

# CONNECTING POINT

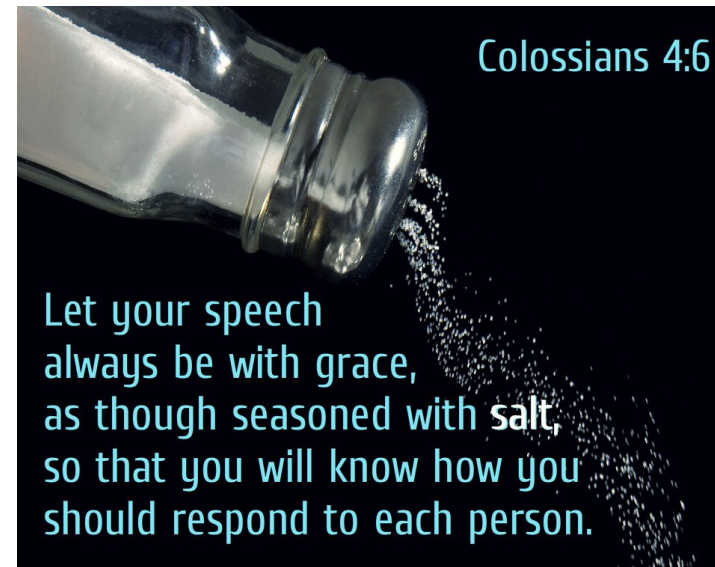
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



## 30-Day Bible Scripture CHALLENGE

### PASS THE SALT

<p><b>Day 1</b> Psalm 55:16 "As for me, I will call upon God, And the Lord shall save me."</p>	<p><b>Day 2</b> Psalm 94:19 "In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul."</p>	<p><b>Day 3</b> Psalm 118:6 "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"</p>	<p><b>Day 4</b> 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."</p>	<p><b>Day 5</b> Colossians 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."</p>	<p><b>Day 6</b> Proverbs 12:25 "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad."</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b> John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."</p>	<p><b>Day 8</b> Romans 8:5 "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."</p>	<p><b>Day 9</b> 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."</p>	<p><b>Day 10</b> Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."</p>	<p><b>Day 11</b> Psalm 138:7 "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me."</p>	<p><b>Day 12</b> Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."</p>
<p><b>Day 13</b> 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."</p>	<p><b>Day 14</b> Hebrews 13:6 'So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"'</p>	<p><b>Day 15</b> Psalm 16:8 "I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."</p>	<p><b>Day 16</b> Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."</p>	<p><b>Day 17</b> Proverbs 3:24 "When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet."</p>	<p><b>Day 18</b> Isaiah 59:1 "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear."</p>
<p><b>Day 19</b> Psalm 55:22 "Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."</p>	<p><b>Day 20</b> 2 Thessalonians 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all."</p>	<p><b>Day 21</b> Philippians 4:7 "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."</p>	<p><b>Day 22</b> Romans 16:20 "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."</p>	<p><b>Day 23</b> Psalm 138:8 "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands."</p>	<p><b>Day 24</b> Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;"</p>
<p><b>Day 25</b> Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."</p>	<p><b>Day 26</b> 2 Corinthians 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in need, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."</p>	<p><b>Day 27</b> Isaiah 40:30 "But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."</p>	<p><b>Day 28</b> Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."</p>	<p><b>Day 29</b> Jeremiah 17:8 "For he shall be like a tree planted by the river, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit."</p>	<p><b>Day 30</b> Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."</p>



I have a nasty habit. It may not be all that nasty, but it isn't all that healthy either. And I am guessing I am not the only one. The habit? Salting my food before I even taste it. I know how Angela cooks, so I am generally safe salting things first at home. It is when we eat out this salting habit can get me in trouble, which it has done on more than one occasion!

Paul urged his Colossian readers to be "salty" in their interactions with those outside the Christian community. He instructed them to **"be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity"** (Col. 4:5). As the saying goes, you never get a second chance to make a first impression. So, our conversations should **"always be full of grace, seasoned with salt"** (Col. 4:6), adding a taste of God's favor whenever possible.

Paul used an image well-known in the ancient world, to let your conversations be **"seasoned with salt."** D. A. Carson writes, *"This [phrase] meant 'witty' in pagan usage but here Paul suggests language that is not dull or flat but well chosen, based on the wisdom of Christ."* Given the casual way words are used in our culture, both spoken and in social media, a conversation seasoned with salt can prove to be quite challenging.

In Paul's time salt was used as a preservative to keep food from spoiling. *"This would mean the believer's speech is to be free from corruption, wholesome in content"* (Anders). Like me, you have probably been in far too many conversations serving as breeding grounds for corruption and discontent. Solomon wrote **"the tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit"** (Proverbs 18:21). Well-chosen words are words well-salted for life.

