



The Ambassador

September 2023

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From the Pastor

"We are members of one another" – Ephesians 4:32

Dear Friends,

I love to play word games: Scrabble, Boggle, Wordle, Quordle, just to name a few. Recently I have added a new one – Connections. Connections is a grouping game where the goal is to make four groups of four words from a list of sixteen words. It can be tricky as one word can have multiple connections, like the word 'ash'. Ash could be grouped with trees, fire, Lent, or something else entirely. The game is an invitation to think through how words are connected.

Like words, you and I are connected to one another. While there are many things that do connect us, our fundamental connection is in Jesus Christ. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, we are a part of God's family, and the Bible tells us in many places – we are members of one another. Just as the Holy Trinity is one, as followers of Jesus we are one. We are connected.

This month the Ambassador is full of connections. I encourage you to enjoy the pictures you find on page 4. These pictures are a celebration of some of the adventures of the summer: Summer Road Trip, our Road Rally, Blessing of the Backpacks, and baptisms!

We also have lots of opportunities for connections in the upcoming months. We have our Nuestra Familia worship series

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Worship With Us

Online & In Person
Worship @10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9 am

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that coincides with the National Hispanic Heritage Month. There will be lots of activities in which you may participate. Check out the schedule on page 5 to see what all is happening as well as Pastor Daniel's article on page 3 for fun Hispanic Heritage facts. In worship we will explore the characteristics we need to be connected to one another – love, forgiveness, generosity, faithfulness, and humility.

Indeed, we are members of one another, and I give thanks every day for the blessing of being connected to First United Methodist Church in Middletown.

Peace,

Pastor Kim <><



Music and Worship Notes *by Mary Ellen Clinard*

Road Rally drives the Summer Road Trip Home

The crowd was more than we hoped for. The weather was glorious. The fun was overflowing. If you missed our Road Rally you missed a great time! We loved how cars were shared and memories were made. Even ordering over 30 ice cream cones was a story in itself! We learned a little bit about our community, met an “answer man” at Governor's Square, gave a nod to a “gaggle” of pink flamingoes, and enjoyed being in fellowship with one another. Thanks to everyone who came out and gave it a try! We loved seeing you there and watching you have a good time with your church family.

Now is the chance to join the choir!

Although the choir has been singing every Sunday, we haven't been rehearsing every Wednesday as we do in the “non-summer” months. But beginning Wednesday, Sept. 6th we will kick-off our new Choir Season with a potluck in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm! There will be great food, door prizes, and lots of laughter you can be sure.

If you have ever wondered about joining our choir, this is the perfect time to try it out. There's no audition process—just show up with a willing heart and a desire to serve God through music. We practice several anthems at each rehearsal and usually spend 6-8 weeks learning or reviewing the music. You will discover a warm and caring group of people who will become lifelong friends. And as an added bonus, singing with others is proven to improve your spiritual, mental, and physical health in many ways!

A Note from Rev. Daniel Cardenas, Associate Pastor



“Hispanic Heritage Month”

This month, we will celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. We recognize and honor the Hispanic Heritage and its contribution to this country in this celebration. So because of this important date, we would like to share some fun facts about the Hispanic population in the United States. Are you ready?

Did you know that the Hispanic population in the U.S. is about 62.6 million people? That is 18.9% of the total population in this country. The Hispanic population is the largest racial minority in the U.S.

There are 13 states that host 1 million or more Hispanic residents within them. Those states are Arizona, California, North Carolina, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. That is so amazing.

Riverside County in California registered the highest number of new Hispanic residents within 2020-2021. Almost 34,289 new Hispanic residents in a year. Can you imagine how these numbers have grown these last two years?

The average age within the Hispanic population is about 30 years old.

Including native-born and foreign-born populations, the Hispanic people come from these countries: Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. A growing number of people are coming from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico as well.*

As we can see, the Hispanic population is a big part of this country. So this is a great time and it is such a good chance to celebrate and recognize their contribution to American society.

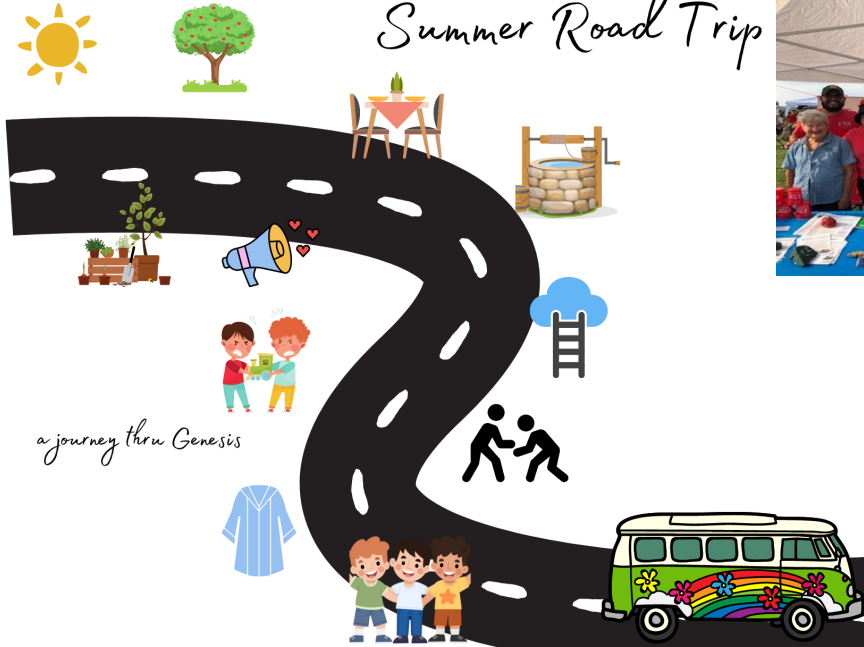
This month, we are planning some fun activities to celebrate our Hispanic ministries. There will be a time to play together “Loteria” (is kind of bingo game), and there will be a time to share together eating Hispanic food (see page 5). I am sure that we will have a wonderful time as a “Familia”.

