



OCTOBER 2025

## The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park

### BRITTANY'S BITS



Beloved,

As we enter October and the season of all things pumpkin spice, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude with you. For United Methodists, October is traditionally recognized as *Pastor Appreciation Month*. I'd like to share this sentiment by expressing how deeply I appreciate *you and love serving this community!* Your faithfulness, love, and generosity in serving both our church and our neighbors does not go unnoticed. I see Christ at work in the ways you care for one another, reach out to neighbors, and keep showing up with hope and love. Thank you. I am truly blessed to get to serve alongside each of you!

October is also the season of Church Conference, a special time in the life of our congregation. It's when we elect new leaders and look ahead together, continuing to dream and vision what God is calling us to next (especially as we remain in discernment about the future of our church property).

Our Church Conference will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, October 21st at 6:00pm**. Rev. Jana Hall Perkins will be our presiding elder. I invite you to bring a dessert to share, along with a favorite "God moment" from this past year. It will be a time of worship, fellowship, and hope-filled conversation.

### FOOD PANTRY and THRIFT STORE

It's hard to believe that summer is over and fall is here. You would not know it from the 90° heat we still have. We have been staying busy at the food pantry serving at least 60-plus cars and 40-plus people who walk up to receive food.

Our Wednesdays remain busy with our noon meal, shower, and this past week we also had a lady who provided haircuts.

We are looking for people to help pick up food. If you have a truck or van, and have a couple of hours a week, it would be incredibly helpful and greatly appreciated.

Also our Thrift Store is still doing well. We receive donations regularly but could really use some volunteers to help with sorting and getting ready to open on Saturday mornings. If anyone would like to volunteer, we would love to have you! Just contact any one of us – you will have a lot of fun.

- **Joan Berriault**,  
Food Pantry Manager and  
Thrift Store Co-Coordinator

Throughout October, we will also focus on **stewardship (a fancy word meaning how we take care of what God has entrusted to us)**. Each Sunday we'll hear a "Why Give" moment in worship, brief reflections from members of our community about why they give, not only financially, but also through their time, talents, and presence.

If you feel led to share your story, please reach out to me. We'd love to hear as many diverse voices as possible. Then, on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>, Celebration Sunday, we will celebrate all that God is doing and bring our 2026 commitments cards to worship!

If you are unable to attend that Sunday, you can mail in your commitment card to the church office at 9025 - 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Pinellas Park, Florida. We give thanks in advanced for the ways you will continue to support our mission to make Christ's love known in our community and the world!

Friends, I am grateful for this community of faith and for the ways we are seeking God's future together.

*With gratitude and joy,*  
**Pastor Brittany**



### In This Issue

Pumpkin Patch; Activities & Events; Birthdays;	
Baptisms and New Members	2
Calendar	3
Contact Information	4



## PUMPKIN PATCH!

Good grief, Charlie Brown; it's time for "The Great Pumpkin"! Or, in our case, "The Great Pumpkin Patch"! So many folks in

our Pinellas Park community associate our church with the pumpkin patch. Often when I tell people that my church is in Pinellas Park on 49<sup>th</sup> Street, they reply, "Oh, the church with all the pumpkins!"

We have lots of repeat customers who bring their children and grandchildren to the Pumpkin Patch because they came when they were kids. The photo area with the sign showing the year is always a popular attraction, and pictures of the children roaming through the patch are an annual tradition for many families.

It's a big job to get the pumpkins unloaded and on pallets; the tent and photo area set up, and display tables prepped. We need everyone's help to make this possible on Sunday afternoon, **October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**. You don't need to be super-strong, just willing and ready to serve.

We'll have a sandwich/chips/drink/cookies lunch after church, so bring a change of clothes. We will have a brief training session for everyone before the pumpkins arrive.

While we're waiting for the truck, we can get the tent set up, display tables ready, and decorate the photo area. We've ordered many small pumpkins (softball size) and gourds, and placing them in the patch is light work; no heavy lifting.

Once the pumpkins are unloaded, we need volunteers to sell the pumpkins. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex, and we will be recruiting folks the next few Sundays. The typical shift is just two hours, and we need two people per shift.

There's no math involved, just writing down the amount of each sale, and putting any large bills (\$20 and up) in the manila envelope at the end of each shift, and depositing it in the safe which is accessed in Fellowship Hall.

It's challenging to find volunteers during the work day, so if you're retired, or have vacation days, the "Great Pumpkin" wants you! We also welcome non-members as volunteers in both unloading and selling, as long as a member or regular visitor is also present. So spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors; it's a great way to connect with some really nice people, and serve the Lord, too!

