



CHURCH MESSENGER

MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

● Sunday School: 9:30am ● Worship Service: 10:30am ● Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00pm



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Embracing October: A Season of Change and Reflection 🍂

As October unfolds, nature begins its gentle transformation—the air turns crisp, leaves ablaze with color, and the world quietly prepares for rest. This season reminds us that change, though often bittersweet, is a natural and necessary part of life. Just as creation surrenders to the rhythm of autumn, we too are called to embrace the seasons God places in our lives. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” As we witness the beauty of change around us, may we reflect on the ways God is inviting us to grow, let go, and trust in His perfect timing.

Seeking Wisdom & Understanding-

Biblical wisdom in the face of change centers on trusting God's unwavering wisdom over human understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6), recognizing that God is sovereign and in control of times and seasons (Daniel 2:20-21). It also involves embracing personal transformation by renewing your mind to align with Christ's image (Romans 12:2). Furthermore, biblical wisdom teaches to seek God's guidance for divine insights that allow for effective adaptation to life's ever-changing events.

Giving Generously-

Change is deeply connected to giving because giving of one's self generously demonstrates transformed hearts and trust in His provision. This practice reflects Jesus's selfless example and encourages spiritual growth, leading to an abundant life with greater blessings and peace, while transforming others through the service enabled by the gifts.

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Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

Daily Lesson

God is Sovereign in Every Season.

Even when Naomi believed the Lord had turned against her (Ruth 1:13, NIV), God was preparing a path to restoration. What feels like an ending may be the beginning of something new.

Faithfulness Bears Fruit.

Ruth's everyday faith—gleaning in the fields, caring for Naomi, honoring God—led to unexpected blessings. Sometimes, faithfulness in the small things opens the door to great things.

God Uses Outsiders.

Ruth was a Moabite, yet God welcomed her into His plan. No matter our background or history, God's grace makes room for us.

Season of Change: A Lesson From Ruth



As the leaves begin to change and we feel the shift in seasons, it's a fitting time to reflect on how God works in the changing seasons of our lives. One of the most beautiful examples of this is found in the book of Ruth—a short but powerful story tucked between Judges and 1 Samuel that reminds us how God's providence unfolds in times of transition.

The book of Ruth opens with loss and uncertainty. Naomi, having lost her husband and two sons, returns to Bethlehem from Moab in deep grief, accompanied only by her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth. In the face of change, Ruth utters one of the most memorable declarations of faith in Scripture:

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16, NIV)

Ruth chose loyalty, love, and faith over security and familiarity. She stepped into a new season—one filled with uncertainty but also divine opportunity.

Trusting God Through the Unknown

Like Ruth and Naomi, we often find ourselves in seasons of change: a new job, a loss, a move, a shift in health or family dynamics.

These times can feel unsettling. But the story of Ruth reminds us that even in the most difficult transitions, God is working behind the scenes. He orchestrates relationships, provisions, and outcomes that we could never foresee.

God used Ruth's faithfulness not only to redeem Naomi's family line but also to place Ruth in the lineage of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). What began as a season of sorrow turned into a legacy of grace.

Embracing Your Season

As a church, let us encourage one another in every season—whether planting, waiting, or harvesting. Like Ruth, may we step forward with courage, trust, and humility, believing that God is at work.

If you're in a season of change, take heart. The God who redeemed Ruth's story is the same God who walks with you today. And just as the seasons shift, so too can your story—in God's perfect timing.

"Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer."

— Ruth 4:14, NIV

Community & Church Events

SAT
10

Walking with the Past

Historical walking tour of Ashland Cemetery. Learn about some of Ashland's influential people. Presented by the Highland Museum.

SUN
19

"Singspiration" at BSCC

A beautiful worship gathering in the main sanctuary of the church at 6:00 PM. We'd love to have you... Feel free to bring a friend or three.

SAT
17

The Wizard of Oz

A theatrical production of The Wizard of Oz; Presented by Paramount Players. Multiple performance times.

THUR
30

Ashland Trick-or-Treat

Get your candy and treat bags ready! City-wide Trick or Treat is set for 6PM-7:30 PM. f

The Tragedy of Change: A Reflection on Judas Iscariot

Change is a part of life. It can draw us closer to God—or take us further from Him. In Scripture, we find many stories of transformation, but one of the most sobering is that of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. His life is a powerful example of how small, unguarded changes can lead to devastating consequences.

