



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 26th, 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 - 49th 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;	2
Baptisms and New Members	3
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 49th 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 12th 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 4th

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. 6th, 6 pm. IHOP, 4761 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park

Free Meals: Wed., 11:00 am, FH: Oct. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

MRBUBBLEZ Showers: Sat., Oct. 4th: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pumpkins Arrive: Sunday, October 12th, 4 pm, Front Lawn

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, October 14th, 2 pm, FH

Big Red Bus, Sunday: October 19th, 10 am, Front Lawn

Third-Sunday Potluck: Sunday, October 19th, after worship, FH; Favorite Comfort Food; wear something Halloweenish

Church Conference: Tuesday, October 21st, 6 pm, FH

Trunk & Treat: Saturday, October 25th. TBA (evening), Front lawn

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025

NEW Members

John Sewart
Maureen Keplinger
Brian Keplinger
Barbara Gasper
Roxanne Kadiam
Sabrina Kadiam

Baptisms

Roxanne Kadiam
Sidney Jacob Kadiam
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
			1 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	2 6:00pm Theater Exceptional (FH)	3	4 Theater Exceptional (FH) 8:30am Mr. Bubblez Shower Ministry 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
5 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc)	6 6:30pm Beyond the Wings 6:30 p.m. Men's Meeting	7 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201	8 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	9	10	11 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
12 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc) 2:00pm Deborah Circle (E4) FB (Sanc) 12:00pm Trustees (LIB) Pumpkins Arrive , 4 pm, Front Lawn	13 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	14 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201 2:00pm Deborah Circle (E4)	15 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	16	17	18 9:00am Thrift Store (TS)
19 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	20 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	21 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201 6 pm Church Conference, FH	22 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)	23	24	25 9:00am Thrift Store (TS) Trunk & Treat (Evening: Time TBA), Front Lawn
26 9:30am Sunday School - Adult (E3, E4) 11:00am Worship in Person & FB (Sanc)	27 6:30pm Beyond the Wings - Sanctuary	28 10:00am Ladies Prayer & Study - by Uber Conf. 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Room 201	29 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)	30	31 Halloween Last day of Pumpkin Patch	



**First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park
9025 49th Street N., Pinellas Park, FL 33782**

Phone: (727) 546-5741

office@fumcpp.org

<http://www.fumcpp.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/fumc.pinellaspark>

https://twitter.com/#!/FUMC_PPark

Church Office Hours:

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

Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday: Closed

Pastor Brittany Leclair

386-314-3224

pastorbleclair@gmail.com

Church Office 546-5741

Admin. Ass't: Jerry Seay

office@fumcpp.org

Financial Secretary:

Bob Lawrence

accounting@fumcpp.org

The Messenger: Joyce Bernotas
messenger9025@gmail.com

Member Care

Betsy Larson 415-1274

Betsy.larson11@gmail.com

Ministry Council Chair

Dudley Wilcox

Cell phone: 685-6435

Dudley.wilcox.sr@icloud.com

Trustees

Michael Coate 432-2078

trustees.fumcpp@gmail.com

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

Leslie Weaver 418-2129

Ljweaver50@mail.com

Finance

Mark Linneman 225-0262
mlinneman@tampabay.rr.com

Lay Leader

Joan Berriault 460-5786
JStewart1713@yahoo.com

Prayer Ministries

Prayer Chain: Bev Mixson 573-3743
Prayer Chapel Angels Coordinator:
Bobbi Stockslager 409-6765

Adult Music Director/Organist

Betsy Larson 415-1274
Betsy.larson11@gmail.com

Children and Youth Music Director

Jordana Clark 546-5741
wdngsngr03@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry

Loretta Wilcox 637-3534
lorettacwilcox@gmail.com

Facebook

Jordana Clark 546-5741
wdngsngr03@yahoo.com
Mike Coate (Website) 432-2078
trustees.fumcpp@gmail.com

Deborah Circle

Contact June Anderson 544-4558

Outreach Missionary Support

Thomasina Stewart 727-546-5741

Food Pantry

Joan Berriault 460-5786
JStewart1713@yahoo.com

Thrift Store

Loretta Wilcox 637-3534
lorettacwilcox@gmail.com
Joan Berriault 460-5786
JStewart1713@yahoo.com

Nominations

Chair: Pastor Brittany 546-5741

Memorial Gardens Ministry

Tim Wulkan 727-463-3040
Volts4u@aol.com