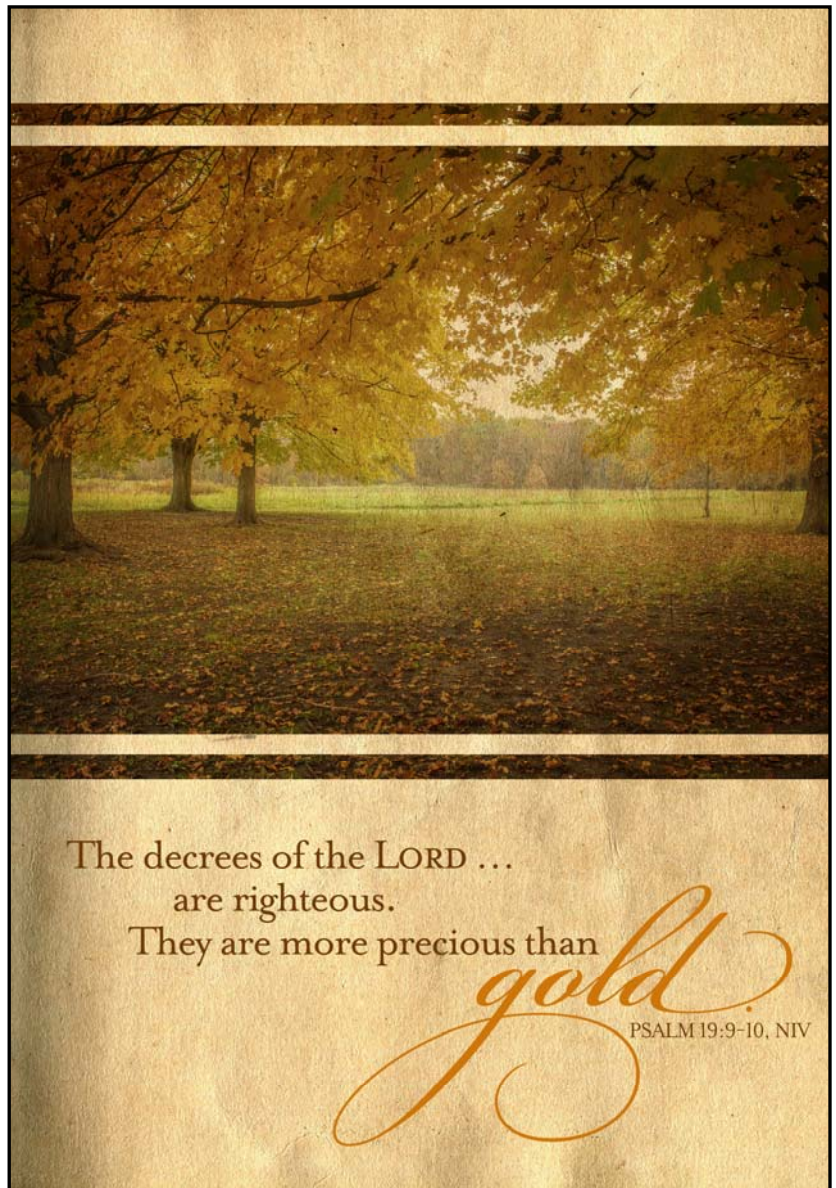




# FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God,  
**CONNECT** with His people,  
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***

# **Worship the Lord with Us!**

## **Sunday Worship**

**Live-Streamed Service at 10:00 AM**

***Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.***

***Please visit [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org) for our online worship experience.***

**FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:**

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**Office closed due to COVID-19  
pandemic.**

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS***

***is online at***

***[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org)  
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***Send an e-mail to  
[ewindows@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:ewindows@fumccollingswood.org)  
to subscribe.***

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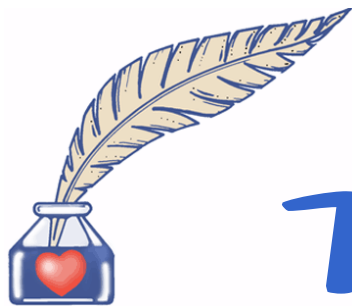
The submission deadline for the *November* issue of Windows is October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



First Church Windows is only available online and in full-color due to the COVID pandemic.





