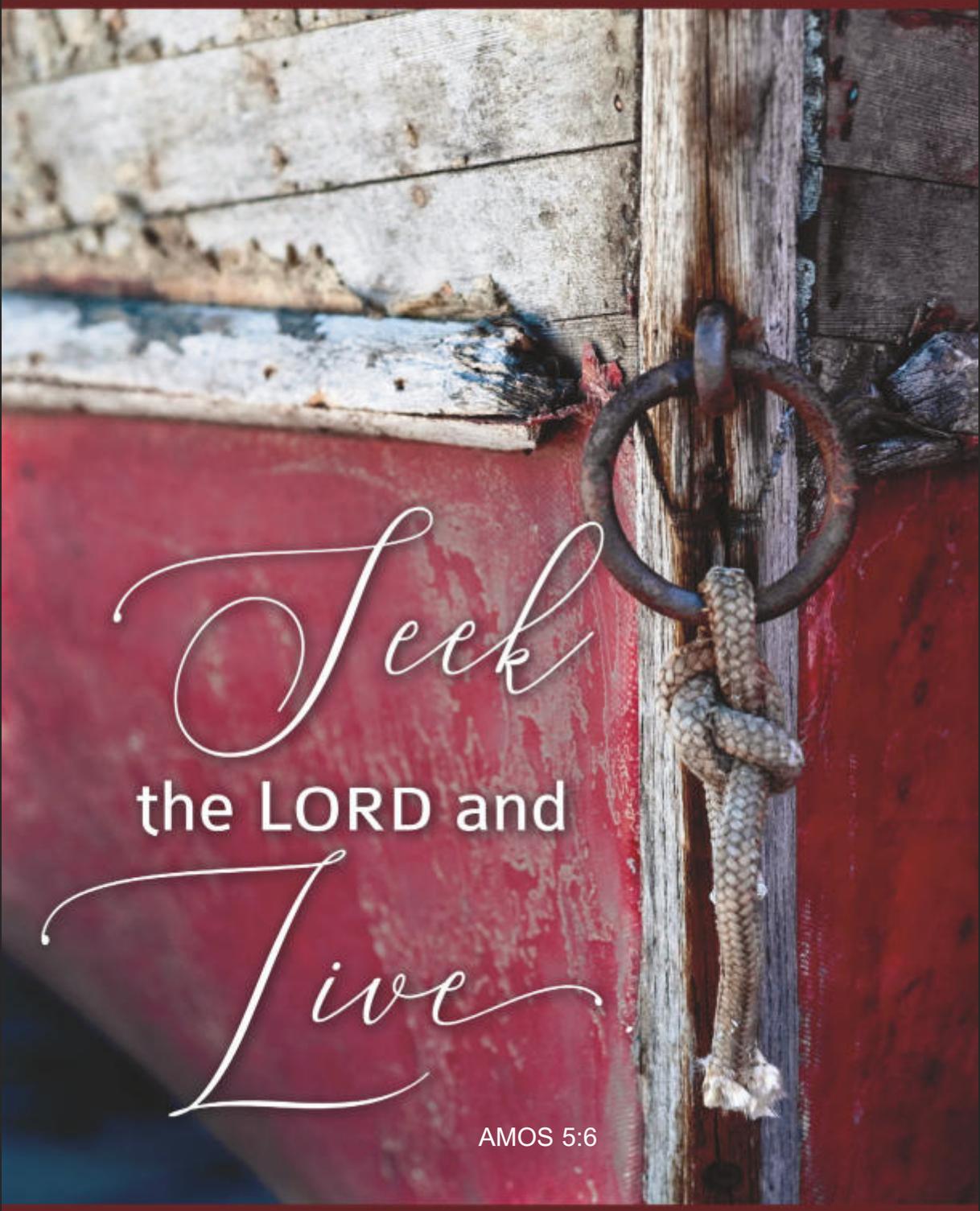


The Messenger



A Newsletter of Portage United Methodist Church
OCTOBER 2021 Rev. KwangYu Lee, Pastor

Sunday, October 10 Clergy Appreciation Sunday

Although October is Clergy Appreciation Month, the National day to honor your pastor is October 10. Please share an email, a handwritten note of encouragement, or a card of thanks with Pastor KwangYu to show your appreciation for all he does! And always include him in your prayers.

