

THE CONNECTION

CHEROKEE SPRINGS UMC

2870 CHESNEE HIGHWAY · SPARTANBURG SC. 29303

October 2023

Dear Cherokee Springs Family,

Christians have been divided on the observance and celebration of Halloween for centuries. While the holiday's roots started with the Celts well over 2,000 years ago as a pagan harvest festival known as Samhain (SAH-win), the name "Halloween" is actually derived from the Christian holiday. Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as All Saint's Day. But it's hard for humans to up give their traditions, so traditions associated with Samhain: bonfires and dressing in costumes remained. The evening before All Saints Day became known as All Hallows Eve, and later became "Halloween."

Today, you would be hard-pressed to find a church advertising a "Halloween Carnival." Fall Festivals, Harvest Festivals, TRUNK-or-Treat, at most a "hell house" here and there in rural areas, but no mention of Halloween. Some of the shift may have taken place during the Salem Witch Trials in the late 17th century. Another big shift may have occurred in the 1980's during the "Satanic Panic." Anything believed to be associated with the occult, paganism, demons or monsters was to be rooted out. Many factors have led to churches distancing themselves from the holiday.

But is it really un-Christian to celebrate Halloween?

I'm reminded of a recent lectionary passage from Romans 14: "Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God."

In this passage, Paul was likely talking about the numerous religious festivals in Rome, both Jewish and pagan. His response to controversy over these special days appears to be, "observe whatever days you want, as long as you observe it for Jesus." If you want to celebrate Halloween, celebrate Halloween. Just remember Jesus is Lord of the goblins and ghouls, and the 15-foot Skeleton in your neighbor's yard too. As long as we can separate what's real from what is not, everything is going to be ok.



With Love,
Pastor Mason
mhcantey@umcsc.org
843-598-4928



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bible Study: Tuesday 6:30pm

Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth: Sundays 5-7pm

- October 1-4th - Revival at New Beginnings UMC
- October 7th - Family Bonfire – 6:30pm
- October 15th - Blessing of the Animal – 3:00pm
- October 18th - CHS FCA Breakfast and Devotion
- October 21st - Craft and Vendor Fair
10am – 4pm

Virtual services offered through our
Facebook page.



*Calendar changes will be announced during
Sunday services and on the
CSUMC Facebook page.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 6 - Mena Codespoti
- 8 - Walt Brown
- 10 - MerriElizabeth Cable
- 15 - Bradley Newton
- 20 - Lydia Newton
- 23 - Karen Brown
- 26 - Rod Harley
- 30 - Drennan Cable

Happy Anniversary

- 6 - Randy and Pam Brown
- 7 - Greg and April Newton
- 30 - Walt and Karen Brown

Sunday Servers

Ushers: Gene Perrigo and Randy Brown
Alt: Bradley Newton
Counters: Gail Durant Berri Meyers
Acolyte: MerriElizabeth Cable

READERS

October 1	Berri Meyers
October 8	Mary Ann Hipp
October 15	Dean Hartsoe
October 22	Gail Durant
October 29	Mena Codespoti

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

October 1

Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32

October 8 - "Name: _____"

Rev. Maggie Cantey
 Luke 7:36-50

October 15

Philippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14

October 22 "F is for Fiery Furnace"

Daniel 3:9-12, 19-30

October 29 - "W is for Writing on the Wall"

Daniel 5:1-9, 17-30

Bring a
 Chair



Oct 15th
 3pm



October 1- Revival at New Beginnings (Rev. Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge preaching)
 October 8- Youth at Cherokee Springs UMC
 October 15- Palmetto Journey of Hope- (Youth, families, and congregations welcome) at St. James UMC
 October 22- Youth at Cherokee Springs UMC
 October 29- No Youth/ Soup Kitchen in the morning with St. James @9:30am

*Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list.
 If you have a new prayer request or update, please text them to 864-921-0662.*

*Deadline to submit next month's newsletter info is: October 16
 Updates . . . Corrections . . . Changes . . . to the newsletter? Email info@cherokeespringsumc.org*