# From The Pastor's Heart



This month we will continue our focus on “Simple Prayers, Faithful God” on Sunday mornings. One of the prayers David prayed we shared recently is a great reminder of the guidance that only God can bring. When we read this prayer within the context of the challenges we are facing these days what a promise of hope.

*Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.  
Psalm 25:4-5*

On a recent Sunday, Lisa shared the children’s message on lighthouses from this scripture. I have been asked by several people if I would share it with you. May it be a blessing to you this month as we look to the Lord for guidance in these challenging days.

Some of you may have seen the lighthouse collection Sam has in his office. I think our attraction to lighthouses began when we moved to Cape May and began spending a lot of time at the Cape May Lighthouse and taking pictures of the lighthouse. One of our favorite places to be still and do some soul searching is at the cove at the end of Beach Drive. Sitting there and looking out across the water to the lighthouse we have seen some spectacular sunsets with the last rays of the sun dancing on the water and taking in God’s awesome creation.

When we spent a few days in Maine a couple weeks ago, we stayed in Ogunquit, Maine. Ogunquit means “beautiful place by the sea” and it certainly lived up to its name. The beautiful rocky coastline absolutely took our breath away. The manager of the hotel we stayed at gave us a narrative of all the special sights to see in the area. Maine has 65 lighthouses and we were excited to discover there was one only a couple miles from where we were; it is called the Nubble Lighthouse and we were glad we were able to visit and take some pictures.

Lighthouses have been around for thousands of years. They were the first tool used in the important role of keeping sailors safe from dangerous seas and guiding ships into harbor especially at night or in stormy weather. Nowadays GPS and other navigation aids warn mariners of dangerous areas and guide them to safe harbors. Ships rely less on lighthouses, but many lighthouses are still around to remind us of the past and to allow us to enjoy their beauty.

I discovered some interesting facts about lighthouses:

- ♦ The United States has the largest number of lighthouses with over 700. The US state with the most lighthouses is not along the oceanic coast but in the mid-western state of Michigan because Michigan is surrounded by 4 of the 5 Great Lakes of North America.

- ♦ The Statue of Liberty was initially a lighthouse. Between 1886 and 1902 the primary purpose of the statue was to be a guide for ships arriving in the busy New York City Harbor. However, it was not very useful and eventually stopped being used as a lighthouse but continues to be a beacon to immigrants and travelers.

What is it about lighthouses that makes them so appealing? They are majestic beacons whose purpose is simple... to warn mariners of dangerous shallow water and perilous rocky coasts and to help guide vessels safely in and out of harbors. The messages they share are simple... STAY AWAY, DANGER, BE AWARE or COME THIS WAY!

From a book by Max Lucado called "In the Eye of the Storm" there is an illustration about obeying the laws of the lighthouse: *Two battleships assigned to the training squadron had been at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather for several days. I was serving on the lead battleship and was on watch on the bridge as night fell. The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities. Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing reported, "Light, bearing on the starboard bow." "Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain called out. The lookout replied, "Steady, Captain," which meant we were on a dangerous collision course with that ship. The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship. We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees." Back came the signal, "Advisable for YOU to change course twenty degrees." The captain said, "Send: I'm a captain, change course twenty degrees." "I'm a seaman, second class," came the reply. You had better change course twenty degrees." By that time, the captain was furious. He spat out, "Send: I'm a battleship. Change course twenty degrees." Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse." We changed course.*

The moral of that story is as much we like to think we know the course our lives should take, God, who is our lighthouse, sees the whole picture. God knows the dangers that may be up ahead and how we can best avoid them or provides a way for us to get through them safely.

Lighthouses have, for thousands of years, been guides for ships' captains as they have steered their vessels into safe waters. Now I think I know why I love lighthouses so much . . . they remind me of the way God guides our lives. God is constant, trust-worthy, steers us away from danger, leads us through tumultuous storms and directs our path into safe harbors.

*Psalm 48:14 – For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

I hope that the next time you have a chance to visit a lighthouse or even see a picture of one, you will be reminded of the faithfulness of God in guiding us through all the seasons of our lives. In the song "My Lighthouse," the chorus says: *My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness, I will follow you. My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise. You will carry me safe to shore.*

May we experience His guidance as we trust in Him!