email: pastor.portageumc@gmail.com

Cards/notes can be dropped off in the office, the secure drop box outside the doors, or mailed to church (1804 New Pinery Rd, Portage WI 53901) or brought to church on Oct 10th and placed in a special basket in the sanctuary.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NO BAKE-BAKE SALE

The Miracle of Mission Giving: It transports our caring to places we will never go in person

It connects us to all of God's creation. It travels as close as the mission project down the street and as far away as the work of a regional missionary on another continent. It combines everyone's small gifts into one mighty whole. It's the way we live out our Purpose.



Mission giving is undesignated, unrestricted giving for the total program of United Methodist Women, and it's been a hallmark of our organization for decades. Mission Giving is our history, starting with "two cents a week and a prayer" that our foremothers gave. Today we raise millions of dollars for our work with women, children and youth through the five channels of Mission Giving - millions made up of the small, faithful gifts of hundreds of thousands of women.

Whether we give deliberately, spontaneously or both, we model the grace of our loving, giving God. Making and keeping a Pledge to Mission encourages spiritual discipline.

Mission Giving grows our creative, supportive fellowship. members of United Methodist Women work together to raise funds for mission needs, often through bake sales or bazaars or other special events. We give Special Mission Recognition pins of Gift to Mission cards to honor special people or recognize special occasions. We celebrate the lives of loved ones with Gifts in Memory (Response)

Raising funds together fosters teamwork. At this time we do not know if we will be having another fundraiser this year. The NO BAKE-BAKE SALE begins now. We have enclosed addressed envelopes with inserts for your donations to this project. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE for all your support and your generous donations in this endeavor. Participation in this local Mission Giving knits our entire organization together as we share in the responsibility and the joy of giving. That's the miracle of Mission Giving!



“Pastor, these are what I often used for my kids when they were young,” one of our church members said to me on Sep. 5, 2021, presenting two books – *Great Wisconsin Walks* and *50 Hikes in Wisconsin*. I didn’t know that his kind and generous act for me and my family was just a tip of PUMC’s kindness-iceberg for a city-born family.

“Did your kids go to school?” another church member came to me and asked. “Yes, last week they finally began to go to school,” I answered. “Oh, that is great! Then, they can find new friends. Wait a minute! Did they also begin to play soccer?” “Yes, they began it two weeks ago.” “Oh, that is great! I mean, if possible, I would like to help your kids get to know my grandkids. They regularly visit us. I am sorry that they miss where they came from.”

That night, another church member shot me an email, saying, “Pastor, I was talking to a friend and former President of the Portage Curling Club. I told him you and your family may have interest in trying out curling.”

Next day another church member asked me, “Do your kids like doing something like Boy Scouts things?” “I think so because they are active boys,” I answered. “There is a program a little bit like Boy Scouts, but more family-oriented. My wife and I did that for my kids. We all loved it. I think you can try it for your kids,” he kindly explained.

A couple of days later another church member reached out to me, saying, "Pastor, this Friday I am planning to go to Devil's Lake with a couple of our church members. If you and your family like to join us, you are welcomed." My wife and our two boys joined them. And a week later we revisited the lake for hiking.

Each suggestion for me and my family and invitation of us from PUMC members came from a personal recognition that my two boys – my wife and I as well – were having difficulty in adapting to a new place. Surrounded by a package of kindness, I felt grateful

because it reveals that our first impression and experience of Portage were accepted and affirmed as it is by PUMC members. Any change in life requires a process of grieving. What matters is we don't know when the process comes to an end. How long it takes depends on many factors.

When I talked to my Judo sensei, whom I admired a lot, and spoke of my decision to leave NJ for Wisconsin, he said after a shock-filled pause, "When someone stays too long in one place, s/he withers. To grow, we need to sometimes move out of where we used to be. I think this is a right time for you."

I am glad that I am in a church where I can share what is 'really' going on inside me with its members. And I want to believe that this is the Jesus Way.

