

September 2026 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of September 2026. If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

Dear Church Family,

September often feels like a new beginning. Summer gives way to fall, schools are back in session, routines return, and the life of the church begins to settle into a new season. It is a good time to ask not only what fills our calendars, but what God is doing in our lives.

Over the past several months in worship, we have followed God's people from Genesis into Exodus, from God's promise to Abraham to Israel's journey toward freedom. Along the way, we have discovered that God does not simply call His people out of something; He calls them into something. God brought Israel out of slavery, but freedom was only the beginning. In the wilderness, God began forming them into the people He had called them to be.

The same is true for us. Following Jesus is about more than the big moments of faith. God forms us in the ordinary days as we pray, worship, study Scripture, serve others, forgive, and learn to trust Him one day at a time.

And God does much of that work through one another. The church is more than a place we attend on Sunday morning. We are a community where we worship together, pray for one another, carry one another through difficult seasons, serve our neighbors, and remind each other of God's faithfulness.

As we begin this fall season, I encourage each of us to consider where God may be inviting us to take another step: to worship more regularly, serve in a ministry, deepen our prayer life, invite someone to church, or reach out to someone who needs encouragement.

The God who called Abraham, led Israel through the sea, and provided bread in the wilderness is still faithful. Through Jesus Christ, God continues to lead, shape, and send us.

May we enter this new season ready for all that God desires to do in us and through us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jonathan Greer

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ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE MISSIONS OF CHERRYVALE

September Worship

September 6

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ex 12:1-14; Ps 149 or Ps 148; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, and remember the mighty acts of the Lord. The God who delivered Israel from bondage still brings freedom, mercy, and new life today. The Lord hears the cries of His people. The Lord is our deliverer and our salvation. Through God's saving grace, captives are set free and hope is renewed. We remember His faithfulness from generation to generation. Come and worship the God who marks His people with mercy and redemption. We come to praise the Great Lord who delivers and saves.

Prayer of Confession

Delivering God, You have called us out of bondage into freedom, yet too often we return to the habits and fears that enslave us. You mark us with Your grace, yet we forget who we are and whose we are. We trust our own strength more than Your saving power. We cling to old wounds, old fears, and old ways of living instead of walking in the freedom You provide. Forgive us when we fail to trust Your deliverance. Forgive us when fear is greater than faith. Forgive us when we forget the mighty things You have done. Renew us by Your mercy. Teach us to live as people marked by Your grace, redeemed by Your love, and formed by Your saving power.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, You delivered Israel from bondage and led them into freedom. You have delivered us through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Receive these gifts, our tithes, and our offerings. Use them to proclaim Your mercy, extend Your compassion, and share the hope of the Gospel. As You marked Your people with the sign of deliverance, mark our lives with gratitude, generosity, and faithful service, that others may come to know the victory of freedom found in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

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### **September 13**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Ex 14:19-31; Ps 114; Ex 15:1-21; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

#### **Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, and worship the Lord who makes a way where there seems to be no way. When Israel stood trapped between the sea and the pursuing army, God opened a path to freedom. The Lord is our strength and our salvation. We will trust in the Lord and not be afraid. When fear surrounds us and the future seems uncertain, God remains faithful. The Lord leads His people through every trial. Come and worship the God who delivers, guides, and saves. We come to praise the Mighty God who leads His people through the sea.

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Delivering God, You call us to trust You even when the path ahead seems impossible, yet we often give in to fear instead of faith. Like Israel at the edge of the sea, we become overwhelmed by what threatens us. We focus on obstacles more than Your promises and on our limitations more than Your power. Forgive us when fear clouds our trust. Forgive us when we doubt Your presence in difficult times. Forgive us when we forget how faithfully You have led us before. Open our eyes to the paths You are making before us. Strengthen our faith to follow where You lead, and teach us to trust that You remain with us through every trial.

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Faithful God, You led Your people safely through the sea and brought them into freedom. You continue to guide and sustain us through every season of life. Receive these gifts, our tithes, and our offerings. Use them for the work of Your kingdom, that others may come to know Your saving love and faithful care. As You made a way for Israel when no way seemed possible, teach us to trust Your guidance and follow where You lead, confident that Your grace goes before us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *September Worship*

### **September 20**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Ex 16:2-25; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45, or Ps 78; Acts 1:14-35; Matt 20:1-16

#### **Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, and worship the Lord who provides for His people. In the wilderness, when Israel was hungry and afraid, God gave them bread from heaven. The Lord is faithful in every generation. We will trust in the Lord who provides. Day by day God sustains His people with grace and mercy. Our hope is in the Lord, our provider and sustainer. Come and worship the God whose mercies are new every morning. We come to give thanks for God's daily provision as we taste and see that God is good.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Providing God, You faithfully give us what we need for each day, yet we often worry about tomorrow instead of trusting You today. Like Israel in the wilderness, we complain when the road is difficult. We focus on what we lack instead of remembering Your blessings. We become anxious about the future and forget Your faithfulness in the present. Forgive us when fear replaces trust. Forgive us when gratitude gives way to grumbling. Forgive us when we fail to recognize Your daily gifts. Teach us to depend upon You each day. Give us thankful hearts and steadfast faith, trusting that You will provide what we need according to Your grace.

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, You fed Your people in the wilderness and sustained them day by day. You continue to provide for us through Your mercy and grace. Receive these gifts, our tithes, and our offerings. Use them to feed the hungry, strengthen the weary, liberty to those oppressed, and share the good news of Christ with the world. As You gave manna for each day, teach us to trust Your provision, live with grateful hearts, and depend upon You for all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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September 27

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ex 17:1-7; Ps 78:1-4, 12-16; Acts 3:1-19; Matt 21:23-32

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, and worship the Lord who is faithful in every wilderness. When Israel thirsted and questioned God's presence. God provided living water from the rock. As the deer longs for flowing streams, so our souls long for the living God. We come seeking the One who alone can satisfy our deepest thirst. In seasons of abundance and in seasons of need, God remains our refuge and strength. Lord, all we need is You. When the wilderness feels empty, God remains near. The Lord is among us and will not forsake us. Come and worship the God whose grace refreshes the weary and whose presence sustains His people.