Salt, as in our day, was also used as an additive to give food flavor. *"If this meaning lies behind Paul's figure, then the believer's speech is to be interesting, tactful, and add to the appeal and value of the conversation"* (Anders). Solomon put it this way, **"The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value"** (Pro. 10:19). Well-salted words are those that communicate worth and value, pointing to the Giver of life.

Another use of salt in the ancient world was as an antiseptic. You may be familiar with the phrase *"pouring salt into an open wound."* That was literally done in Paul's day to try to kill and to draw infection out of a wound. If you have experienced even something as simple as a bead of sweat dripping into a wound, you know the sting it creates! We are called to **"speak the truth in love"** (Eph. 4:15), knowing well-salted words will sting, even while promoting healing.

Jesus said we are the **"salt of the earth"** (cf. Matt. 5:13). One way of acting like it is by ensuring our conversations are grace-filled, and heavily **"seasoned with salt."** Unlike food which can be over-salted, I am not sure our words can be. As you are in conversation with those who don't know Jesus, and even with those who do, remember: **"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones"** (Pro. 16:24).

Now pass the salt!

Blessings,

Pastor David





# The Thirst Quencher

## Read John 4:10-15 (ESV)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

## Reflect

What do you seek when you are spiritually thirsty? Does it actually quench your thirst?

When we are thirsty, we tend to seek out everything except the best thing for us to drink—water. The drinks we love tend to be carbonated or caffeinated and sugar-laden (sometimes all three). Water is a necessary component of the bodies God made us and that water has to be replenished every day in order for us to function and be healthy. But when it comes to quenching our thirst, many of us would rather drink something just a little more exciting than plain old water. So, the beverage choices we make are not always the healthiest.

But we do this spiritually as well. So many people are thirsty for God. Peace with God is what our souls need, but we tend to seek out everything except what is best for us spiritually. We try to quench our thirst for God with relationships, entertainment, busyness, work, alcohol, drugs, pornography, food addictions... The list goes on and on.

In the above passage, Jesus continued His conversation with a woman He met at Jacob's well. He had already broken tradition and spoke to a woman by asking her for a drink of water. What's worse, she was an immoral and unclean woman! But today we see that Jesus offered her something even better than a physical thirst quencher. He offered her something that would quench her spiritual longings for all eternity.

Jesus offered her living water. He said that if anyone drinks the water He offers, they will never thirst again. We can tell she doesn't quite understand because she accepted His offer thinking she wouldn't have to be thirsty or come back to the well ever again. But that is not what Jesus meant.

In verse 13 Jesus said, "The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jesus meant that everyone who accepts Him as the Messiah will receive the indwelling Holy Spirit and the deepest desires of their soul will be met. They will be made right with God and made brand new. Their sins will be cleansed and forgiven. Their relationship with God will be restored. They will experience everlasting life forever with Him. They will never again long for God because a spring of living water (the Holy Spirit) lives inside them! They will never again be apart from Him!

Let's not fail to grasp the eternal significance of what Jesus said. Let's stop choosing temporary, worldly, and often very unhealthy things in an effort to quench our spiritual thirst. Our souls aren't longing for religion. They aren't longing for sex. They aren't yearning for fame, fortune, and worldly success. Social media, TV, and other forms of entertainment won't fill us up. Sports will ultimately disappoint. We have a thirst that only Jesus can quench. And when we accept His offer of living water, we'll never be thirsty again!

## Pray

Lord, forgive me for trying to quench my spiritual thirst on my own apart from You. But "as a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 42:1-2). Thank You for Your living water, Your Holy Spirit that lives in me. In You, I will thirst no more. Amen.

- 1 – Luke 1; John 1:1-14
- 2 – Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38
- 3 – Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52
- 4 – Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
- 5 – Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51
- 6 – John 2-4
- 7 – Mark 2
- 8 – John 5
- 9 – Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
- 10 – Matthew 5-7
- 11 – Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
- 12 – Matthew 11
- 13 – Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11
- 14 – Matthew 13; Luke 8
- 15 – Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
- 16 – Matthew 9-10
- 17 – Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17
- 18 – John 6
- 19 – Matthew 15; Mark 7
- 20 – Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
- 21 – Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
- 22 – Matthew 18
- 23 – John 7-8
- 24 – John 9:1-41; John 10:1-21
- 25 – Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
- 26 – Luke 12-13
- 27 – Luke 14-15
- 28 – Luke 16; Luke 17:1-10
- 29 – John 11
- 30 – Luke 17:11-37; Luke 18:1-14
- 31 – Matthew 19; Mark 10

# October Chronological Bible Reading Plan

## Who Would You Like to Have a Cookie Plate



Esther Circle is gathering names of individuals to deliver cookie plates to near the end of

November. There is a sign up sheet on the church lobby table. Write in the name of someone you think would enjoy a cookie plate. This is an opportunity to reach out to the community that may open the door for conversation about Jesus. If you are willing to help deliver the cookie plates please let a member of the Esther Circle know.