Best,

Pastor KwangYu

Portage United Methodist Church
Tel. (608) 742-2107 (Office)
pastor.portageumc@gmail.com



**Articles for the
November newsletter
are due October 14**

You Can Donate
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THANK YOU CARRIE SCHERBERT!

Many thanks to Carrie who has been changing our roadside sign for several years. Carrie, you have done a wonderful job as the years rolled by, and we will miss you! She is retiring at the end of October from that volunteer position

We will need someone to step up and take that over. Carrie will show you the ropes, give you some hints, etc. It doesn't involve a lot of time, but it probably averages a once a week change. Some weeks, no change at all, and sometimes twice in one week!

Please, give the office a call to volunteer. We will definitely need someone by, or before, the first of November.

Thank you for your consideration of this need.

**17th Annual "Coats of Many Colors"
COAT DRIVE**

October 1-17th

(See full article on page 8)



**CUB
SCOUTS**



I am sure you have seen the Scouts out and about throughout town for our annual popcorn sale. Please stop by and talk to one of our Scouts about Scouting and consider buying some popcorn to help support this great program.

Look for us at any of the following locations:
Walmart, Tractor Supply, Do-It Center, BP Stations, Pardeeville Piggly Wiggly and the Gohl Post. The sale ends Oct. 22th.

**Thank you for your continued
support of our Scouts!**

Upcoming Cub Scout Events:

- Oct. 9th & 10th – Family Campout
- Oct. 24th Hike Club Outing
- Nov. 6th – Rake a Difference
- Dec. 4th – Space Derby
- Dec. 10-11th -Cobia Overnight
- Jan. 15th – Pinewood Derby

For questions, contact Judy Jesberger at (608) 347-9844, or jjesberger@portagescouts.org.

Boxed Sets of Offering Envelopes Are Here!

For those of you who receive a boxed set of envelopes each year, your sets are on a table in the narthex and can be picked up anytime the church is open.

Please pick up any for friends, family or neighbors and save them a trip!

If you'd like a boxed set, please call the office at 608-742-2107. Or feel free to use the envelopes in the back of the pews on Sundays!

Children's Ministries News



After a short delay in September, we will be back to our Simply Loved Sunday School Curriculum (in person) beginning October 10th! Sunday School will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (and the occasional 5th!) Sunday of the month at the same time as the second service (9:30am).

On the first Sunday of each month there will be a "Family Service" during the 9:30 service time, so your younger children can join you at worship and share in communion.

Bible Bash will take place October 3rd during the 9:30am service. Any 3rd grade student and/or any older student who didn't receive a Bible over the last couple of years will receive a Bible.

After the presentation the students will be invited to a short celebration in Fellowship Hall to play games and learn about their new Bibles.



Youth Ministries News

Dear PUMC family,

As I reflect back on the last 10 years, I have so much to be thankful for. It has been an absolute privilege to be a part of the spiritual growth of so many of our young people at PUMC from 2011-2021. I treasure the memories I have of Wednesday night youth group, 9 youth mission trips, and fundraisers - like our annual chili cook-off. I am so grateful to each of the kids for trusting me to share their lives with, and for their parents and other adults who have been so helpful, and also supported our mission trips.

I have recently been granted an extension to finish my National Boards for teaching, a certification I began in 2017. Covid made it nearly impossible to complete the program in the last 15 months. The process is very time-consuming and time-bound. I have to finish this year or start over. Therefore, I am stepping down as youth director.

It has been a very difficult decision for me to make. I do care about our youth and our families. I will still be available for assistance as requested. I wish God's blessings for each of you. Thank you again for 10 wonderful years! :)

In Christ,
Niki Briggs



A Liturgy of Walking Together *By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung*

Perhaps the most invisible part of Christian liturgy is walking. When we share liturgy in worship, most of the time we are standing or sitting, but there is walking, too. Arriving and preparing the heart for worship is done walking. Waiting for someone to read means we wait on another who is walking. Let's recognize how able-bodied our perspective can be, too—and ask those who traverse their days in wheelchairs or with canes to also serve in worship, and to make worship accessible as a way of walking together. Walking together means enduring together. Christianity is not a solitary enterprise. Now in a time of pandemic, journeying together as Christ's disciples means we have plenty to endure. For a season, it seems, we are called to serve not in an unbroken sea of stability, but in the white-capped waters of instability. We are offering spiritual leadership in a time of pandemic, polarization, human migration, ecological instability, as well as in defining times for The United Methodist Church. Walking together may seem invisible, but it is a spiritual practice for we who share the practice of worshipping in community.

