

SEPTEMBER 2025 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 2025.

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 Friends in Christ,

September is often a month of new beginnings. The summer winds down, school resumes, routines settle back in, and we begin to feel the rhythm of a new season. In the life of the church, too, September often feels like a time to re-center ourselves, to recommit to our walk with Christ, and to look with expectation at what God is doing among us.

This past month we've reflected together on some challenging words of Scripture—God's Word as fire and hammer, Jesus' call that sometimes brings division before it brings peace. These passages remind us that God is not distant, nor content to leave us as we are. His Word is living and active. It burns away what is false, breaks what is hardened, and reshapes us in love and holiness. In other words, God is always calling us into transformation.

As we move into this new season, my prayer is that we would welcome the refining work of the Spirit. May we be a church that listens closely for God's voice, that remains open to change, and that allows His holy fire to kindle fresh passion in our hearts. Together, let's seek to grow in faith, deepen in love, and bear witness to Christ's kingdom in our community.

Grace and peace to you all,
Pastor Jonathan Greer

CHERRYVALE CHURCH
BLOCK PARTY
FRIDAY SEPT 12 ~ 5-7 P.M.
REFRESHMENTS, FACE PAINTING, BOUNCE HOUSE & MORE

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 7

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Jer 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; Philem 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33

Call To Worship

As God's people stood on the edge of the Promised Land, the Lord set before them a choice—life or death, blessing or curse. We choose life, loving the Lord and walking in His ways. In the Gospel, Jesus calls us to follow Him, counting the cost and carrying the cross. We choose to follow Christ, with all that we are and all that we have. Come, then, and worship the God who is our life and our salvation. With hearts committed and lives surrendered, we follow Christ as we worship the Lord our God.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always followed You with whole hearts. We have loved comfort more than obedience, sought our own glory more than Yours, and avoided the cost of discipleship when it called us to take up our cross. Forgive us, we pray. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to deny ourselves, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to follow Jesus faithfully, trusting in Your grace and mercy alone.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery, in which You have given Yourself to us. You call us to take up our cross and follow Christ, counting the cost of discipleship with courage and trust. Bless these tithes and offerings we bring, that they may bear fruit for Your kingdom, serving those in need and advancing Your work in the world. Grant that we may go forth in the strength of Your Spirit, willing to give ourselves for others, and walk faithfully in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## **September 14**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Jer 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps 14; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

### **Call To Worship**

Come, all who are lost and searching—For God seeks us out in love. Come, all who have wandered and strayed— For Christ carries us home with joy. Come, all who long to rejoice together— For in heaven and on earth there is joy when the lost are found! We have come to worship the God who seeks, saves, and celebrates when we return home!

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, like sheep we wander from your ways. We chase after what cannot satisfy. We forget your love and neglect your call. Like a lost coin, we sometimes feel hidden and worthless. Yet you search for us with relentless grace. Forgive us, restore us, and bring us back into your fold, that we may rejoice with you and with one another. Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Savior.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, you sought us out and brought us home with rejoicing. We thank you that you never give up on seeking us out to bring us home with you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Use them to seek the lost, lift up the broken, and share your joy with the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

## **September 21**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on:** Jer 8:8-9:1; Ps 79:1-9 or Ps 4; 1 Tim 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

### **Call To Worship**

Come and hear the words of Jesus: “No servant can serve two masters.” We come to serve the Lord with all our heart. What is valued by the world is not the measure of God’s kingdom. We come to treasure what lasts forever. God calls us to be faithful with what we have been given. Let us worship the great God of heaven, our greatest treasure, and the Lord of our heart.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you have entrusted us with so much—our time, our talents, our resources, and the message of your kingdom. Yet too often we squander your gifts, chasing after wealth, comfort, or recognition, and forgetting that true treasure is found only in you. We divide our hearts between you and lesser masters, neglecting the opportunities you give us to love, serve, and bear witness. Forgive us, Lord, and help us turn back to you. Teach us to be trustworthy stewards, faithful in little and faithful in much, so that our lives may honor you alone, and your love may shine through us to the world.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Generous God, We thank you for daily bread, for your constant care, and for the hope we have in Christ. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. You call us to be faithful stewards, using your gifts so that your love may be known. Receive these offerings—our tithes, our gifts, our lives—as signs of gratitude and trust. Make us faithful in little and in much, treasuring what is eternal, and fill our hearts with joy in Jesus, who is all the world to us.