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, When the wilderness feels empty and the road is difficult, we often forget Your presence and doubt Your care. Like Israel in the wilderness, we question whether You are truly with us. We focus on what is lacking instead of remembering Your faithfulness. We allow fear, frustration, and uncertainty to overshadow trust in Your promises. Forgive us when doubt replaces faith. Forgive us when discouragement clouds our vision. Forgive us when we fail to recognize the ways You continue to provide for us. Renew our trust in Your presence. Refresh our spirits with Your living grace, and teach us to depend upon You in every season of life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, You brought water from the rock and sustained Your people in the wilderness. You continue to refresh us with Your mercy and grace. Receive these gifts, our tithes, and our offerings. Use them to bring hope to the weary, encouragement to the discouraged, and the love of Christ to those who thirst for meaning and peace. As You provided water in the desert, teach us to trust Your provision in seasons of thirst, remember Your faithfulness in seasons of lament, and become channels of Your grace for others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHERRYVALE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

September 11, 2026 - 5pm - 7pm

Fun for all the family: Cook-out & Refreshments, Bounce House,
Face Painting, Yard Games, Kids Activities & More.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Ladies Luncheon

September 20, 2026 - Immediately following service.

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the church office before the end of the month.

January - cereal and instant oatmeal cups

February - peanut butter and jelly jars

March - canned milk and dry milk powder

April - Mac n Cheese

May - canned meats and fish

June - canned fruit, fruit snacks and fruit cups

July - canned or boxed soup and soup cups

August - cereal bars / granola bars

September - peanut butter

October - canned pasta and pasta cups

November - anything thanksgiving

December - paper goods and personal hygiene items

In addition to the above list we are collecting Kleenex, Lysol wipes and
hand sanitizer for the teachers and kids at AR Ware Elementary.

Dealing With Distractions

Whenever the idea of distractions is brought up in connection with reading and studying Scripture, there is almost always a lively response from people. Most of us have a difficult time slowing down and spending time with the Bible. Distractions seem to pop out of nowhere, stemming from any number of things: external chaos, internal stress, tiredness, or simply an undisciplined mind. Whether these are a form of spiritual attack or just a battle with our own sinful nature, they stand between us and a meeting with God in his Word. However, there are a lot of things we can do to decrease their impact on our time in Scripture.

- Find a time to engage when your mind is clear and you're less prone to distraction. If you're not a morning person, it's probably going to be hard for you to pay attention right after you get up in the morning. Find a time that is right for you, and know that what is right might change over time during different seasons of life. Give the best time of your day to engaging Scripture.
- Designate a place that helps you focus. It's good to use the same place repeatedly because your brain will begin to automatically set itself to the proper mode when you go to that place. For some, this may mean a silent room, for others it may mean a public place, for still others a spot in nature. Once again, you have to figure out what works for you.
- Journaling before you enter the Word can also be a good idea. Take a minute to write out your troubles, disappointments, frustrations, joys—whatever is going to take your mind off what you're doing. You might do this in the form of a prayer and end by asking God to guide you through your study and help you stay focused on what Scripture has to say.
- You might find it helpful to sit in quiet before you start. Let your mind settle.
- If your thoughts wander to things you need to do, consider having paper with you so you can jot those things down before you start. You can continue to do this throughout your study if more come to mind. Just get them out of your head as quickly as possible so you can refocus.
- Sometimes we get distracted because what we are doing has become routine. Consider trying a new Scripture engagement practice when you have become too familiar with what you are used to doing.
- If you are feeling distracted when reading the Bible to yourself, try reading it out loud.
- Don't feel guilty about distraction. It's okay. It happens to all of us, and feeling guilty about being distracted only adds another distraction. When it happens, just pray and ask God to redirect your thoughts to the Word.
- After you're done with your study, think about what distractions you faced. If you can identify specifically what caused you trouble, you can combat them more effectively.
- Practice. Don't give up. Scripture engagement, like all spiritual disciplines, gets easier with time. Disciplining the mind is hard work, but the chance to interact with God through his Word is definitely worth the focused effort.

Creatures of the Bible Word Search.

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Creatures of the Bible Word Search - Find the **88** creatures mentioned in the bible. Just for fun or use as a teaching aide with younger family members.

Antelope

Ape

Ass

Badger

Bear

Beaver

Camel

Cattle

Chamois

Coney

Deer

Dog

Donkey

Elephant

Fox

Goat

Hare

Hippopotamus

Horse

Hyena

Ibex

Jackal

Lamb

Leopard

Lion

Mole

Mouse

Mule

Ox

Pig

Ram

Rat

Roe Deer

Sheep

Wild Ox

Wolf

Bittern

Chicken

Cormorant

Crane

Dove

Eagle

Falcon

Hawk

Heron

Hoopoe

Kite

Ostrich

Owl

Partridge

Peacock

Pelican

Pigeon

Quail

Raven

Rock Hyrax

Rooster

Sparrow

Stork

Swallow

Turtledove

Vulture

Chameleon

Cobra

Crocodile

Frog

Lizard

Serpent

Tortoise

Viper

Ant

Bee

Beetle

Caterpillar

Cricket

Flea

Fly

Gnat

Grasshopper

Locust

Moth

Spider

Worm

Fish

Leviathan

Whale

Sea Monster

Sea Serpent



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