Con mucho amor.
Rev. Daniel Cárdenas

*<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2022/hispanic-heritage-month>

Family Photos

Summer Road Trip



NUESTRA FAMILIA A CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



- Sept. 10 Be Loving, Sé Amoroso
- Sept. 17 Be Forgiving, Sé Perdonador
- Sept. 24 Be Generous, Sé Generoso
- Oct. 1 Be Faithful, Sé Confiado
- Oct. 8 Be Fruitful, Sé Fructifero
- Oct. 15 Be Humble, Sé Humilde

Sept. 10
**Nuestra Familia
Photo Booth**

Sept. 24

Loteria

Oct. 8
Blessing of Bibles

Sept. 17

Congregational Photo

Oct. 1

Pot Luck Lunch

Oct. 15

Nuestra Familia Open House

Bible Reading Schedule for September

You are more than two thirds of the way through the Bible! You have made it to the New Testament! I am rejoicing with you and look forward to the months that lie ahead. Odds are that the books of the Bible we will progress through for the rest of the year will be more familiar to you. I encourage you to not let your familiarity lead you to not be as attentive. The amount of reading that happens each day slows so I encourage you to take the time to savor words and ask questions of the Scriptures.

One of the things that I am most excited about for this month and next is the reading of the Gospels. We've probably experienced most of the Gospels with a story here and a story there. But now as we read, the stories will be in their context and this might change or challenge your understanding of the story. Exciting! And as you have already experienced, reading the Gospels this way means that we are reading stories out of the season that we are used to hearing them. Hello - we just ended August with the birth of Jesus and the visit of the wise men! Reading things out of season is a good experience, too, as it encourages us to hear the story in a different context than what we are used to.

I've said this now eight times but it is still just as true as it was the first time – if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am always eager to talk about the Bible!

Peace,
Pastor Kim

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September 1	Matthew 3-4	September 16	Mark 1-3
September 2	Matthew 5	September 17	Mark 4-5
September 3	Matthew 6	September 18	Mark 6
September 4	Matthew 7-8	September 19	Mark 7-8
September 5	Matthew 9-10	September 20	Mark 9:1-10:45
September 6	Matthew 11-12	September 21	Mark 10:46-12:34
September 7	Matthew 13	September 22	Mark 12:35-13:37
September 8	Matthew 14-15	September 23	Mark 14
September 9	Matthew 16-18	September 24	Mark 15-16
September 10	Matthew 19-20	September 25	Luke 1
September 11	Matthew 21	September 26	Luke 2
September 12	Matthew 22-23	September 27	Luke 3:1-4:13
September 13	Matthew 24-25	September 28	Luke 4:14-5:39
September 14	Matthew 26	September 29	Luke 6
September 15	Matthew 27-28	September 30	Luke 7:1-8:39

September 2023

Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Dates to Remember in October: October 1: World Communion Sunday/Lunch potluck October 6: First Friday Concert at Noon October 8: Blessing of the Bibles October 15: Nuestra Familia Open House</p>						
3 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4 LABOR DAY/ OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 Breakfast Club	5 2:00 Pantry	6 6:30 Hispanic Min. 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	7 2:00 Congregational Care 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	8 10:00 UMW Meeting	
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Nuestra Familia Photo Booth	11 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:00 Immigration Clinic	12 1:00 SPRC 2:00 Pantry	13 6:30 Hispanic Min. 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	14 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study 6:00 ESL	15 AMBASSADOR ARTICLE DEADLINE	16 9:00 Hope Circle @ Bob Evans 10:00 Elizabeth Circle
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Congregational photo after Worship	18 8:00 Breakfast Club	19 2:00 Pantry 5:03 Finance Mtg 6:00 Council Mtg	20 6:30 Hispanic Min. 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	21 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Loteria /Mexican Bingo	25 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:30 Trustees Mtg.	26 2:00 Pantry	27 6:30 Hispanic Min. 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	28 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study 6:00 ESL	29	30

Larkin Ward 4

Braeden Wills

Barb Wright

Silas Chapman 5

Anahi Cardenas 7

Sandi Shiflett

Marti Kreps 8

Rachel Dornon 10

Gary Rutledge

Cooper Smarzinski

Daniel Cardenas 11

Paul Brewer 14

John Hoffman 17

McKenzie Rutledge

Megan 19

McLaughlin Stercula

Diane Wilson 20

Jerry Slama 23

Juanita Harsh 24

Mary Jane Fairchild 25

Melanie Alderton 26

Jim White

Barb Hoffman 28

Gloria Garrett

Happy Birthdays!



2023 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

**September 1, 2023
Trio Aperitif**

**A wonderful hour of jewel-like selections
of Classical Music**

**First UMC - Middletown
@noon
Free Admission**