



MINOR MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Guiding and encouraging people to take their next steps following Christ

SEPTEMBER 2026

Grace and peace to you, church family!

There is something about September, isn't there? The air starts to shift just a little. Backpacks come out. Schedules reset. And here at Minor Memorial, there is a real sense of new beginnings stirring among us. I am so glad you are taking a few minutes to read through this newsletter, because friends, we have a full and beautiful month ahead of us. Whether you have been part of this church family for fifty years or you are just now finding your way through our doors, I want you to know: you are wanted here. You are needed here. And this September, there is a place for you to belong, to grow, and to serve alongside people who love you and love Jesus. So pour yourself a cup of coffee, settle in, and let me walk you through what God has in store for us this month.

This September, we're beginning a new worship series called "Becoming the Church God Intended," and it's built on a verse that has been tugging at my heart for weeks now. First Peter 4:11 says, "Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

Did you catch that? Whatever we do — whatever we say, however we serve — it's meant to point back to God. Not to us. Not to our own effort or our own reputation as a church. To God. That's the heartbeat of this whole series. Over the next four weeks, we're going to walk through four qualities that mark a church that truly reflects Jesus. We'll start with Discipline, from Matthew 18:15-20, and talk honestly about what it looks like to hold one another accountable in love, not judgment. Then we'll move into Forgiveness, from Matthew 18:21-35 — that hard, freeing, sometimes seventy-times-seven kind of forgiveness that Jesus calls us to. From there we'll talk about Courage, from Philippians 1:21-30, because living for Christ takes backbone, and Paul knew that better than most of us ever will. And we'll close the series with Righteousness, from Matthew 21:23-32, wrestling with what it really means to live in a way that lines up with what we say we believe.

I promise you, this isn't going to be four weeks of feeling beat up. This is going to be four weeks of hope — because becoming the church God intended isn't about achieving perfection. It's about leaning into grace, together. I hope you'll make plans to be here every Sunday this month. Bring your Bible, bring your questions, and bring your heart wide open.

Now, a sermon series is a wonderful thing, but James reminds us that faith without works is dead. So let me tell you about two ways we're putting our faith into action this month.

First, our Pack & Pray ministry kicks off on Thursday, September 10th, and will continue every Thursday throughout the school year. This is our weekday student meal ministry, and it is such a simple, tangible way to love the children in our community. We pack meals, and we pray over every single one of them before they go out the door. If you have ever wondered how you could make a difference in a child's life without needing any special skill or training, this is it. Come pack. Come say a prayer. It will not take much of your time, but I promise you it will do something to your heart.

Second, on Saturday, September 19th, we're holding a church workday, sponsored by our United Methodist Men. All are encouraged to come. There's raking, there's cleaning, there's fixing, and yes, there's probably some fellowship over a cup of coffee and a shared task. Taking care of this building we call home is one small way we say thank you to God for this place He's given us to gather.

Now let's talk about some fun. On Saturday, September 12th, we're hosting a community yard sale right here at Minor Memorial, and here's the good news — there is no setup fee. Zero. Anyone in our community is welcome to come sell their goods, which means this is a wonderful chance to open our doors, meet our neighbors, and let folks see what a welcoming place this church really is. If you've got a table full of treasures gathering dust in your garage, bring them on out. And even if you don't have anything to sell, come walk around, strike up a conversation, and be the friendly face of Minor Memorial that our community needs to see.

Then, we'll close out the month on Thursday, September 25th, with our church and community cookout and movie night. Picture it — good food, good company, lawn chairs and blankets scattered across the grass, and a movie lighting up the evening sky. This is one of those nights that reminds us why fellowship matters so much. It's not just about the hot dogs, although those are pretty good too. It's about sitting shoulder to shoulder with people you love, and maybe some folks you're just getting to know, and simply enjoying being together as the family of God.

So here we are, friends — a whole month ahead of us, full of opportunity. A sermon series that will challenge and encourage us. A meal ministry that will feed hungry children. A workday that will bless this church home. A yard sale that will open our doors to the community. And a cookout and movie night that will simply let us enjoy one another. Here's my challenge to you this September: don't do it alone. Look around at your neighbors, your coworkers, your family members who haven't found a church home yet, and bring them along. Invite them to worship. Invite them to pack a meal on Thursday. Invite them to bring their old lamp to the yard sale or their lawn chair to movie night. You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to open the door.

I truly believe this is going to be a month where we see, in real and tangible ways, what it looks like to become the church God intended us to be. Not a perfect church. Not a flashy church. Just a church full of ordinary people, loving God, loving each other, and loving our neighbors well. I can't wait to see what God does among us this September. Bring a friend. Come expecting. And let's become who God is calling us to be — together.

In Christ's Name and In God's Service,
Rev. Sam

The Upper Room Devotional Books

The September/October issues of *The Upper Room* are available in the Narthex and church office. If you need one delivered or mailed, please let the office know.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Looks like God is working in wonderful ways here at Minor. With the After School Program closing, we weren't sure if any kids would show up for Kids for Christ. Boy, were we wrong. As the saying goes in the movie "Field of Dreams" - "If you build it, they will come" and they sure did. We have had over 20 kids each night. One mother told us how her girls were so excited about coming back after the first night (which was chaotic) that they picked out outfits and counted down the days. Music to our ears!

