



## September, 2018

**DRAW NEAR  
TO GOD,  
AND HE WILL  
DRAW NEAR  
TO YOU.**

**J A M E S 4 : 8**

*Gleanings* I have a guitar sitting on a stand in my living room and most nights that is all that can be said for it. It looks nice, but it does little to add any joy to either Lyndie's or my life. I guess just having it sit there is pleasing to the eye, but that is not the gift of its construction. It is made to be played. It is meant to produce sound. When played with skilled hands, it can be very pleasing to the ear and that makes for a peaceful heart.

The fact that I do not play my guitar regularly means that it cannot fulfill the purpose for its creation. No one else who can play a guitar has access to it, so it gathers a bit of dust and waits for me to pick it up, adjust the tuning, and play one of the songs that I have learned over the years. When I do, I am pleased at being able to use the gift of music-making God gave me. Playing and singing makes me smile and my heartrate and blood pressure improve. There are many gifts connected with that guitar, but they remain unrealized when I do not play it.

Seeing the guitar sitting there on its stand reminds me that there are many gifts that largely go under-used. Being a bit of an introvert, I am naturally hesitant to reach out to people. I have learned to override my hesitancy, but when I am alone I can easily justify my silence.

Does the fact that I feel introverted mean that I should not reach out to others? I don't believe that is true. I believe that we are meant to be connected beings. We each have gifts that can benefit the lives of others. When we use our gifts to help others, we use our community/relationships for the purpose for which they were created. Living in community, caring for one another, and sharing our gifts enables us to make beautiful music together. That, in turn, lowers our anxiety, our blood pressure, and our heartrate. It is truly a win/win for all.

I expect that you are like me in some ways. I expect that you also have gifts lying around that don't get used enough. What would it take to get you to take the step of picking one up, adjusting the tuning, and making beautiful music? No, I am not talking about you taking up playing a guitar, just using a gift or talent that gathers more dust than it gets used. Our communities and relationships thrive when we practice using our gifts. When they thrive, we reap the benefits. Burdens are shared, sorrows are consoled, joys are celebrated, and our lives are freed from feelings of separation.

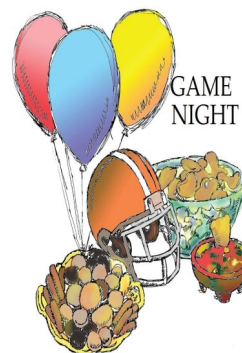
At the same time, we bless and benefit those in our communities with whom we do not have strong relationships. When they see how we benefit from using our gifts to bless all, they are drawn to explore just what it is that drives our caring. At that point, they can experience the love of God for themselves, and that is why we are here—to share God's love in all that we say and do.

Grace and peace, Pastor Braxton ><>



*All ladies are invite to supper at the Olive Garden in Hixson on Tuesday, September 4. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 p.m. Please let Dawn Booker or Brenda Mattox know by Sunday, September 2, if you plan on attending.*

*The Ladies of Grace always plan a Pigeon Forge retreat in November. This year it will be Friday, November 2 - Sunday, November 4. We drive up on Friday and eat at the Old Mill (and have plenty of leftovers for the weekend). On Saturday, we enjoy a big breakfast at the cabin and then typically split up, depending on what everyone wants to do. You can shop, hike, explore, try a restaurant, ride a mountain coaster, relax at the cabin ... you get the picture. There is a ton of fun things to do. On Saturday night, we hang out at the cabin, share stories, and sometimes do crafts or watch a movie. It's a great time to relax and learn more about the wonderful ladies of our church. On Sunday, we eat breakfast and head home ... or stop and shop along the way. We have a great time and would love for more ladies to join us if you are able! The cost depends on the number of people that go. It has typically been around \$60 each to cover the cost of the cabin. If you would like to go, please tell Sharon Loftis or Brenda Mattox by Sunday, September 9. Once we have a firm headcount, we can find a cabin and get a firm price.*



At the September Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, September 19, 6:30 p.m., we will be celebrating the beginning of fall and football game season with a Game Night. Bring your favorite game day food (wings, chips & dip, sausage balls, pigs in a blanket, etc.) and wear your favorite team's colors.



**GRACE MARKET**  
**Saturday, September 8**  
**8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Do you have something to sell? Bring your artisan crafts, attic/basement treasures, homemade goodies, produce, etc. and set up in our parking lot. The cost is \$10.00 (1st time is free) and you can register for a spot on the church website ([www.graceumcsd.com](http://www.graceumcsd.com)) or see one of the Outreach team (Lyndie, Jill, Sharon, Judy or Bill). This is going to a monthly event thru October. Please let everyone you know to either come sell or shop.



On Sunday, September 16, we will have a very special worship service filled with music and singing. Come enjoy some special talented musicians and singing a lot of your favorite hymns and praise songs.



All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to meet at the church on Wednesday nights at 5:30 for a time of games, fellowship and fun. For any questions see Lindsey Burgess.

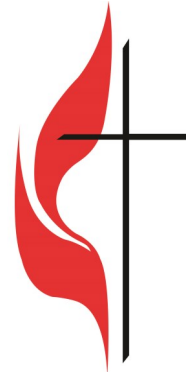


The Wednesday Night Bible Study is beginning a new study by delving into one of the books of the Bible. This is a great time to join in. See you at 6:45.

**Bible Study**



Scenic South District Conference is Sunday, September 9, 3:30 p.m. at St. John United Methodist Church.



The Council of Bishops called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. There will be an open Discussion on Sunday, October 21, at Christ UMC from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. regarding General Conference 2019. It will be led by Holston Conference Delegates. All are welcome to attend



# \* OUR \* AMAZING Volunteers



Sept. 2 - Jill Burgess  
 Sept. 9 - Harold  
 Sept. 16 - Music Sunday  
 Sept. 23 -  
 Sept. 30 - Sharon Loftis



Sept. 2 - Lyndie Cotton  
 Sept. 9 - Judy Kroulek  
 Sept. 16 - Music Sunday  
 Sept. 23 - Lindsey Burgess  
 Sept. 30 - Sharon Loftis



Sam DeVries  
 Vikki Shumake  
 Virgil Powell  
 Janet Rhodes  
 Bill Chastain

David Tabor  
 Judy Langston  
 Rachael Knight  
 The Haynes Family



Thurs., Sept. 20, 7:00 p.m. - Outreach Committee



## Communion Servers

Sept. 2 - Jill Burgess &  
 Sharon Loftis

*(We serve gluten free bread and  
 sugar free juice)*



Sept. 3-8 - Brenda Mattox  
 Dawn Booker  
 Brenda Stocker

Sept. 17-22 - Rhianna Westbrook  
 Judy Kroulek  
 Cindy Garrett



If you would like to volunteer to help in any of these very special areas, there is a sign up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary.

# September, 2018

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	3 LABOR DAY	4	5 5:30 p.m. - Youth Fellowship 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	6	7	8 8:00 a.m. - Grace Market
9 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 3:30 p.m. - District Conf. 5:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	10	11	12 5:30 p.m. - Youth Fellowship 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. - Music Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	17	18	19 5:30 p.m. - Youth Fellowship 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Meal	20 7:00 p.m. - Outreach Committee	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	24	25	26 5:30 p.m. - Youth Fellowship 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	27	28	29
31 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir Practice						