



## United Methodist Temple September 2019 Newsletter ~ Volume IX



Sometimes how we mark time seems, well, strange. Labor Day—the day on which we mark contributions by laborers to our national economic and social life—for example, is on the first Monday in September because that day is half way between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving. It used to be the last hurrah of summer, picnics and parades, last day at the beach before school, and, in fashion, the last day for white dresses, or seersucker suits, or “boaters.” It used to be when “football season” started.

But now, more activist labor movements celebrate May 1—the day when the eight-hour work day became standard—as the “real” Labor Day. Schools start in August. People aren’t as selective about white clothing or seersucker; and I haven’t seen anyone wearing a “boater” outside a carnival or political rally in decades.

The Church has a special calendar too, for keeping track of Christmas and Easter, for times of preparation and anticipation, for holy days of feast and remembrance. Often, even these days and times obvious to traditional Christians seem to run sideways in our times. For stores and businesses, Christmas starts just after, or (ugh!) even *before*, Halloween!

People in Florida no longer mark Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. We know, instead, tourist season, Summer, hurricane season, Spring Training; and what we used to think of as rainy season is now the broader but less definite “floods.”

Yes, how we mark time has changed. In fact the very *marking* of time has changed. Marking time had to do with sundials and star charts. Words for how we mark time, such as temporal, or temporary, or degrees of heat such as temperature all share the same root: *temp*. In these days, a *temp* is a word for impermanent—or *temporary*—labor. More and more people are doing *temporary* work. Their work is temporary, their commitments are temporary. At the same time, they are seen in business and commerce as temporary labor, requiring no long-term contracts, commitments, or benefits. In much business-think, a temp is not just a money saving device. *Temps* are *temporary* people!

The root of the word for how we mark time—temp—comes from the mark or *temp* that fishing people made on the side of a boat to measure the size of the fish they caught, in order to determine the value of the catch.

*Temp* also finds it meaning *temple*, the place in which people marked an earthly place that corresponded with the eternal (non-temporal) place in the heavens. Contemplation was becoming aware of and giving attention to signs in the eternal—omens and portents—that marked the truth and influence of God in the world.

Next time we see someone working in an overlooked, exhausting job—when we realize that, for us, that job would be like “marking time” in cut marks on prison a wall—let’s remember that we witnessing a whole person marking the way of God in the world.

Happy Labor Day!

John

Visit our Website: [myumt.org](http://myumt.org)

## Upcoming Events

September

**1**

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Pot Luck hosted by Genesis

**2**

Labor Day

**4**

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

**8**

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Dine Abouts to Abuelo's

**9**

10:00 AM Elizabeth Circle

**10**

5:30 PM Finance Committee

6:00 PM Administrative Council

**11**

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

**12**

9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery

**15**

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

**17**

6:30 PM United Methodist Men

**18**



7:00 PM Choir rehearsal  
**19**  
9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery  
**22**  
9:00 AM Sunday school  
10:30 AM Worship  
**23**  
First Day of Autumn  
**25**  
7:00 PM Choir rehearsal  
**26**  
9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery  
**29**  
9:00 AM Sunday school  
10:30 AM Worship

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### Dine Abouts

The Dine Abouts will be having lunch at Abuelo's in Lakeside Village on Sunday, September 8th following worship. Contact Brenda Dorn (644-5250) or Frances Mundy (646-1300) if you plan on joining them. All women of the church (single or single for the day) are invited.



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### September Birthdays



9-6 Diane Poling  
9-9 Dee Touchtone  
9-10 Ron Clark  
Cindy Fulton  
9-20 Mark Koebernik  
9-23 Alice Doolittle  
9-25 Kay Sloan  
Beti Wheeler  
9-27 Kristie Taylor  
9-29 Heidi Urquhart

### September Anniversaries

9-5 Charlie & Margaret Merritt  
9-14 Gerald & Stephanie Miklavcic



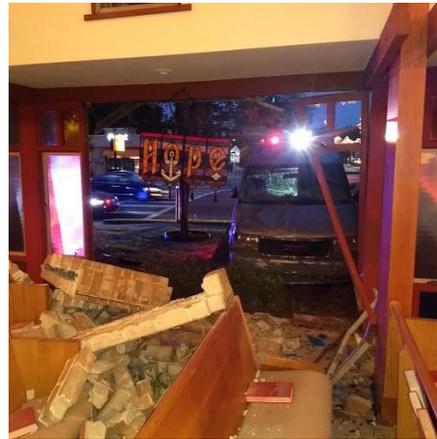


## Damage to the Sanctuary

On Monday morning, August 19th, a man driving a GMC van ran through the side of our sanctuary doing quite a lot of damage. We are in the process of getting bids to make the repairs.

We want to thank parents and children from the Cygnet school for cleaning up the debris following the accident.

One of the parents from the school took some of the broken colored glass and made a cross (see above) that will hang in a special place in the church.



**The 2020 Census is coming up and they are looking for Census Takers.  
If interested you can apply on line at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) or call  
1-855-2020.**