In His Love and Grace,  
Pastor Sam





## Exciting Worship Updates!

- Our worship services will now be live-streamed from the sanctuary each week, beginning this Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 10:00 am. This is an opportunity to enhance our service quality for all who tune in, to the glory of God! While our services will no longer be on Zoom, there will be a post-service Zoom fellowship for those who would still like to chat and see each other. The links for both the live stream and Zoom fellowship can be found on the website: [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org).



- Phase 1 of our Building Re-Opening plans are now underway... the Church Council approved a plan this week. After a long time of being away, we are anticipating coming back into the building. All plans are subject to change. However, our current goal is to open the building for a 10:00 am service beginning on November 1, 2020. This service will continue to be Live Streamed, and the recordings will still be available for viewing online. We will be following all state and local guidelines, which will be communicated via mail, email, and our website in the near future.
- As part of our Phase 1 re-opening plan, Life Groups and Youth Group will also be able to come back in the building! Due to CDC guidelines and cleaning/maintenance regulations, ALL groups wishing to use the church building put in a request to Pat Gunning... no exceptions. They will be given building use & safety protocols that will need to be followed every time the group meets. At the present time, no groups outside of our church family will be considered. If you are interested in reserving a space, please contact Pat at (856) 962-8010.

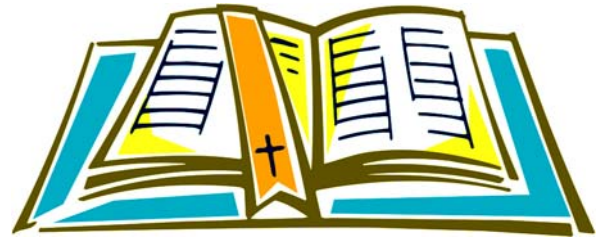


## Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat 2020

Because of Covid- 19 and the many restrictions the Collingswood Police and Borough and the Chaplains and the churches are working together to provide something different this year. We are waiting for more information on what we can do, but here are some things that we know!

- It will be held at The Scottish Rite parking lot on Saturday (October 31<sup>st</sup>) at 3:00 pm.
- Pre-packaged treats will be distributed by the Collingswood Police Department & church groups.
- No one will be getting out of their car; it's a drive-thru event.
- Oversized inflatables will be the backdrop to the drive thru event.

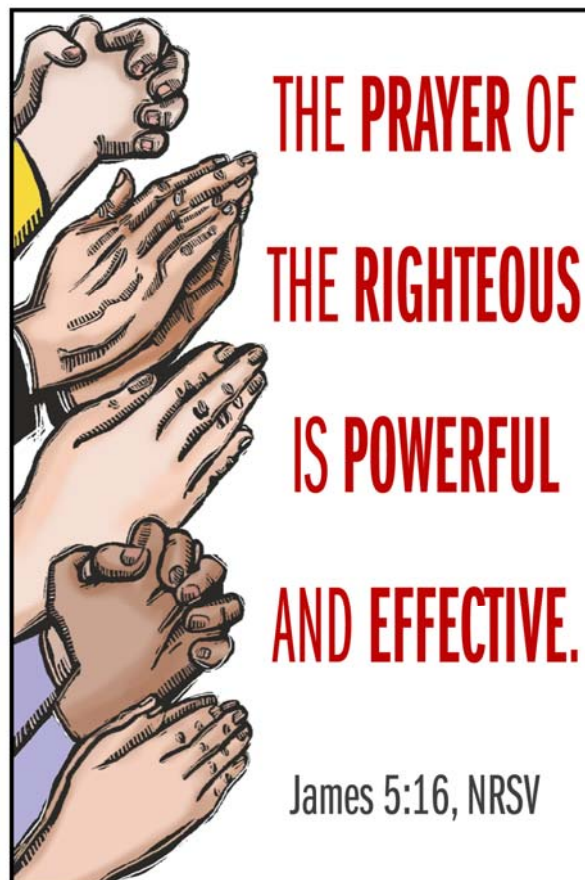
# UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