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September 28

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Call To Worship

Come, all who seek mercy and truth. We come to hear God’s Word and learn justice and compassion. Come, all who have wealth or want, who are hungry for righteousness. We come to open our hearts and respond to God’s call. Let us worship the Lord, who shows no partiality, and calls us to love and serve our neighbors. We lift our voice in joy to praise the God who cares, the God of justice, and the King of Heaven.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that, like the rich man, we often live in comfort while ignoring the suffering around us. We close our eyes to the needs of the poor, the hungry, and the marginalized. We hoard your blessings instead of sharing them, and we fail to heed the warnings you place before us. Forgive us, Lord, for our selfishness and our silence. Teach us to see the disadvantaged in our midst, to open our hearts, hands, and lives in faithful service, and to treasure your mercy above all earthly gain.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and merciful God, we thank you for your abundant blessings, for daily bread, for your care, and for the hope we have in Christ. You call us to see the needs of the poor and the marginalized, to share generously, and to live faithfully in your kingdom. Receive these offerings—our tithes, our gifts, and our lives— as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to serve you. May they bring comfort to the needy, hope to the overlooked, and bear witness to your mercy and justice in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who shows us how to love and serve. Amen.



Encouragement for Fall



Fall. It begins with the announcement of pumpkin spice lattes and takes us through Thanksgiving. Autumn can be a time filled with a flurry of activities—the kickoff of the school year, football games, fall festivals, and plans leading into the holidays. Honestly, if we're not careful, we will miss the beauty of autumn.

Like many, you may need a reset or rest built into your fall so you don't miss the season and how the Lord is wanting to work through it. Here are some reset ideas to help you slow down, relax, and reclaim some rest during fall and leading into the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Welcome the Season

Fall is the season associated with harvesting. It is the time to gather the ripe crops from the fields. Like harvesting crops, we need to take time to enjoy the reaping of what we have sown. Take time to look back over your year. How have you grown? Worshipped? Laughed? Instead of seeking to accomplish something new, take time to celebrate what has already been accomplished. Thank God for the abundance in your life—family, friends, church, job, food—the ways God meets your needs daily. Embrace the present. Savor it. Prepare your heart for Thanksgiving with a posture of gratitude for the provisions God has already provided.

Let's welcome the season of fall with these words from Psalm 95:1-7.

Come, let's shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let's enter his presence with thanksgiving; let's shout triumphantly to him in song. For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in his hand, and the mountain peaks are his. The sea is his; he made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let's worship and bow down; let's kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care.

Watch for Winter

In the fall, animals prepare for winter by storing food and creating cozy hibernation spaces. Farmers collect reserve crops so they have enough to eat during winter. How will you cultivate a safe, cozy, warm, and comforting space this fall in preparation for winter? Enjoy the present season as you await the winter by making those seasonal fall recipes or craft projects. Take time to read a good book with a warm drink. Enjoy a slower pace in your comfy space by journaling or spending time in prayer. Fall illustrates the beauty of letting go as we think about the outdoors, falling leaves, and the temporary nature of everything around us. Take time to pause and reflect as the year comes to a close. It is not easy to slow down and sit, but remember that rest is good for your mind, body, and spirit.

Just as the Lord protects, provides, and cares for the animals and crops as fall turns to winter, He cares, protects, and delivers His people in some of the most desolate seasons of life. The Israelites had received help from God, and they knew they had experienced His undeserved favor and grace. Psalm 107:1-9 records how God's people were thankful for His deliverance and grace. Let's reset this fall and watch for winter by praising the Lord and thanking Him for salvation and grace through Jesus.



Reset Your Heart for Praise and Thanksgiving



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe and has gathered them from the lands—from the east and the west, from the north and the south. Some wandered in the desolate wilderness, finding no way to a city where they could live. They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits failed within them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; he rescued them from their distress. He led them by the right path to go to a city where they could live. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all humanity. For he has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things.

Worship God

Psalm 84 is a beautiful reminder of how God's people, the Israelites, longed for God's house. They longed for fellowship with God—to spend time with Him, to be in His presence, and to be in the presence of His people. The Israelites sang this pilgrimage psalm as a cry of desperation as they returned to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. (See Ps. 84:5-6.) Regardless of what season or what life brought their way, God's people depended upon Him and longed for His presence. They had a desire to worship Him. They remembered the truth about God and worshiped Him. Psalm 84:10-11 is a great reminder of the sacredness and rest that comes from spending time in God's house and with His people.