We could maybe use a volunteer to help with serving supper. If anyone is interested talk to Ilene or Karla. The kids have been super great as we are working out the kinks. Last year we only had 6 to 10 kids each week. So, this is an adjustment and a good problem to have. Keep Kids for Christ in your prayers and praise God for the opportunity He has put before us.

In His Service with You,
Karla Lance

UPCOMING EVENTS



FALL FESTIVAL—NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

We are looking forward to our 2026 Fall Festival on October 3rd, and we need everyone working together to pull it off!

What you can be doing now:

- * Sign up to help with Parking or Set Up or Clean Up if you haven't already committed to another area.
- * Sign up to donate blood.
- * Hang up Fall Festival Flyers at work or in the community.
- * Share the Facebook event on your page and with groups.
- * Ask your crafting friends to become vendors. There are still spaces available!
- * Invite your friends and family to attend. Personal invites and social media invites are great!
- * Plan what you will bake for the bake sale and sign up to help!
- * Save your money to shop!



What you can do on October 2 and 3:

- * Come up during the day on Friday or early Saturday to help with set up.
- * Plan to stay after the Fall Festival from 3-5 pm to help with clean up...a big need, and a big help!
- * Show up and volunteer in the areas and during the time to which you committed.
- * Be friendly and courteous to all of the visitors and members of the community; introduce yourself, thank them for coming and invite them to church if they don't have a church home.
- * Encourage one another! Everyone works hard at the Fall Festival and an encouraging word goes a long way!
- * Visit the vendors and community exhibits. Thank them for coming!
- * Bring your donations for the Bake Sale!

Feed My Lambs – another new year!

Greetings, church family! September is here, and we are kicking off the 15th year of our Feed My Lambs Weekend Meal Ministry. Our first delivery will be on September 11 and the counselors will be getting the headcount to us soon. We ended the last school year serving 136 children and the need continues to rise. What a joy that we are able to continue this much needed ministry of providing food for school children in our community! This would not be possible without the support of our faithful donors and volunteers from our church family and the community.

For those that may not know, Feed My Lambs is a weekend meal ministry of Minor Memorial UMC that provides students in need with two breakfast items, two lunch items, and four snacks each week while school is in session from September through May. We currently serve two schools – Walls Elementary School and Lake Cormorant Elementary School. Over the past years, the number of children served weekly has ranged from 100 to 150. Your generosity and caring bless so many lives!

A big thank-you also goes to the Fancy Nancy Foundation, the non-profit founded by Neil Colley and family in memory of their dear matriarch and our friend and long-time Feed My Lambs supporter, Nancy Colley. The Fancy Nancy Foundation is sponsoring the 5th annual Fancy Nancy Foundation BBQ and car show to benefit Feed My Lambs on October 17 here at Minor Memorial. For the past four years, the BBQ fundraiser has been a great success and has provided a major portion of our annual budget. Thank you for your support of this event and for helping to spread the word! Please pick up some flyers at the welcome station and pass them out! And, of course, share on Facebook! To pre-order butts or to enter the car show, contact Neil at 662-404-2364

There are many ways to support and be a part of Feed My Lambs. We can always use volunteers to help with shopping, setting up, packing, and delivering the food bags. We are thankful for the volunteers we have – Lajuanna Beasley for shopping, Randy Lance for delivering and the Pack and Pray team for doing whatever is needed! We will resume Pack and Pray September 10. This group meets weekly on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. to set up the food items and pack the bags, followed by a time of devotion and prayer. Deliveries are made weekly on Friday mornings.

Financial support is crucial! We budget \$6.00 per week for each child, which comes to about \$180.00 per school year. Please consider sponsoring a child for the year or making a donation of any amount. You can donate by cash, check, or cards (online or through the kiosk). Feed My Lambs Fact Sheets are also available if you would like to share information about this ministry in the community or in your workplaces. If you need more information, please contact Sandy Marbry, Billie Wilhite or Patsy Vick.

Thank you for your continued faithful support of Feed My Lambs!

Sandy Marbry

ANNUAL FANCY NANCY FOUNDATION CAR SHOW

Raising Money & Awareness For
Feed My Lambs

\$25
CAR SHOW
ENTRY
FEE

**Trophies & Prizes
Awarded**

FREE TO THE PUBLIC.
KID AND DOG FRIENDLY.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

10:00AM – 3:00PM

FANCYNANCYFOUNDATION.COM

662-404-2364

MINORMEMORIAL.ORG/LAMBS

662-781-1333

**6120 GOODMAN ROAD W
WALLS, MS 38680**

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Morning Schedule: Small Groups and Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Choir 11:30 am		1 ★ Collin Mayfield	Wednesday Night Schedule: Kids for Christ 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study in-person & zoom 6:00 pm	3	4	5 ★ Lia Cushman
6	7 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	8 FINANCE MEETING @ 6:00 PM	9	10 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am ★ Derrick Martin	11 ★ Tim Patrick	12 Community Yard Sale 7am-1 pm 
13 ★ Shawn Bent Fall Festival Meeting after Worship	14	15 ★ Sue Schumaker	16 ★ Ilene Hogan ★ Polly Speed	17 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am	18	19 Church Work Day @ 8:00 am ★ Christopher Medcalf
20	21 ★ C. J. Wright	22	23	24 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am ★ Jim Lovelace	25 Cookout and Movie Night @ 5:00 pm	26
27 UMM Bible Study @ 8:30 am	28 ★ Braxton Hall ★ Gabby Samson	29	30			