## SIMPLE PRAYERS... FAITHFUL GOD!

Throughout time people have journeyed with God in all types of life seasons. As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a season for everything and a time and purpose under heaven for everything. God has everything including the pandemic, all the world's challenges, pain and problems under his control. As we look to God, we can also discover new opportunities for fresh grace and fresh faith in the spaces and places of our lives that have maybe never existed before. No matter what we face, the Lord can guide us through. There are several things that will help us grow in this process. We need to be rooted in God's word, guided by His presence and encouraging one another consistently. This can happen in many ways. As we love one another and pray for one another something dynamic happens. We have been experiencing some of this kind of blessing this summer from the porch. Join us in this journey as we pray and God leads us with new opportunities to see Him at work!

October 4	<i>God's Love is Greater</i>	Romans 8:35-39	Communion	Sam
October 11	<i>A Prayer in Desperation</i>	2 Chronicles 20		Shawn
October 18	<i>It's Easy to Miss</i>	Psalms 16:1-11		Sam
October 25	<i>Simple Prayer, Faithful God</i>			Leon





## Bible Class Announcements

Hi Friends...

Here is the news that you all have been waiting for! Tuesday morning Bible study will begin on **Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the sanctuary. We will be able to only use the Sanctuary doors located at Park and Dayton or the Handicap ramp for those who will need it.

There is only one restroom available which is in the back of the church. You will need to wear a mask and be socially distant. Husbands and wives may sit together. No food or beverages will be served until further notice so eat a big breakfast and bring your own water bottle.

**Please notice the time change, since we can't eat, or sing. We will meet at 10:00 to 11:00 and remember virtual hugs only, with no touching.**

Please remember to bring a 3 by 5 index card with your name, address and contact number to the Bible study.

**Joy Evans Update:** She has been through her surgery and is now doing all her follow up treatments. She has sent a message saying she is so very thankful and grateful and has been tremendously blessed by all the cards, good wishes, and prayers.



For those of you with reservations to see "Queen Esther" our new date is April 14<sup>th</sup>, with COVID modifications. Buses will be sanitized; you must wear a mask and social distancing has already been set up in the theater. We will leave the church at 8:00 am, see the show, have lunch and a tiny bit of shopping. We should arrive home at around 7:00 pm.

**Looking forward to seeing all of you!**

Your Bible study friends



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is in full operation! If you would like one or more shoe boxes, please contact Pat Gunning at (856) 962-8010. Empty boxes can be picked up and filled boxes can be dropped off at the church by the parlor! For more information, please visit our website at [fumccollingswood.org](http://fumccollingswood.org).





# MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Don and Esther Parsons

Esther and I are thrilled to announce to you that **God has opened a new door for ministry with [Mission Eurasia](#)**. I have been invited to join the staff of this mostly Slavic-led organization to serve in a new role as Ministry Director for Unreached People Groups (UPGs). The primary task that they are asking us to help fulfill involves mobilizing, inspiring, and equipping the church in Eurasia (also known as the former Soviet Union) to engage UPGs in their communities and in the region. **There are hundreds of Muslim, Buddhist, animistic and other people groups with very little or no gospel witness, and our desire is to mobilize the national church to change that reality.** We will be working within an extensive Mission Eurasia training and ministry network, as well as building bridges for more partnerships for UPG engagement. Once COVID restrictions end (a daily prayer from all of us!), I will be traveling to the region to learn more and to mobilize, train and mentor trainers, and facilitate ministry. They have also asked me to mentor pastors and church leaders throughout the region toward a greater understanding and participation with UPGs, which I love to do! For now, I will be working with teams and leaders remotely.

As you may remember, some of our most distinct ministry highlights over the last number of years have been focused on the Russian-speaking world. And as we sought out new ministry, the Lord showed us that the Eurasian region had to be a part of what would come next. **Here are few reminders of those ministries from just the last 16 months:**

- Sharing the heart of God for the nations with pastors and leaders in Far East Russia in January.
- Building bridges between ethnic Russians and Central Asians while in Central Asia in December.
- Serving the church in Central Russia last summer for outreach to Muslim people groups and to open doors to send workers around the world.
- Participating with the missions movement from Ukraine when we were there in March 2019.
- Of course, we spent some 12 years living in Ukraine and Central Asia, and God gave us a love for these people.