## Purchase a Goat Today



The ladies of Esther Circle are teaming up with IDES to sponsor goats again this year. It has been a while since we have done this. This will take place in the month of October.

One goat costs \$60 and provides a sustainable food source for those who receive them. A goat can provide cheese, milk, and once a herd is built they also provide a meat source.

Please make your donations to Esther Circle directly. You can buy as many goats as you like. If you can't donate for a whole goat that is just fine we will pool all the donations together to purchase as many goats as we can with the donations.

This a fun way to make a direct impact on changing the direction of a families life.

The deadline for donations to help purchase goats through IDES is **October 31, 2023**. **Make checks payable to 'Esther Circle'.**

Thanks again for your support!

Date	Offering	On Campus Attendance	Online Attendance	Total Attendance
08/24/2023	2080.90	64	19	83
09/03/2023	11801.25	64	21	90
09/10/2023	2205.91	56	16	72
09/17/2023	1351.25	82	13	95
09/24/2023	2519.25	78	27	105

# October 2023

1	8	15	22	29
<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	N/A
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	N/A
<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>
David Hall	Mike Sparks	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Guy Fishman
<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>
David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>
Angela Hall	Marica Casey	Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Angela Hall
	Mark Casey	Larry Heschke		David Hall
<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>
Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson
Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen

## Christmas Poinsettia Orders

A sign-up sheet to order your Memorial Poinsettia will be on the table in the church foyer beginning Sunday, October 1, 2023. The cost per plant is **\$15.00 each**. Please make your check payable to **First Church of Christ with 'Poinsettia' on the memo line**.

You can also mail or drop off your payment to the church office. Orders for the plants will be taken until October 30. The plants will be delivered to the church later in November and used to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



## 2023 HARVEST OFFERING

At the September meeting of the Board of Elders and Deacons it was decided that this year's Harvest Offering will be designated to offsetting the cost of replacing one of the church air conditioning units that went bad this summer. The goal is to raise at least \$15,000. The date for receiving this year's Harvest Offering is **Sunday, November 19th**. We ask that you prayerfully consider your participation and then give generously as God leads.



## Troop 107 Selling Greenery

Boy Scout Troop 107 is selling greenery as a fundraiser to help offset the cost of their upcoming recharter fees. The greenery is coming from a local area business. They are offering two choices of greenery. One is a wreath that will come with a bow for \$30.00 and the other is a garland for \$38.00.

The scouts will be taking orders until October 10th. Delivery is available for inside Cherokee city limits or you can pick up on a date to be determined. Payments are collected in advance so please make checks payable to 'Troop 107'.

There will be an order sheet on the church lobby table if you are interested. The boys will also be setting up a table and taking orders at various businesses in Cherokee as well.



The Spirit moved in dramatic ways in the early church. The gospel was preached, thousands were added to their number, many were healed, and the good news about Jesus was spread across continents. Covering the exciting action of the Spirit in the years just following Jesus' life on earth, this study will open your eyes to the Spirit's power in the past *and* present and help you apply the riches of Scripture to your own life.

Beginning September 12th, join us at 10:30am each Tuesday morning this fall and be a part of this exciting study through the Book of Acts. Invite a friend to attend with you!

*Fall in love with Jesus.*

*He never leaves you.*





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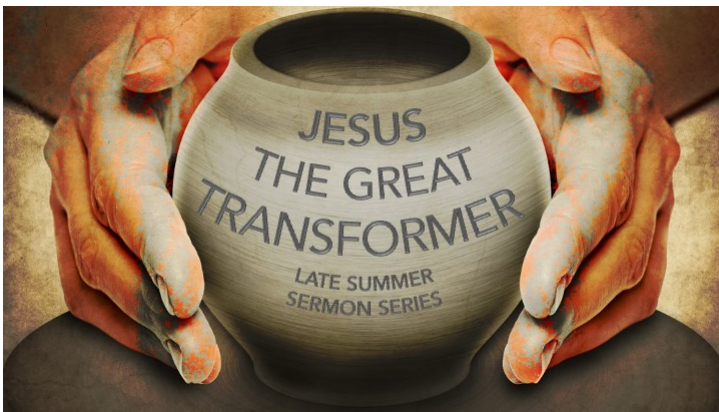
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from the face of the one who sits on the throne (16:16). But Jesus Christ brought God down to the realm of our daily lives. He said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father" (John 14:9). He channels the truth of God so that we can safely relate to him, and understand him, and benefit from him. And when we allow Jesus Christ to come into our lives, he transforms us from the darkness of sin to the light of His holiness, from the coldness of selfishness to the warmth of compassion, from the banal activities of this world to the excitement and joy of the Spirit. Second Corinthians 3:18 says, "We are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord."

