



Weekend News and Notes for September 4, 2026



"The Women's Ministries will be having a Gathering at the church Tomorrow (Saturday September 5th) from 10am-12 noon. We will be making a simple fall craft, along with having a time for food and fellowship. Contact Michele Buening for details or questions."



Aging with a Plan Resource Fair

- Buckeye Library
- October 1st
- 5:00-7:00 PM

We invite you to join us on October 1st for the Aging with a Plan Resource Fair. A variety of agencies will be represented, giving you an excellent opportunity to meet with them personally, gather good information, pick up helpful resources, or ask questions.

Some of the agencies and resources that will be available during the Resource Fair:

- Advance directives and Power of Attorney forms
- Medication safety and health resources
- Aging in place / Downsizing/ Senior Living Options
- Financial Security and Estate Planning
- Funeral planning
- Social connection opportunities/resources

We hope you'll join us for this special evening and take advantage of the many resources available to help you and your family plan for the years ahead.

For additional information, contact Diane Phelps 440-476-1562

Every group needs a leader and a mentor to keep them on task and encourage them when they are discouraged. Our seven Teddy Bears voted to elect Cuddles as their main counselor. She will remain at LifeSpring to teach all the bears and the new ones coming in to behave appropriately in church as well as the basic principles of how to comfort children in crisis.



Cuddles has a cute smile, her personality lights up a room, and she will hum nursey rhymes to bears who become discouraged and frightened that they miss the mark.

According to Dr. David Jeremiah, there are 31,000 verses in our Bibles. When we are facing "giants" in our lives, what if we took five comforting verses and put them in our mental pouch, like David took five smooth stones in his slingshot pouch when he faced the Giant named Goliath? I'm sure the Israelites though he was crazy, but David knew God was rock solid and would lead him to victory. Cuddles will use Bible stories like this to understand that Giants or problems can be conquered.

Sunday's Sermon:
God is Not Done
Guest Speak:
Terry Brant
(Barb's Brother)



From Pastor John's Desk

This past week, I began working on memorizing Hebrews 13:20-21. There is a phrase in these verses that really caught my attention: "May the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him."

That phrase really spoke to me. It reminded me that God is continually working in my life to shape me and make me more like Jesus.

There are no coincidences in the life of a believer. Everything we do as a church should ultimately have the goal of helping us grow to become more like Jesus. Whether we are worshiping together, sipping coffee and talking, studying God's Word, serving one another, or even cleaning the bathrooms, God can use all of it to shape us into the likeness of Christ.

But the reality is that very little of our lives is actually spent inside the church building. So if God is only shaping us through what happens at church, He is missing a whole lot of opportunities! The truth is, God is at work in every part of our lives. What happens at work, what happens with our health, what happens in our families, and even the frustrating moments we encounter throughout the day can all become opportunities for God to shape us more into the likeness of Jesus.

I know in my own life how easy it is to fret, become frustrated, or immediately process difficult circumstances negatively. But this passage is a wake-up call for me: **God is not absent from any part of my life.**

Because I am His child, I need to remember that He is present and working in all things, shaping, molding, and transforming me to become more like Jesus. It may sound a little trite, but think about something as simple as hitting your finger with a hammer. It hurts! But even in that moment, God is there, using the situation to shape me. Or when I get a flat tire while I am already running late and my carefully planned schedule suddenly falls apart. God is there in that moment too, giving me an opportunity to become more patient and trusting.

Or think about what happens when something goes wrong in my marriage and I respond poorly. Even there, God can use that moment to reveal something in me that needs to change. He can teach me to love my wife as Christ loves the church—not simply to love her in words, but to treat her with patience, kindness, grace, and respect.

When we face difficulties, it is easy to blame the devil, society, other people, or the evil around us. And certainly, Scripture teaches us that we have a real spiritual enemy and that we live in a fallen world. But what if we also need to look at our difficulties from another perspective?

What if God is using the very thing that is frustrating you to shape you into the person He wants you to become?

My friend, may I challenge you to think about that today?

What is happening in your life right now that you are finding difficult? What situation is frustrating you? What circumstance are you struggling to understand? Is there something happening that may require you to look at it from a different perspective? What if, instead of simply asking, "**Why is this happening to me?**" we began asking, "**God, what are You trying to do in me through this?**"

That question can change everything.

God is not wasting the circumstances of your life. He is using them to form you, strengthen you, teach you, and transform you into the likeness of His Son. "Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." — Hebrews 13:20-21

Communications

We always want to improve our communication and get information out as best as we can, but we also have limited resources to do so. Can you ask around and if you know someone who is not able or not receiving the News and Notes, can you let Pastor John know so we can figure out a better way to communicate to them.

Plan Your Visit to Church Today!

Pastor is Available

I am working to be out with people on a more regular basis. What that means is that I am in the office less and less. I would love to sit and have a cup of coffee and just catch up with you. If you would enjoy that, give me a call or drop me a note and let me know so we can set something up. My phone is (330)242-7691 and my email is pjbaker@lifesc.cc.net. I am here for you and anything I can do to help you along this journey of life walking more closely with Christ is an honor for me to do.

Financial Update

Next Sunday, September 13th, Pastor John is asking that the members of our church gather following the morning worship service so he can update you on where we are with our finances. Thank you so much for making this a big matter of prayer. As we know, God has not left His church and He is going to be faithful to us as we strive to do the best with what He has given us. Your investment in His kingdom has been incredible and even though we can not see the future we are trusting in what God is going to do at LifeSpring! It is His church and He is moving as He wills and we can trust Him with what is out of our control.

How can we Pray for you?

It is an honor and a privilege to carry each other's burdens in prayer. We are commanded in scriptures to care for each other in this manner. If you have a prayer concern, click the QR code during the service and let us know. You are always welcome to jump onto our P.E.P page on Facebook and share your concern. Just click anywhere in this paragraph and you will be "zapped" to the P.E.P page.

Upcoming Events

- September 6 - 10:00 - Worship Service
No Pastoral Care this Monday
- September 8 - Men's Bible study on Galatians, 6:00 PM at the church
- September - Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM at the church

We look forward to seeing you in worship this Sunday at 10:00 AM at LifeSpring!

LifeSpring Calendar

Would you like to help support the ministry at LifeSpring?
We have made it easier than ever...



Online Giving is Simple at LifeSpring!

Simply Click to be taken to our online giving portal

From here you can log in or just give a gift. To give a one time gift, simply follow the prompts, enter your card information, click if you would like to cover a small processing fee and you are done. If you want to set up automatic giving or have your gift tracked for your church giving records just add a few simple steps:

- Sign-in (if your name and email match our records) you will be sent a temporary password to set up your account if you haven't already.
- Once your account is up and running just enter your name, and password and you will be able to fully enter the online giving and member portal.
- From here you can set up a recurring gift of your choosing and time.
- You can also set up Giving by text (they will text you a giving phone number where you just text back "Giving" and your amount and your gift will be automatically sent.

If you want further help or explanation here is a great video that will walk you through the entire process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRZV8oSR84>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LifeSpring!!

Other Ways to Give

You can always bring cash or a check to church where we will receive our offerings on Sunday morning and you can also give by using Venmo.. Just look up LifeSpring Community Church - Valley City and make sure it has a picture of our church on it.