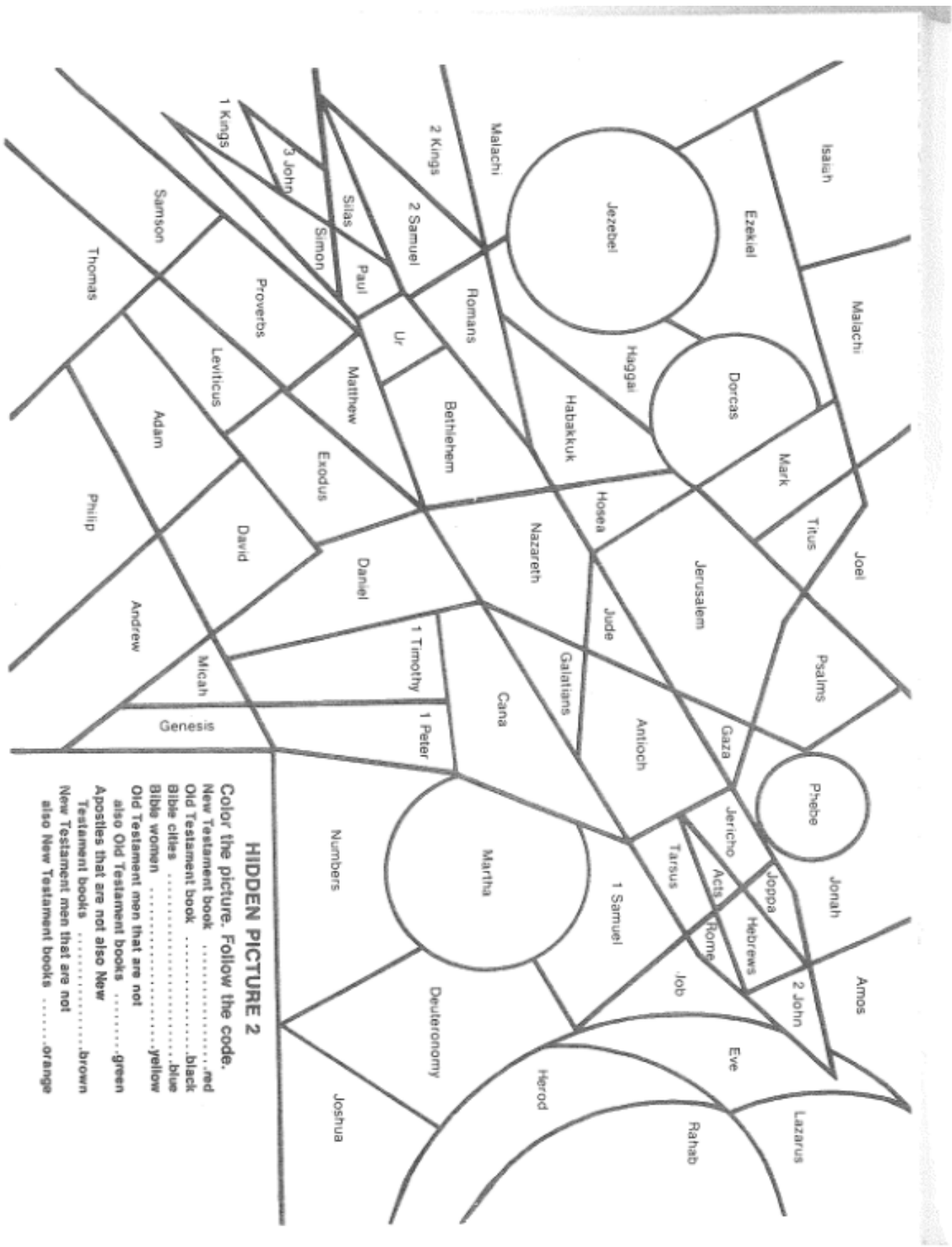
I was searching for music suggestions that would enhance our worship in the months of September and October 2025 when I got sidetracked by being curious about the composer of “Will The Circle Be Unbroken” - that great gospel hymn, which was recommended for September 28th’s reading of Luke 16:19-31. It is all too easy to go down rabbit holes when researching! Anyway, I learned that the composer was Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932). I knew I had heard that name before so I kept on digging. Sure enough, he has written some of the greatest gospel songs: *His Eye Is On The Sparrow* (a personal fave of mine); *Higher Ground*; *Will The Circle Be Unbroken*; *Send The Light* to name a few.

It turns out that he has written between 7,000-8,000 hymn tunes and texts and was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1982. As is common with composers who are very prolific, he had several pseudonyms that he used in addition to writing under his given name: C.D. Emerson; Charlotte G. Homer; S.B. Jackson; A.W. Lawrence; Jennie Ree.

What really caught my attention was a picture of him from 1885 in the Des Moines Register. I am an Iowa girl so when I see the Des Moines Register...it registers with me! He grew up on an Iowa farm and started writing hymn texts and tunes as a young man in his teens. His father led singing schools in their home and Charles developed an interest in music. He taught himself to play the family’s reed organ. Eventually, he followed in his father’s footsteps and started to travel and lead his own “shape-note singing schools” in various locations around the age of 17. Throughout his life, he served churches and wrote music for revivals and camp meetings and published numerous songbooks, many of which were intended for use in Sunday School. He died in Hollywood, California in 1932. Prior to his death, he had written an autobiography entitled *Sixty Years of Gospel Song* (Chicago, IL Hope Publishing).

I had always assumed that the composer/author of *His Eye Is On The Sparrow* was a black man. My favorite gospel song was actually written by this white Iowa farm boy! Amazing...and **a lesson to not just assume anything, but to dig deep and learn.**

Love and Peace,
Julie Stevenson



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Needles & Pins 10:00am
3 Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live	4	5 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	6 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	7 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	8 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	9
10 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	11	12 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	13 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	14 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	15 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	16
17 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	18	19 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	20 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	21 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	22 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	23
24 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	25	26 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	27 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	28 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	29 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	30
31 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live						