First Timothy chapter 2, verse 5, tells us, "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...". God is so holy, so powerful, that his full presence can't be tolerated by mere human beings. The Bible says that no man can look at the face of God and live. The book of Revelation says that in the last days, when people actually see God's power, they will call for the mountains and the rocks to fall on them and to hide them

In this four-week sermon series "**Jesus: The Great Transformer**" we are going to learn from some people in the Gospel of Luke who were exposed to this transforming power of God and had their lives changed forever. Join us each week and learn how his transformative power can be set free in your life!

## Board of Elders & Deacons Nominations Coming Soon

It is that time of year again where we all need to be thinking about who we want to nominate to our Board of Elders and Deacons. **Nomination forms will be available on October 29, 2023.**

The deadline to submit your nominations will be **November 5, 2023.**

Those individuals accepting your nominations will be published on the ballots by November 19, 2023. The election of those accepting nominations will take place on December 10, 2023. Their terms will begin on January 1, 2023.

You will not need to nominate someone whose term has not yet expired. Your current board of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are as follows:

### Elders:

Mike Sparks	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Kirk Nelson	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Larry Heschke	Term Expires 12/31/2025

### Deacons:

Tom Mortenson	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Mark Patten	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Kevin Schmillen	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Barry Nelson	Term Expires 12/31/2023

### Trustees:

Guy Fishman	Term Expires 12/31/2025
Curt Wiese	Term Expires 12/31/2023
Joe Draper	Term Expires 12/31/2023

Please consider your nominations carefully and with prayer.



## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

### October 3

Paula Burch

### October 4

Harold & Connie Johnson  
Bob & Eleanor Johnston

### October 11

Mike & Lorraine Duvall

### October 14

Jean Heschke

### October 16

Merry Farlee

### October 20

Eleanor Johnston

### October 22

Theodore D. (MCS Student)

### October 26

Leo K. (MCS Student)

### October 27

David Hall

### October 29

Sharon Henkel  
Joshua C. (MCS Staff)

### October 30

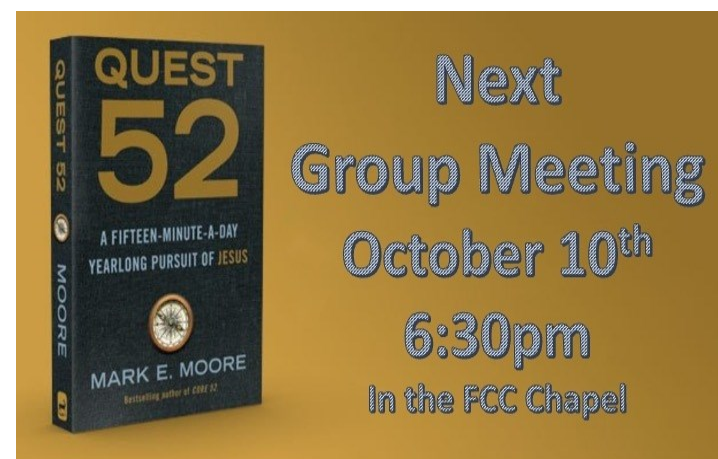
Randy Cox  
Sherri Ludvigson  
Keith & Sherri Ludvigson

## Thank You

*I would like to thank everyone for all the birthday cards and gifts. I am so blessed to be a part of the First Church of Christ family.*

*May God Bless & Protect You All,*

*Mary Hasbrouck*



## OCTOBER EVENTS:

- October 2** - GriefShare Group @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 3** - Boy Scout Troop 107 @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 3** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 4** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 5** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 6** - Quilt Batts Sewing Day
- October 7** - Quilt Batts Sewing Day
- October 8** - Board Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.
- October 9** - GriefShare Group @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 10** - Quest 52 Group Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 10** - Boy Scout Troop 107 @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 10** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 11** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 12** - Christian Homemakers @ 9:30 a.m.
- October 12** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 16** - GriefShare Group @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 17** - Boy Scout Troop 107 @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 17** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 17** - Quilt Batts @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 18** - Esther Circle @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 18** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 19** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 21** - MCS Birthday Party
- October 22** - Potluck after Sunday School
- October 23** - GriefShare Group @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 24** - Boy Scout Troop 107 @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 24** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 25** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 26** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.
- October 30** - GriefShare Group @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 31** - Boy Scout Troop 107 @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 31** - Narcotics Anonymous @ 7:00 p.m.