A Disciple with a Divided Heart

Judas was chosen by Jesus and lived among the other disciples. He saw miracles and heard teachings firsthand. Yet Scripture reveals early signs of trouble. John tells us that Judas was in charge of the group's money and would secretly take from it:

"He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." (John 12:6, NIV)

This quiet compromise marked the beginning of a shift in his heart. Judas stayed near Jesus physically, but inwardly, his devotion began to erode.

The Betrayal Begins

Eventually, Judas made a tragic decision. In Matthew 26, he went to the religious leaders and asked:

"What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" (Matthew 26:15, NIV)

For thirty pieces of silver, Judas handed over the Son of God. This wasn't a sudden act—it was the result of gradual change, unchecked sin, and a heart that had grown cold.

Remorse Isn't Repentance

After Jesus was condemned, Judas was filled with regret. He returned the money and confessed he had betrayed innocent blood. But instead of seeking forgiveness, he isolated himself in despair:

"So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself." (Matthew 27:5, NIV)

This painful end shows the difference between remorse and repentance. Judas felt sorrow, but he didn't turn to the Savior he had betrayed. He let guilt define his final chapter, instead of grace.

What We Can Learn

- Small Sins Can Lead to Big Falls

Judas didn't fall all at once. His betrayal began with little acts of dishonesty. We must guard our hearts in the everyday decisions, because small compromises can quietly steer us off course.

- True Faith Requires True Surrender

Judas walked with Jesus, but his heart wasn't surrendered. Following Christ isn't just about proximity—it's about devotion. God wants more than our presence; He wants our hearts.

- Run to Jesus When You Fall

Both Peter and Judas failed Jesus. But Peter repented and was restored. Judas chose isolation. When we sin—and we all do—we must run to Christ, not away from Him. His forgiveness is always available.

Final Thought: Let Change Lead You to Christ

Judas's story is a warning, but also a call to reflection. What kind of change is happening in your heart today? Let it be the kind that softens, not hardens. Let it draw you to Christ, not drive you from Him.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NIV)



A Message From Our Pastor

God's Call to Be Different

Life often brings us into seasons where transformation is not only inevitable, but necessary. As believers in the body of Christ here at Beech Street, we understand that change can be difficult but can also be a calling from God—a gentle nudge or a clear directive to step out of familiar patterns and embrace something new. We have a profound invitation from God to live Holy lives. The word Holy in the New Testament means to be set apart from all others. This requires constant attention to live more like Christ and less like the rebellious world.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will, (Romans 12:2, NIV).

To be “different” or “transformed” in the context of faith means living according to God's standards rather than the world's expectations. This difference is not just in outward actions, but in our attitudes, priorities, and the way we treat others. It means choosing kindness when faced with anger, seeking truth in a world of misinformation, and holding onto hope in the midst of uncertainty.

As we respond to God's call to be different, we become agents of transformation in our families, workplaces, communities, and even in the Church. Our unique perspectives and Christ-centered values can inspire others to seek change in their own lives. By living out our faith authentically, we demonstrate that real change is possible—through God's love, grace, and power. This fall season in which we are noticing significant changes in creation's landscape is an opportunity to see the change necessary within each of us, and in the Church.

We may need to evaluate each piece of our worship, and our daily devotion because God has called us to be different. What needs transformation in my life in order for me to look more like Jesus? What changes need to occur in our congregation practices that might be more inviting to those seeking God, or searching for meaningful existence? Let us embrace this time with open hearts, trusting that the transformation He begins in us will lead to greater impact for His kingdom. May we walk boldly into new beginnings, new practices both congregationally and individually, and be confident that God is with us and that our willingness to be different will bring hope and light to a world in need. I look forward to our transformation together as we meet new challenges and make new connections with our community.

Because of Christ,
Keith



ROOTED IN CHRIST

October, with its changing leaves and cooler days, is a perfect reminder of the beauty found in transformation. As the season shifts, reading the Bible offers spiritual renewal and grounding in God's unchanging truth. Let this month be a time to draw closer to Him, allowing His Word to refresh your heart and guide your steps.

- **A call to spiritual renewal and transformation through God's truth.**
(Romans 12:2)
- **In Christ, we are made new—our past no longer defines us.**
(2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **God brings renewal even in the driest, most difficult seasons.**
(Isaiah 43:19)
- **A promise of inward renewal and deep spiritual change.**
(Ezekiel 36:26)
- **Each day is a chance for a fresh start, covered by God's mercy.**
(Lamentations 3:22–23)
- **God is faithful to continue the work of renewal and transformation He started in you.**
(Philippians 1:6)