

August 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 August 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 Cherryvale Family,

As summer begins to give way to a new school year, August always feels like a season of fresh beginnings. Students prepare for new classrooms, teachers ready their lesson plans, families settle back into routines, and as the Church, we are reminded that God is always at work forming us for the next step of our journey.

This month we will begin a new sermon series, Formed for Freedom, as we walk through the book of Exodus. The story of Israel's deliverance is about far more than escaping slavery. It is the story of a God who sees, hears, rescues, and then lovingly shapes His people into a community that reflects His heart. In many ways, it is our story as well. God has not only set us free through Jesus Christ, but He continues to form us into faithful disciples who live for His glory. I hope you'll join us each Sunday as we discover together what it means to live the freedom Christ has given us.

One of the highlights of the month will be Backpack Blessing Sunday on August 9. During worship we will pray over our students, teachers, administrators, school staff, and everyone involved in education as they begin another school year. Whether you're starting kindergarten, entering college, teaching a classroom, driving a bus, or serving in our schools in any capacity, we want you to know that your church family is praying for you and sending you out with God's blessing.

We're also excited to welcome Brent Vernon as our special guest on Backpack Blessing Sunday. Brent's ministry of music, storytelling, humor, and encouragement has blessed churches across the country, and we look forward to sharing this special morning together. It will be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and families to join us for worship as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of us to pray about how God is calling us to grow this fall. Perhaps it is becoming more faithful in worship, spending more time in prayer and Scripture, serving in a ministry, or inviting someone to church. Whatever the next step may be, remember that God never calls us to walk alone. He walks with us, equips us by His Spirit, and surrounds us with the family of faith.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to love one another, serve our community, and share the hope of Christ. It is a joy and privilege to serve alongside you.

May God bless you and your family as we begin this new season together.

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan Greer

August Worship

August 2

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15; Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21

Call to Worship

Come, all who wrestle and all who seek the face of God. Come, you who carry burdens, questions, wounds, and weary hearts. Like Jacob at the river, we come longing for blessing. We come seeking the God who meets us in the struggle. The Lord does not abandon us in the night but draws near in grace and mercy. God transforms us through His presence and holds us fast. Come, let us worship the One who wounds only to heal, and who blesses us with a new name and a new future. Let us worship the Lord!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we often resist the struggles through which You seek to shape us. We cling to control rather than surrendering to Your grace. We seek blessing without transformation, comfort without trust, and strength without dependence upon You. Too often we rely upon ourselves instead of resting in Your promises. Forgive us when fear, pride, and self-reliance keep us from fully trusting You. Meet us in our weakness, O Lord, and reshape us by Your mercy, that we may walk faithfully with You.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, You are the giver of every blessing and the One who never lets us go. Receive these gifts and receive our lives. Use them for the healing of the world, the strengthening of Your Church, and the sharing of Your grace. Shape us into people who trust You not only in times of comfort, but also in times of struggle and surrender, as we lean on your everlasting arms. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

August 9 -

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 37:1-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

Call to Worship

We gather today to praise the One true God of Heaven and Earth The God who created all things, the God who redeemed all things, and the God who sustains all things. We come to the Lord with grateful hearts for all that God has done for us. We come knowing that God welcomes us, loves us, and cares for our every need. As a new school year has begun, today we ask for God's blessing and safety over our children, their schools, their teachers, and all the staff. We come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son, knowing God will hear our prayers, as we give him the glory, for all the great things he has done!.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of abundance and eternal blessings, we give you thanks for the gift of life that you offer the world through your Son. For all the things you have done we return to you not only with our financial gifts, but also with the gifts of our lives in service to you. Take all of who we are and what we have and multiply it to be used to bring your glory to all the world, so that all the world may hear and know of your great love for us through the saving work of Jesus your Son. To you alone be glory, honor, and power. Amen.

Back Pack Blessing Sunday - Remember to pray for the children, teachers and staff.

