

## A Word From The Pastor

In recent years, the fall season has taken on new meanings for me. Since reading and teaching about the Hebrew holiday Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, this time of year has indeed become very special. In fact, Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. This year, Yom Kippur begins on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Its central themes are *atonement* and *repentance*. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a day-long fast and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

This special time was given us by God Himself:

“Once a year Aaron shall make atonement . . . This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the LORD.” — Exodus 30:10.

“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work—whether native-born or an alien living among you—because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. — Lev. 16:29–30.

The idea behind *atonement*, is the cleansing and forgiveness of human sin and the restoration of the relationship between God and humans. God, you see, is deeply concerned about our relationship with Him. Sin is a barrier between we humans and God. Isaiah the prophet wrote, “But your *iniquities* have separated you from your God; your *sins* have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” — Isa. 59:2. On the Day of Atonement God dealt with the problem of sin with the sacrifice of specific animals. On the day of crucifixion, God dealt with the problem of sin with the sacrifice of His very own Son, Jesus Christ who died that we might find forgiveness of our sins and be restored in our relationship with God. Hence, you can see why this time of year is so significant not only to Jewish people but also we who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Let me suggest some ways to make this time of year more meaningful to each one of us:

- 1) Commit yourself to spending some time each day of September in prayer specifically asking God to reveal any sin or sinful behavior in your life. David of old prayed, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*” — Psalm 139:23-24
- 2) Ask for forgiveness for anything God reveals that is amiss in your spiritual relationship with Him. Again David prayed, “*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*” — Psalm 51:7 And “*Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*” — Psalm 51:2
- 3) Seek a renewed spirit and relationship with God. David petitioned God this way: “*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.*” — Psalm 51:10-12
- 4) Look for ways to serve God afresh. David continued in his prayer by saying, “*Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.*” — Psalm 51:13 A renewed relationship with God created a renewed desire to serve Him. Look for new ways to serve our God!

In His Service,  
Dr. James L. Fleming

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CHURCH OF GOD**

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**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Senior Pastor**  
Dr. James L. Fleming

**Children's Director**  
Vanessa Small

**OUR SUNDAY SERVICES**

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Wednesdays**  
Evening Bible Study  
will resume on  
September 29 at 6:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**Women's Ministry**  
Saturday, September 25  
10:00 a.m.

**Food Drive Collection**  
Interfaith Emergency Services  
Sunday, September 26

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DEVOTION BOOKS**

The *Pathways* devotionals for the fall quarter are available in the narthex.

**ELECTION**

Our church will serve as a polling location for the City of Ocala Election on Tuesday, September 21. For more info, visit [www.VoteMarion.gov](http://www.VoteMarion.gov).

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The Women's Ministry will meet Saturday, September 25, at 10:00 a.m. They will be going through the shoebox donation items and making plans for the rest of the year. All women are welcome to attend.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, September 26, after the morning worship service. Although only council members may vote on matters, you are welcome to observe and give input.

**FOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, September 26, is our collection day this month for nonperishable foods for Interfaith Emergency Services. Thank you for your generosity!

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

The Wednesday evening Bible Study will restart September 29 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We will continue our study of Revelation.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The Women's Ministry is collecting gifts for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our suggested items to donate for the month of September are **toys & games** such as puzzles, playdoh, jump ropes, cars, balls, blocks, legos, yo-yos, slinky, card games, dominoes, travel size games, checkers, marbles, coloring books, or stickers. Collection box is in the narthex.

**CONCERT**

Ben Simmons will be in concert during our morning worship service on Sunday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendars now!

**Happy Birthday!**

05 - Linda Coble  
08 - Wayne Steffey  
11 - Maverick Small  
12 - McKenzie Labounty  
14 - Pastor James Fleming  
14 - Laura Cash  
17 - Leighton Parton  
23 - Norma Alamia  
25 - Shiley Benson  
30 - Earl Keiser

**Happy Anniversary!**

12 - Charles and Myrtie Ray  
18 - Ed and Peggy Mills



*If you would like your birthday  
or anniversary added to this list,  
please contact the church office.*



*God's Hand Extended To Those In Need*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring enough to support our ministry with your donation. Your donation makes it possible for us to assist people in need of basic necessities such as food and clothing. With 44% of our county residents living at or just above the poverty level and paycheck to paycheck, one minor event can put a family in financial distress. By giving of your resources, you lighten the burden of someone going through a difficult time. Your support means a great deal to Interfaith and to those we serve. We appreciate your help more than words can say!

**July Gift to Food Pantry — 178 pounds of food**

May God bless you,

Karla Grimsley

Chief Executive Officer

# Peggy Jo Campbell

February 8, 1938—August 5, 2021

Dear Pastor Fleming,

I wanted to let you know that Peggy Campbell, my stepmother died peacefully on Friday, August 7th. Her dementia had progressed over these last few years to where she was no longer verbal and needed complete care. She resided in a complete care facility. Her darling daughter, Marcie, was her hospice nurse and took such beautiful care of her. True to form, Peggy would try to hum along whenever Marcie sang to her and her eyes always would light up when music, especially church music, was played.

My Dad, Chuck Campbell died last June 29th (2020) of congestive heart failure after suffering a stroke and a broken hip in April, 2020. He died at peace in his sleep. Again, Marcie, was his hospice nurse and having her with them both was such a great blessing.

Peggy and Chuck loved College Park Church of God and were so grateful for their church family and all the help they received in their last months there. I wanted to let you know so that you too can thank Our Sweet Lord that they are in Glory with Him.

Peace to You,  
Mardi Campbell



# Peggy Jo Campbell

February 8, 1938—August 5, 2021