The way Mark tells it, the relentless widow walked her offering to the temple treasury. Jesus called his disciples to pay attention to her, not because the two small copper coins were enormous in value, but because her example, her endurance, was greater because she offered it despite her economic, social, and personal place of challenge. Luke's telling is longer and ends with Jesus saying, 'by your endurance you will gain your souls' (Luke 21:19). Jesus calls us to endure in ways that define our witness.

Regardless of our stances and locations, our opinions, and our histories, we are a community shaped by the cross that reveals a suffering God who can redeem and restore. We watch and pray for what God will do. I trust the Holy Spirit will turn our divisiveness into fruit.

The relentless widow's witness and the power of walking together as a worshipping community reminds me of my season as a district superintendent in Wisconsin while Sharon Rader was bishop. Rev.

Karen Ebert was one of my pastors and serving First UMC, Green Bay. Each week she offered the Pastoral Prayer in worship and those prayers were compiled in a book called, *What I Tell My Heart*. One of the prayers was for Advent and entitled, 'How Long, God?' It reads in part:

"But unlike the months that we can count off on our fingers,
waiting for the wind to break,
we have no way of marking how long
until some other forces in our life will let go—if they ever will...

These forces, and more, swirl and taunt, and push.
We have braced ourselves against them.
We have tried to shake them off.
But our shouts are thrown back in our faces,
and our hands are useless in pushing back.
Some forces even seem stronger than can be borne.

How long, God?
We turn to you, the Maker of All Winds that Blow,
the One Whose Strength is Greater than All,
and we ask,
How long do we have to wait?

This is what we tell our hearts and so renew our hope.
A God who can tilt the earth
to catch the warming rays of the sun
and turn the winter into spring
Can surely shift the balance
to keep us from blowing away.

Spring will come. We can hear its drip.
The pressures will cease.
I don't know how, I don't know when
Gracious God.
But we trust you.
And even in our bleakness. We have hope."

We endure as a praying community, finding words to bear witness to hope. We walk together without blowing away, like the relentless widow, as faithful spiritual leaders. These winds are momentary. Your walk may be humble, but it is not invisible. May we hold hands with a deep sense of trust and respect. Thank you for your faithfulness. Know that I am praying for you.

In Christ's Peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

OCTOBER 2021- WORSHIP WANDERINGS



FALL SERVICES and SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fall services will continue at 8am and 9:30am on Sunday mornings. Weather permitting, there will be tea/coffee fellowship time following each of the services. Sunday School will run during the 9:30am service beginning Oct 10th. At this time, there will be no nursery services, but caregivers are welcome to use the nursery.

The first Sunday of the month will be a Family Worship Service at the 9:30am service. There will be no Sunday School on these Sundays, but will allow families to worship and share in communion together.

Our first Family Service will be Sunday Oct 3rd at 9:30am. The 3rd graders and others will be receiving their bibles this Sunday as well. Family Service Dates to follow are Nov 7 and Dec 5.

I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to help with ushering, being a liturgist, and/or sharing in special music. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated by all.

We are still looking for more people to volunteer for ushers and liturgists.

Please call/text or email Katie Zirbes at kzirbes3@gmail.com or 608-417-0247.



World Communion Sunday – October 3, 2021

United Methodist churches observe World Communion Sunday the first Sunday in October. The observance focuses the attention of United Methodists on the universal and inclusive nature of the church.

Come to the Lord's Table – You are welcome here!

**Thought for the day:
The smallest deed is greater than the biggest intention.**

October Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship is in the sanctuary at 8 am & 9:30 am. We are working to provide a consistant Live Streaming of the 8 am service, and then having it available on YouTube at Portage UMC for later viewing. Thank you for your patience.

