First United Methodist Church of Windsor

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

October 2026

Pastor's Pen

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9am Adult S.S.
- 10am Worship
- 10:10am First Kids
- 11am Fellowship

All are welcome!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This past Sunday I spoke about the changes we are seeing with cooler weather and our switching over from Summer to Autumn. I also told you that I like change, not something that everyone likes. You see, change can take us out of our comfort zones. Change can make us have to deal with issues that we would rather not deal with. Change can also interrupt our lives in ways that are unpredictable.

For me though, I have discovered that Change allows me to grow because I am forced to look at an issue or a situation in a different way that makes sense in the new paradigm that is surrounding me. It also allows me to try new and different things, perhaps things that God has been wanting me to do for a long time but I was afraid to begin. Change equals opportunity and when God gives us a new opportunity, it is something that we should cling on to with joy and hope!

With new opportunities we are given new ways of interacting with one another. We are able to look at the world around us with a different perspective that can and does bring a new understanding of how and why we are bringing the message of the Gospel to a hurting and lonely world. If we keep doing things the same way, we can never expect things to change, and there goes our opportunity that God has given to us.

Continued on the next page...

Christ Is Counting on Us to *Know*, *Love*, & *Serve* God

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Pastor's Pen Continued

Our ability to adapt and to improvise are gifts given to us by Christ and these gifts allow us to reach people where they are at in their lives. When I have the opportunity to learn new things about myself that allow me to serve Jesus better, I am thrilled beyond belief because I have been given a new way to help people see Jesus in their lives. It is worth every minute of discomfort in my life because I get to see a real change in someone else's life as they grow closer to Christ.

So, this month, when you are faced with something changing, try to embrace it instead of rejecting it.You might learn something about yourself and you might just learn what God wants you to do to help the people you connect with each and every day. Just remember that change is an opportunity to do something different for God.

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Phil

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Squeaky's Corner

Hi Everyone!!! It's Squeaky, your friendly church mouse!!!

I have a question for all of you if that's okay? Where is autumn?

I checked the calendar. It says autumn has officially arrived. So, I went outside expecting colorful leaves, cool breezes, piles of leaves to jump into, and maybe someone carrying a pumpkin. Instead, things look pretty much the same.

The trees are still mostly green. The afternoons are still pretty warm. There aren't any big piles of leaves to play in and nobody has left a pumpkin anywhere near the church or my house.

I'm beginning to wonder if autumn forgot about us. I even went looking for clues and I found one yellow leaf. It was in the gutter, covered in dirt but I'm not completely convinced it counts. That leaf may have just been having a bad day or was blown off early by the wind.

You know, I am not a mouse to take chances so I decided maybe I should start preparing for the coming cold and winter anyway. I moved one extra cracker into my winter pantry. I checked my blanket supply, and I even started making a list of everything I'll need when the cold weather arrives: crackers, warm bedding, cheese, more cheese, emergency cheese, and, of course, emergency backup cheese because you can never be too careful.

But while I was waiting for everything outside to change, I started thinking about something: sometimes we know change is coming long before we can actually see it. We pray, but nothing seems different. We try something new, but we don't see results right away. We ask God for direction, but the answer doesn't immediately appear. We plant seeds of kindness, friendship, forgiveness, and faith, and then we wait. And wait. And wait some more.

It can feel a little like the beginning of autumn. The calendar tells us a new season has begun, but when we look around, everything still looks pretty much the same but that doesn't mean nothing is happening. You see, God often works in ways we cannot immediately see.

Galatians 6:9 reminds us, ***"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."***

So I'm going to stop worrying about when autumn will finally look like autumn because I know that the leaves will change when they're ready. The cooler days will come and eventually, I'll probably have more leaves outside than I know what to do with.