We have been talking with Mission Eurasia for two months, but I have been aware of their effective ministry for decades. Formerly known as Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries, **Mission Eurasia's mission statement is: "To train, equip, and mobilize Christian leadership throughout Eurasia, who will engage in indigenous evangelism, church-planting, holistic ministries, and church growth by developing creative and strategic ministries and by facilitating partnerships between nationals and Western Christians."** The tasks that Mission Eurasia is asking me to carry out are tailor-made to our skills, gifts, and experiences and clearly fit the mission of their ministry. Last week, when Mission Eurasia's Ukrainian President Sergey Rakhuba officially invited us to join them, he exuberantly spoke about the opportunities in front of us as we work together for the sake of Christ and His church, and began right then to brainstorm how it might look.

We are glad to join this team! We are excited to see where the Lord will take us now. All for His glory! Thank you for prayerfully standing with us as we walked through valleys to find the place where the Lord has led.



## Curt and Carol Detwiler

“Good News for All” and “Jesus is the Answer” are two programs produced by TWR Burundi. These two programs air weekly in the Kirundi language on Burundi National Radio, which has a potential reach of more than 10 million listeners. We recently received these testimonies that demonstrate the impact these programs are having on the lives of listeners across Burundi:

“Praise the Lord. I like Jesus is the Answer. It has helped me greatly, because as I listened to the testimonies of different people in this program, I decided to receive Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and He became the answer to my problems.”

“I greet you in the name of Jesus. I am a young man who likes to listen to Jesus is the Answer. I am happy to tell you that the testimony you have just shared has helped me very much. I would also like to receive Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Please lead me and pray for me because I am really tired of living in sin.”

“Thank you for the good testimonies I heard in the program Jesus is the Answer. Indeed, only Jesus can quench any kind of thirst and hunger in my life. This program has really been helpful to me.”

“I was really touched by the message you gave in the program Good News for All. You continue teaching us that God is faithful to his promises. May God bless you so much.”

“I thank God for this program of Jesus is the Answer. All the testimonies I hear in this program show that there is special peace and joy when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.”

“I am a farmer who spends a lot of time in my rice fields. I always listen to the radio as I work. Thank you very much for the program Good News for All. This program has touched my heart in such a way that I decided to receive the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. Please pray for me to keep firm in my faith.”

“Thank you very much, pastor. Today while listening to your program, I responded to your invitation to kneel while you prayed for us. Now I am a new person saved by faith in Jesus Christ. May God bless you.”

Praise the Lord for the ways in which he is changing lives across Burundi through these two programs! Thank you for standing with us, and this ministry through your prayers.



FOR GOD HAS  
**DESTINED US**  
NOT FOR WRATH  
BUT FOR  
**OBTAINING SALVATION**  
THROUGH OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST ...

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9



Oct. 1	Taylor Cobert	Oct. 16	David Hammond
Oct. 2	Betty Strike	Oct. 17	Steve Latch
Oct. 4	Kim Harris	Oct. 19	Tom Averell Linda Rameriz
Oct. 5	Jenn Knudson	Oct. 21	Michael D. Schmitt
Oct. 7	Joan Steward	Oct. 22	Janel Esher Nicole Zook
Oct. 8	Elizabeth Boswell	Oct. 23	Ethan DeRue
Oct. 10	Dylan DeRue Tyler Wertz	Oct. 26	Betty-Ruth Schopfer
Oct. 11	Jerry Adams	Oct. 27	Jan Michael Hoover
Oct. 13	Bill Bickel William Hoover	Oct. 31	Veronica Hamilton
Oct. 15	Jack MacNamara Nicole Meyers Jill Tribulas		

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: [maria@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:maria@fumccollingswood.org).