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Sundays

- 8:00 & 9:30 am Service in the sanctuary
- 8:00 am Live Stream of service
- Recording on YouTube
- 9:30 am Sunday School (10th, 17th, 24th, 31st)
- 9:30 am: Radio Service (AM 1350, WPDR)

October 27, Wednesday

2-5 pm: Pop-up Pantry Drive-thru

Portage

Pop-up

Drive-thru

Pantry

Fresh Produce & Perishables

2:00 - 5:00

Every 4th Wednesday

held at

1804 New Pinery Rd., Portage

Portage United Methodist Church



“Coats of Many Colors” Coat Drive

The Salvation Army annual coat drive will begin Oct 1 and PUMC will be a collection point. They need gently used and clean winter coats, - sizes infant

to adult. They must have workable snaps, zippers and buttons. They are also asking for snow boots of all sizes.

There is always a special need for kids' sizes.

*Coat Collection points at area churches, the library, and Portage Police Dept: Oct 1-17

*Coat Distribution at the Fairgrounds, Building 8, Superior Street Entrance:

**Friday, October 22, 2-6 pm and
Saturday, October 23, 9am - 1pm**

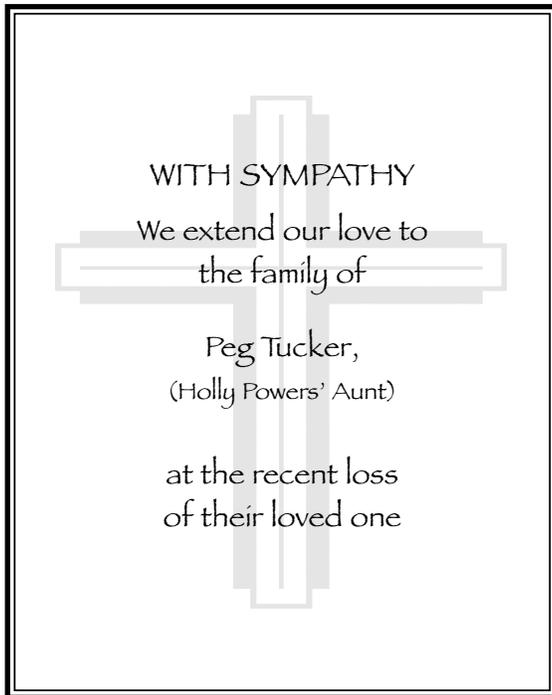
Social Distancing and Masks Required



OCTOBER Birthdays

1 Tucker Monroe	10 Austin La Sure	23 Valinda Butson
Vicki Wanat	Heather Voigt	24 Heidi Olson
2 Pat Condo	Evan Walz	Curtis Ray
Tyler Francis	14 Donna Hill	26 Caitlyn Fischer
4 Dan Butson	Aydin Skinner	27 Jinu Lee
Gabby Larkin	15 Sue Dreyer	Kathryn Thiele
Nan Rebholz	16 McKenna Fiedler	29 Zoe Burns
Shirley Rehdantz	17 David Johnson	Pam Davison
5 Bill Johnson	18 Shelly Babler	30 John Myhre
Amber Olson	Julie Briggs	Janelle Paske
Max Zirbes	20 Kendal Thomson	Craig Ratz
9 Sophia Heo	21 Nona Merklein	Vern Trecek

MEMORIAL GIFTS



Undesignated Fund

In memory of Dave Rogers by Jan Derlein & Larry Denman, Ken & Rosemary McTier, Ed & Kathy Hallett, Shirley Baertsch, George & Rita Smick, Carl & Mary Ellen Johnson, Russ Wyman, Jim & Shar Kuhl, Phil & Barb Berg, Mike & Chris Hurd, Shirley Harty, the Alice Richardson family and many other friends of the Rogers' family.

In memory of Alice Richardson by Jim & Shar Kuhl, Jean Rogers, and Russ Wyman.

Music Fund

In memory of Peg Tucker by Ed & Kathy Hallett.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Peg Tucker by Mike & Holly Powers.

In memory of Sheri Jones by Mike & Holly Powers.

The following is our list of the churches in the South West District we will pray for in October.

Please take a moment to lift each church below in prayer during their week. We are all in need. Send them a simple card letting them know you are praying for their health and welfare amidst these challenging times.