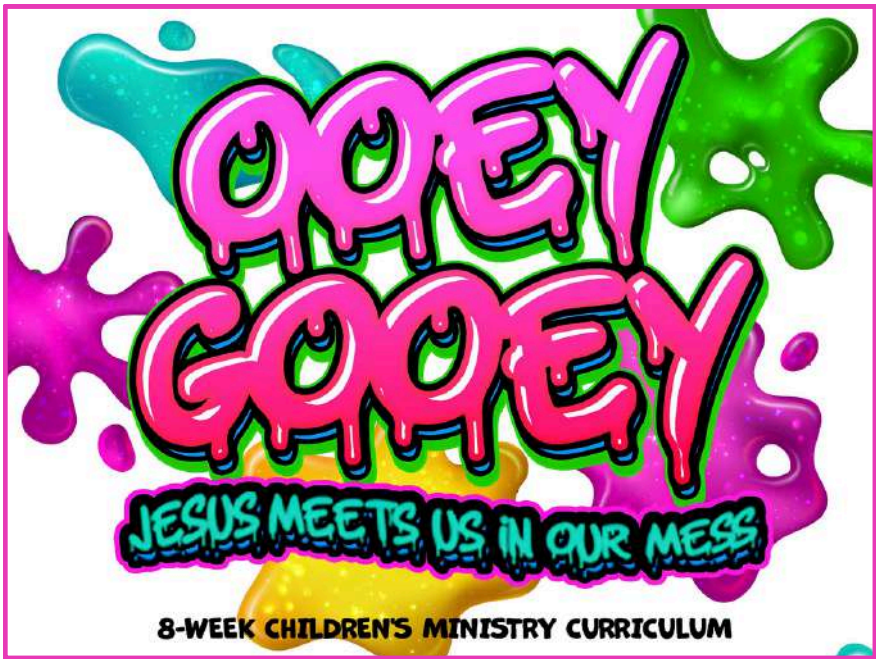
I better get going now because I hear there is a sale on cheese at the store! Take care and I'll see you around the church!

Squeaky 🐭

P.S. If autumn happens to arrive before the next newsletter, please tell Squeaky, he has been waiting.

-Squeaky

Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

October Mission News

Mission Focus: Operation Christmas Child

It's All About Jesus
It's All About Children

Operation Christmas Child is a global project run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian humanitarian organization. Since 1993, the project has delivered 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need across more than 100 countries. The goal is simple yet powerful: to share love, joy, and the message of hope through small, tangible gifts.

Each shoebox is packed by individuals, families, churches, or community groups with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and sometimes personal notes or photos. These gifts are then collected and distributed to children in impoverished or crisis-affected areas—often to those who have never received a gift before.

Along with each showbox the recipiant receives "The Greatest Gift" gospel story booklet which has been translated into their native language. The children are also invited to participate in a voluntary follow-up discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey", which teaches them about the Christian faith. If you would like to support a child in "The Greatest Journey", you can make a check out to the church and mark it for "The Greatest Journey", or go online to Samaritan's Purse and find Operation Christmas Child, then scroll all the way to the bottom until you see "The Greatest Journey", once you click on it, you can make your donation there.

Our church has been participating in this global outreach event for close to twenty years. Those who have taken part in Operation Christmas Child can testify that it is definitely a worthwhile experience and a great way to reinforce the power of giving to their own children and grandchildren.This year will have available to you not only the boxes but many items to help you get a jump start on filling your boxes. Look for these items in the fellowship hall starting October 18th. There is a ten dollar shipping fee per box which can be attached to the outside of the box or paid online. You can also track your box to see where it goes. If you prefer you can also pack a box online at https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ Scroll down to pack a shoebox, then down to build a shoebox online. The cost is $30.00.

Please return your filled boxes to the church by November 15th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pat Ferrell or Cathy Bell.

Thank you all so much for your generosity. We're excited to pack shoe boxes with you! Operation Christmas Child demonstrates how a small act of kindness can have a lasting impact, bringing not only smiles but also a sense of connection and hope to children around the globe.

Mission Updates

UMCOR Disaster Relief

Everyone who watches the news knows of all the natural disasters which have occurred around the world.Everything from wildfires, to floods, to earthquakes and tornadoes have disrupted people's lives.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through UM Global Ministries works to respond to humanitarian crises around the world through disaster relief and recovery, migrant and refugee support, environmental sustainability, agriculture and food security.

In 2025, UMCOR responded to 30 floods, 11 tropical storms, 6 tornadoes, 29 migration events, 7 events of mass violence/civil unrest and 5 fires. The needs are massive. Any money you give goes directly to that project and not to any overhead costs. **You may give directly** to UMCOR at: umcmissions.org For International Disaster Response and Recovery, go to Advance #982450. For US Disaster Response and Recovery go to Advance #901670. If there is a specific disaster that you would like to donate to, you may do a search on the UMCOR site. **Or you may make your check to FUMC Windsor**, with a notation: to US (or International) Disaster Relief, and we will make sure your donation gets sent.Thank You.

Harvest Festival follow up: The Cinnamon Roll and Breakfast Burrito sale at Harvest Festival was a big success. **Thank you** to all who helped make the burritos, those who arrived in the dark to bake cinnamon rolls, those who came to help at the sale and also, thanks to all who purchased our food. **After expenses, we made $1319**. This will go toward our Mission Projects.