October 2	Gus and Mary Mondatsos
October 3	Steve and Linda Schoch
October 5	Will and Christine Walker
October 18	Ron and Kathy Warwick
October 19	Vince and Maria Gianfrancesco
October 21	Mark and Rose Hamilton
October 29	Jonathan and Jennifer Schwehm

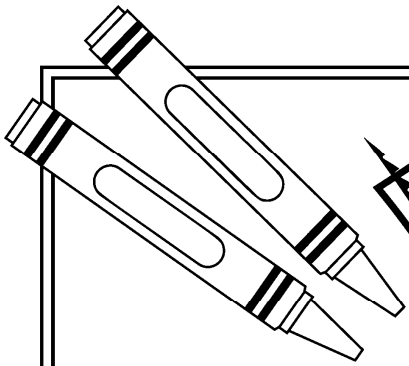
?? ? ?
**Bible Quiz**
? ?

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks

Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)





# PUZZLE

## A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

*Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.*

**WORD BANK:** sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
3. To plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sharp part of a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is harvested. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
6. To dry up and shrivel . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
7. Person who plants . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
8. The earth a plant grows in. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

"But the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> falling on good \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub> refers to  
someone who hears the word and understands it.

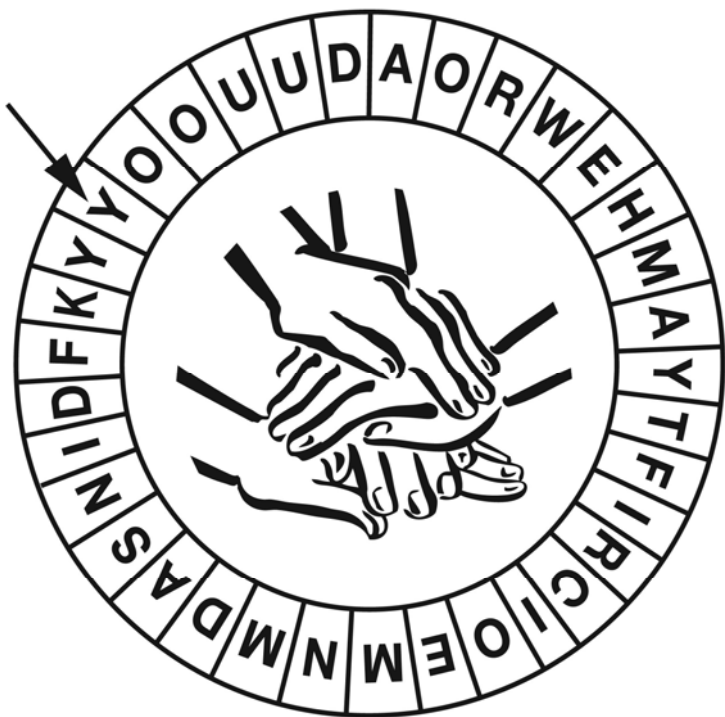
This is the one who produces a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub>, yielding a  
hundred, sixty or thirty times what was \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n."

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil,  
crop, sow

# Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“Y

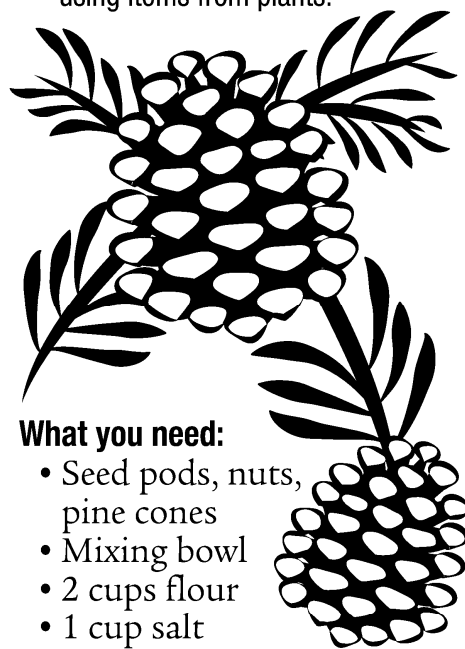
JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

# SEED

*impressions*

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



### What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

### What you do:

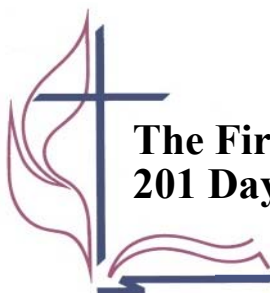
1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



## A LESSON IN APPRECIATION

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.



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