

Grace News

Living in Grace –

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,*

(Ecclesiastes 3: 1,2)

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
What on earth Happen to SUMMER?!!!!

I don't know about you all, but for me, it just seems like July was just yesterday... with the 4th of July celebrations, with Rev. Warren Brubaker preaching here, with the Women Guild's Picnic at the Hiner's, and everything else.

Then came August... hot and dry (but then again so was the end of July). If July wasn't hot and dry enough for us, then came more of it in August. Even if you could find a cool place in an air conditioned room or in the evening or just in the shade of a tree, you really didn't want to do much because of the heat and humidity. And again we broke some more temperature records for the heat (we seem to be doing more of that lately). Because of the heat, Debbie and I didn't go to the fair this year... it was just plain too hot.

So, I don't know about you, BUT I am ready for a new season to begin! And already we have had a few cooler days here in the valley... and the change is also happening here at Grace UCC, too! This fall is shaping up to be a busy one for us at Grace UCC, Mt Jackson Churches, and the Shenandoah Association of the UCC. In September, we have the Women's Guild Lawn Party, always a great favorite for our community. Also, we have an Ecclesiastical Council for the Association, which will review the Candidacy of three new ministers to the Association! (this is the most we have had in a number of years!) And October proposes to be busy as well, with the Homecoming festivities and Apple Butter. (I know that the Choir is working on some wonderful pieces for Homecoming and the Fall as well, which you don't want to miss – so come to church!) Also, in October, we will have our Fall Meeting for the Shenandoah Association at Bethlehem UCC in Tenth Legion. This Meeting will be done a bit different from before and hopefully will be more enriching for all who attend. Then in November, the Women's Guild will have a "Spa Day" for the Ladies (sorry guys!). Also, we will have the Annual Community Thanksgiving Service at the Old Union Church in Mt. Jackson. Rev. Matthew Diehl, who is the new Pastor at Mt. Calvary ELCA, will be giving the sermon. And these are just the events that we have schedule so far.

As the passage from Ecclesiastics reminds us, the cycles – the seasons – of our lives and of the church life continually change, but always under heaven.... And in each event and season we are continually refocusing our lives on Jesus. We're always looking forward to something different – something new – allowing God to speak to us and move

us in new ways. So, let's welcome this new season – with enthusiasm and great faith – For God is truly Still Speaking!!Peace, Rev. Bob