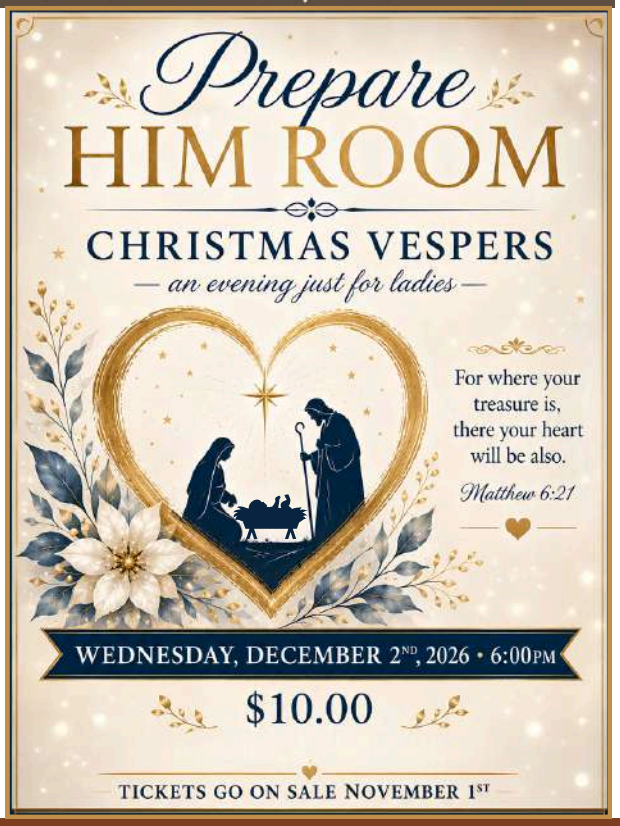
Feed My Starving Children: We keep collection boxes in the back of the sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall for this Christian non-profit organization. It costs only about 30 cents to provide a nutritionally complete meal to a child. Our church will again participate in Slammin' Famine, a local food packing event, where we 'purchase' a table and supply workers to pack meals. The dates for 2027 are February 12-14. If you are interested, but the dates on your calendar and watch for updates after the first of the year.

Guadalupe Community Center Meals: FUMC Windsor provides the evening meal to residents of Guadalupe on the 5th Monday and Thursday of each month. We have a faithful group of volunteers, but would always love to have more. To learn more about this, see either Cheryl Gerstner or Cathy Bell. The next meal will be on October 29th.

The next Missions Meeting is on Sunday, October 11th in the Upper Room. All are welcome!

Announcements

Ladies, save the date.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

10/05 Karen Gucci
10/08 Tom Ferguson
10/11 Eric Freitag
10/15 Bob Brown
10/15 Sharon Jeffryes
10/23 John Lee
10/26 Marlene Bronson
10/29 CherylAnn Craven-Lindblad

Happy Anniversary

10/26 Karen & Mel Whipple

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12p Stork Support	2 10a UWF Craft Grp	3
4 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ First Kids 11a Fellowship Hour	5 8:30a Exercise 5:30p Choir 7p Scouts	6 12:30p Vera's Bible Study 6:30p Scouts	7 8:30a Exercise 10a Stork S. 3p Prayer Grp. 5:30p Trustees	8 12p Stork Support 5:30p Women's Bible Study	9 10a UWF Craft Grp	10 9a UWF Octoberfest Prep.
11 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ First Kids 11a Octoberfest/ Missions Mtg.	12 8:30a Exercise 5:30p Choir 7p Scouts	13 12:30p Vera's Bible Study	14 8:30a Exercise 10a Stork S. 1:30p UWF 3p Prayer Grp. 5:30p Finance 7p Church Conference	15 12p Stork Support 5:30p Women's Bible Study	16 10a UWF Craft Grp	17
18 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ First Kids 11a Fellowship Hour	19 8:30a Exercise 5:30p Choir 7p Scouts	20 12:30p Vera's Bible Study	21 8:30a Exercise 10a Stork S. 3p Prayer Grp. 5:30p SPRC	22 12p Stork Support 5:30p Women's Bible Study	23 10a UWF Craft Grp	24 10a Stork S.
25 9a Adult S.S. 10a Worship/ First Kids 11a Fellowship Hour	26 8:30a Exercise 5:30p Choir 7p Scouts	27 12:30p Vera's Bible Study	28 8:30a Exercise 10a Stork S. 1:30p UWF 3p Prayer Grp. 5:30p Leadership 6:30p Pack 57	29 12p Stork Support 5:30p Women's Bible Study	30 10a UWF Craft Grp	31

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