*Let's work together to make our Pumpkin Patch the best one yet!*

- **Betsy Larson** for the Praise Team  
Pumpkin Patch Coordinators



*October is Pastor Appreciation Month*



*Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

10/01	Francis Rolle
10/07	Louise Linneman Craig Wilcox
10/10	Richard Dishman
10/16	Barbara Rooney
10/19	Chris Christie
10/22	Margaret Scanlon
10/27	Jack Turner
10/30	Pat Thomas

## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**Men's Fellowship:** Mon., Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm. IHOP, 4761 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park

**Free Meals:** Wed., 11:00 am, FH: Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

**MRBUBBLEZ Showers:** Sat., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Pumpkins Arrive:** Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm, Front Lawn

**Deborah Circle:** Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, FH

**Big Red Bus, Sunday,** October 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, Front Lawn

**Third-Sunday Potluck:** Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, after worship, FH; Favorite Comfort Food; wear something Halloweenish

**Church Conference:** Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm, FH

**Trunk & Treat:** Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. TBA (evening), Front lawn

## WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025

### NEW Members

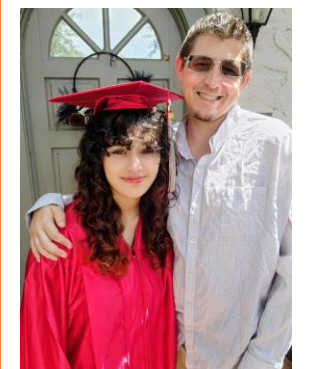
**John Sewart**  
**Maureen Keplinger**  
**Brian Keplinger**  
**Barbara Gasper**  
**Roxanne Kadium**  
**Sabrina Kadium**

### Baptisms

**Roxanne Kadium**  
**Sidney Jacob Kadium**  
**Brody Milo Keplinger**  
**Phoenix Cortana Keplinger**



*Barb, Brody, Sid, Maureen,  
Sabrina, Phoenix, John,  
Pastor Brittany*



*Roxanne and her father, Brian*

# OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 8:30am Mulligan Food Pantry (E1, E2) 11:00am Wednesday Free Meal (FH/Kit) 6:30pm Choir Practice (PAR) 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Room E4	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Theater Exceptional (FH)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Theater Exceptional (FH) 8:30am Mr. Bubblez Shower Ministry 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
<b>5</b> 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc)	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Beyond the Wings 6:30 p.m. Men's Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201	<b>8</b> 8:30am Mulligan Food Pantry (E1, E2) 11:00am Wednesday Free Meal (FH/Kit) 6:30pm Choir Practice (PAR) 6:30pm Youth Meeting (FH) 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Room E4	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
<b>12</b> 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in 2:00pm Deborah Circle (E4) FB (Sanc) 12:00pm Trustees (LIB) <i>Pumpkins Arrive,</i> 4 pm, Front Lawn	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	<b>14</b> 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201 2:00pm Deborah Circle (E4)	<b>15</b> 8:30am Mulligan Food Pantry (E1, E2) 11:00am Wednesday Free Meal (FH/Kit) 6:30pm Choir Practice (PAR) 6:30pm Youth Meeting (FH) 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Room E4	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
<b>19</b> 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) Big Red Bus, 10 am, Front Lawn 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc) 12:15pm Potluck Luncheon (FH) Theme: Comfort Food; wear something Halloweenish	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	<b>21</b> 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201 6 pm <i>Church Conference, FH</i>	<b>22</b> 8:30am Mulligan Food Pantry (E1, E2) 11:00am Wednesday Free Meal (FH/Kit) 6:30pm Choir Practice (PAR) 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Room E4 6:30pm Youth Meeting (FH)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Thrift Store (TS) <i>Trunk &amp; Treat</i> (Evening: Time TBA), Front Lawn
<b>26</b> 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc)	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	<b>28</b> 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201	<b>29</b> 8:30am Mulligan Food Pantry (E1, E2) 11:00am Wednesday Free Meal (FH/Kit) 6:30pm Choir Practice (PAR) 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Room E4 6:30pm Youth Meeting (FH)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>Halloween</i> <i>Last day of Pumpkin Patch</i>	



**First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park**  
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**http://www.fumcpp.org**

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**https://twitter.com/#!/FUMC\_PPark**

**Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday: Closed

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**Thrift Store**

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**Nominations**

Chair: Pastor Brittany 546-5741

**Memorial Gardens Ministry**

Tim Wulkan 727-463-3040

Volts4u@aol.com