Gracious God, we bring before You the schools where children and educators will spend their days. May these places be filled with peace, joy, and understanding. Bless the relationships between students and teachers, and may they work together with respect and kindness. Protect everyone within the school community, and help them to grow not only in knowledge but also in character and faith. Thank You for Your unending love and guidance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

August Worship

August 16

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133; Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:10-28

Call to Worship

Come, all who hunger for mercy and long for reconciliation. Come, all who carry sorrow, regret, and wounded memories. We come seeking the God who brings healing and hope. In the story of Joseph, God reveals that even what was meant for harm can be transformed by grace. God is faithful even through suffering and loss. Come worship the Lord who redeems, restores, and reconciles His people. We come to worship God because God is faithful!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always trust Your goodness when life becomes painful or uncertain. Like Joseph's brothers, we allow fear, jealousy, resentment, and selfishness to shape our actions. We hold tightly to old wounds and struggle to forgive as we have been forgiven. Too often we doubt that You can bring redemption out of brokenness. Forgive us, O God. Heal what is wounded within us. Teach us to trust Your providence, to walk in mercy, and to live as people shaped by reconciliation and grace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Receive these offerings and receive our lives. Use them for the healing of the broken, the feeding of the hungry, the strengthening of Your Church, and the sharing of Your mercy in the world. Teach us to trust that even in difficult seasons, Your purposes are good and Your grace is at work. Grant us blessed assurance through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

August 23

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124; Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship the God who hears the cries of the oppressed. We come to worship the God who remembers His covenant. When fear and violence threatened God's people, the Lord preserved life through the waters. God remains faithful even in seasons of uncertainty and danger. The God who guided Moses still watches over His people today. We come to worship the Lord because we trust in the God who delivers, preserves, and leads us into life. For the Lord is our firm foundation and refuge through every storm..

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and faithful God, You are the One who preserves life and keeps covenant from generation to generation, yet too often we live as though fear has the final word. Like Pharaoh, we try to control what we cannot control. We become anxious about the future, fearful of scarcity, and tempted to trust in power instead of Your providence. Forgive us when fear hardens our hearts. Forgive us when we ignore the suffering of others. Forgive us when we fail to trust that You are still working quietly and faithfully even in difficult seasons. Form us into a people who trust Your care, walk in Your ways, and participate in Your work of preserving life and hope.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, You are the giver and sustainer of life. Just as You preserved Moses through the waters and guided Your people according to Your promise, receive these gifts and use them for Your work of mercy, hope, and restoration in the world. Form us into a people who trust Your provision and participate in Your saving work, that we may walk together as Your people, marching in the light of Your presence and truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

August Worship

August 30

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ex 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship the God who calls His people by name. We come to worship the great I AM, who is faithful through every generation. From the burning bush, God revealed His holy presence to Moses. The Lord still comes near to His people with mercy, power, and grace. God has heard the cries of the suffering and has come down to deliver them. We come to trust the God who sees, hears, and saves. Holy is the Lord who meets us in this place. Let us worship God with reverence, hope, and thanksgiving!

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, You are the great I AM, yet too often we live as though we must carry life in our own strength. Like Moses, we become fearful of our weakness and uncertain of Your calling. We turn away from holy moments because we are distracted, anxious, or afraid. Forgive us when we ignore the cries of the suffering. Forgive us when we resist Your leading because we feel inadequate or unprepared. Forgive us when we forget that You are the God who comes near to deliver, restore, and save. Draw us again into Your presence and teach us to trust not in ourselves, but in Your holy name and faithful power. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, You are the great I AM, the One who comes near to deliver and sustain Your people. Receive these gifts and use them for Your work of mercy, justice, and redemption in the world. As You called Moses from the burning bush, call us again into faithful service, that we may answer with willing hearts, saying, "Here I am, Lord," and walk in Your presence bearing Your light into places of fear and suffering. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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***TIDAL WAVE CAR WASH TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW.***

***\$10 TICKETS GETS \$30 CARWASH. VALID THRU 6/30/2027!***

***GOOD AT ANY TIDAL WAVE LOCATION.***

***CONTACT LAURA IN THE CHURCH OFFICE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.***

***ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE MISSIONS OF CHERRYVALE***

## **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.*

## **More Back-to-School Prayers for Children, Teachers, and Staff**

### ***A Prayer for Children in School***

God, thank You that in Christ, every child is never alone. Thank You for watching over them, caring for them, and giving Your angels charge over them. May they submit each step they take and every decision they make to You, and may You empower them with the fruit of Your Holy Spirit in every activity and interaction.