*Better a day in your courts than a thousand anywhere else. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than live in the tents of wicked people.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord grants favor and honor; he does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.*

Let's reset our lives this fall with spiritual growth as we spend time with other believers and worship Jesus. It is never too late to spiritually reset. Regardless of the season, God wants us to focus on His goodness and grace—He wants us to remember the joy of our salvation and His faithfulness. Let's not miss all that He has for us to enjoy this fall, but mostly, let's not miss Him. Take time to reset this fall by welcoming the season, watching for winter, and worshipping God with a heart full of thanksgiving for Jesus. Let's praise Him with the words of Psalm 100—and maybe a pumpkin spice latte!

Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his— his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.

Lion of Judah Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

R F U Y Z Y N C H K Q W V Q R K G S T B W E C W C T N U S B
F X S S P W T E V E R Y C H A I N E A T X S O J V K O Z I R
U I U S O X S H U V H C B Y H M J T C Y X F M A O Z I Q N O
V Z A D F C G M G L S N I A H C T A L Y X A E U C O L F S K
H F W T O N M H B I Z J D A K L N G I F W M S P M L A R O E
G O R M N H C M M B M U K N E Y S E N A N N T C E P S Y F N
B M I L Z F A A P N J L Y S M L B H X I M R O I Y O I P T H
W N S U R L Y E P F O L A S D J F T H S P A S E F L D B H E
G G K D E J Y Z O R Q F Z D D S C P D O V H A F Q X O M E A
M I Q H F A I N W A Q M C S R T O U S Y E T V H H Z G A W R
Y Q T K W R O A R I N G I M K O H N S R M I E K D A R L O T
W R I E C I R L A E Z M X O C Z L E E N K Y R E V E U A R S
E I K I L A H X A K J T J D Y G I P G R H B C P E A O S L W
K A W E R G F D P D O L J G F T U O W O Y Q R T S R P I D O
M X H X P H T H I Y C P J N Y Y H A T F D G T Q S B J D Y B
H T F P O T S N A C O H W I P P M G X J R I O U T F V O V L
L V C W R S S E H G N H I K H O T I I C Y M K B E I Z G R L
I I I Y F Y G I U W H K D P Q U W T H M G V W N V G I R I I
V V N N V J S N H O X U L X B N E E F E L B L T Y H L U H W
O N N G U P M I I L M N X C O N B L R X R A Q M L T Q O K E
A E S L R L S H X K D S D U O L C E H T L O V G L I C G O E
P X K A B B J M U H K M F K I Q B K I N G O F K I N G S Z N
Z M I L L K D V T Z G N F U Q G P R H M V C X E D G V U G K
Z S Y O I S E E R F S E V I T P A C E H T T E S B J U T Z Y
E P O L I O N A N D T H E L A M B P E A E S A P U W H D Z R
A D C O X Z Q X B P U W L O P U O D Q Z K S L A I N O V B E
M I H E R O F E B W O B L L I W E E N K Y R E V E F S B S V
X R Q Q G X J Y T E P A N O N T K E M C F O S O C Z S H R E
Y I T G P D Q W F X K A W Q Z I F Q F A H T F H V L F K P H
P Z Z A N M N R X N M V U V B J M E K G F X S X W M T C H U

Find the **36 bold** words or phrases in The Lion of Judah

He's coming on ***the clouds***
Kings and ***kingdoms*** will ***bow down***
Every chain will ***break***
As ***broken hearts*** declare ***His praise***
For ***who can stop*** the ***Lord Almighty***

Open up the gates
Make way before the ***King of Kings***
The God who ***comes to save***
Is here to ***set the captives free***
For who can stop the Lord ***Almighty***

Our God is a lion,
The Lion of Judah
He's ***roaring*** with ***power***
and ***fighting*** our ***battles***
Every knee will ***bow before him***
Our God is a lamb,
The lamb that was ***slain***
For the ***sins of the world,***
His blood breaks the ***chains***
Every knee will bow before the ***Lion and the Lamb***
Every knee will bow before him

Verona Food Pantry

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

Drop off at the 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.

The following list was shared by a food bank volunteer.

There are some excellent suggestions if you are ever unsure what to give, or if you see these items on sale. Fresh items should be taken directly to the food pantry.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.