

Announcements for October 8, 2017

For: Rev. Escandell

Please join us for our **BIRTHDAY / ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** in the Parlor today immediately following the Worship Service as we honor all birthdays and wedding anniversaries from the months of September and October.

The **VALLEY YOUTH RALLY** will be held today at First Presbyterian Church-Weslaco starting at 3 p.m. Those who wish to attend are asked to meet here at the church at 2:30 p.m.

CANDY & CAKES NEEDED FOR FALL FESTIVAL ... The church's annual "Fall Festival" will be held here Wednesday, October 25, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the courtyard and Fellowship Hall. There will be plenty of fun, fellowship, games and food for all members of the family. However, donations of candy are needed. If you can help out with this request, please bring your donations to the church and drop them in the baskets located in the Narthex. Other opportunities to help out include signing up to bring baked goods for the cake walk or volunteering your time. For more information, please talk to *Christian Education Calling* chairperson, Cristina Garfield.

The "**PRESENT WORD**" **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** is participating in the Stewardship season study of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," led by Bob Simpson, Maria Colvin-Lopez, and Pastor Kathy. Join us in the Parlor at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday morning.

Additional Liturgy for October 8, 2017

For: Maria Colvin-Lopez

Call to Confession

Whatever good we may have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ. Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing compared to the grace of God. With faith in Christ's righteousness and confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer for Illumination

It's time to hear God's Word read and proclaimed. Let us pray:

God of all wisdom, give us your Word and send us your Spirit, so that we may know Christ. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14 (CEB)

If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more:

I was circumcised on the eighth day.

I am from the people of Israel and the people of Benjamin.

I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews.

With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee.

With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church.

With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless.

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

Invitation to the Offering

Without Christ, all that we have is nothing. With Christ, all that we have is everything. Let us offer all that we have to the Lord.

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for all your good gifts, and above all, for the gift of knowing Christ our Savior. Strengthen us as we continue to strive to be faithful, fruitful followers. Amen.