In the name of Jesus, we stand against attacks of anxiety, disordered thinking, overthinking, self-loathing, and discouragement directed toward children. Please preserve their childlike faith, innocence, safety, and perseverance. God, You are good, and You have created every child for good works. Please give them enjoyment and satisfaction in their daily tasks. When they encounter obstacles, may they not give up, but instead cling to You and trust You to see them through.

Empower every child with truth, help them to learn, inspire them to be creative, and fill them with Your joy. May Your light shine through them as a ray of hope to those around them. In Jesus' name, amen.

### ***A Prayer for New Friendships***

God, may every child have a deep and fulfilling relationship with You, and may their relationship with You overflow into their relationships with others. Help them to be good friends and to make good friends. Please give children discernment and wisdom as they interact with other children and choose their closest friends.

Protect children from ungodly influences and insincere friendships. Help them to heal and turn to You if they experience negative peer pressure or rejection. Please help children develop deep friendships that bring loving encouragement and conviction to follow You daily. In Jesus' name, amen.

### ***A Prayer for Student Safety***

God, You know the intimate details of the lives of every student in every school. May they come to know You intimately as well. We pray for safety for every child at school and that they will experience Your kindness, goodness, and love through other children and staff members who follow You.

May communities of kindness, positive influence, and encouragement flourish, so that every child learns that they belong, they have hope, and they are precious to You. For students who are struggling in school or in their home environments, please lift up their weary heads, give them successes to find joy in, and provide safe, trusted friends and staff members to lean on and confide in. In Jesus' name, amen.

### ***A Prayer for Teachers and School Staff***

God, we thank You for the adults who have dedicated their careers to serving the children of our communities. Please refresh and refill each person on staff at every school with creativity, encouragement, support, and wisdom. Supply teachers and staff with the physical, emotional, and spiritual resources they need to provide safe, nurturing environments and effective, engaging lessons that spark joy and curiosity in students. May staff members speak kindness and hope over their students and one another.

Please protect school communities from dissension, discord, and drama. Instead, help establish schools as places of unity, collaboration, and support.

God, please help teachers and staff find rest, stamina, and strength as they begin each new day with their students. Guide them toward discipline strategies, interventions, and management plans that offer love and support to each child. Give each staff member supernatural strength and the ability to connect meaningfully with every student and see each child as You do. In Jesus' name, amen.

# Materials of the Bible Word Search.

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

**Materials of the Bible Word Search** - Find the **98** precious gemstones, metals, ores and materials mentioned in the bible.

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

*Gold*

*Silver*

*Bronze*

*Brass*

*Copper*

*Iron*

*Tin*

*Lead*

*Electrum*

*Steel*

*Mercury*

*Agate*

*Amethyst*

*Adamant*

*Beryl*

*Carbuncle*

*Chalcedony*

*Chrysoprase*

*Chrysolite*

*Diamond*

*Emerald*

*Jacinth*

*Jasper*

*Lapis lazuli*

*Ligure*

*Onyx*

*Ruby*

*Sapphire*

*Sardius*

*Sardonyx*

*Topaz*

*Turquoise*

*Alabaster*

*Flint*

*Limestone*

*Marble*

*Pebble*

*Rock*

*Stone*

*Crystal*

*Quartz*

*Salt*

*Sulfur*

*Gypsum*

*Clay*

*Chalk*

*Dust*

*Gravel*

*Sand*

*Pearl*

*Coral*

*Amber*

*Ivory*

*Mother of*

*pearl*

*Shells*

*Acacia*

*Cedar*

*Cypress*

*Almug*

*Algum*

*Olive wood*

*Oak*

*Sycamore*

*Pine*

*Fir*

*Juniper*

*Plane tree*

*Palm*

*Willow*

*Poplar*

*Terebinth*

*Linen*

*Wool*

*Cotton*

*Silk*

*Flax*

*Goat hair*

*Camel hair*

*Leather*

*Papyrus*

*Reeds*

*Rushes*

*Thorns*

*Thistles*

*Brick*

*Mortar*

*Plaster*

*Pitch*

*Bitumen*

*Cement*

*Charcoal*

*Ashes*

*Wax*

*Oil*

*Glass*

*Pottery*

*Earthenware*

# 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.

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.