Pardeeville: Clergy, Sergio Tristan and the 191 members located at 101 Wisconsin St, Pardeeville, WI 53954; October 3, 2021 – October 9, 2021.

Portage: Clergy, KwangYu Lee and the 366 members located at 1804 New Pinery Rd, Portage, WI 53901; October 10, 2021 – October 16, 2021.

Poynette Inch: Clergy, Michele Hopp and the 98 members. Poynette Inch is part of the Poynette Inch, Arlington charge located at 402 S Main St, Poynette, WI 53955; October 17, 2021 – October 23, 2021.

Prairie du Chien: Clergy, Maria Kim and the 103 members. Prairie du Chien is part of the Prairie du Chien, Eastman: Salem charge located at 625 S Dousman St, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821. October 24, 2021 – October 30, 2021.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET

August 31, 2021

GENERAL FUND

Income: 27,865.50

Expense: -19,890.98

(7,974.52)

DEDICATED FUNDS

Income 43,127.78

Expense 600.99

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	2,295.81
Dedicated Fund	101,503.52
*Checking Account Balance (total of Gen. and Ded. Fund)	103,798.83
Memorial Checking	8,533.02
Jenkins Fund	53,631.95
Anderson Fund	25,311.37
Wiedenhaupt Fund	6,470.35
Endowment Fund	20,539.72
Hamele Fund	13,160.76
TOTAL *(checking balance not in total)	231,445.00

Rich Jacobson, Church Treasurer

Here's a Smile for Your Day!

Frank was kicked back in his recliner watching TV one sunny afternoon and his wife paused and said, "Frank, why aren't you out on the golf course?" Frank responded, "I don't have anyone to golf with."

Frank's wife, "What about Dave?"

Frank, "Well, how would you like golfing with someone who moves their ball everytime your back is turned, and who cheats on their score?"

Frank's wife shook her head and said, "No, I would not like that at all."

Frank said, "Yep, neither did Dave."

(courtesy of Bill Johnson)

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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 10

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Chris Hurd, Church Musician
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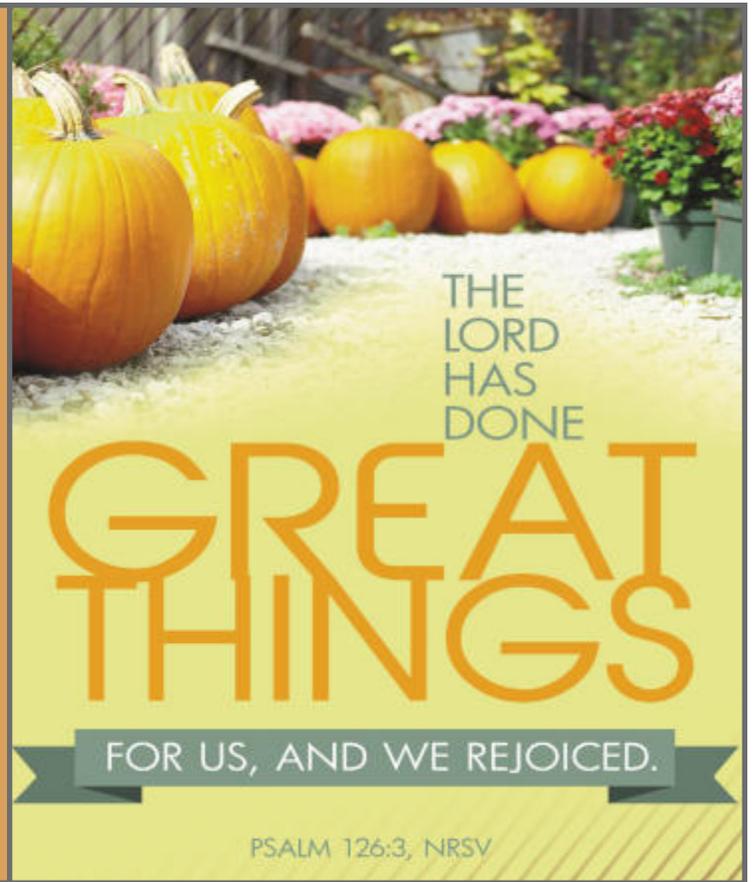
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