

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, September 11, 2022

Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?

www.dol.gov – US Dept of Labor

Hopefully we all had a good Labor Day Weekend! Did you swim, play and barbecue with the family or neighbors? Maybe you did some shopping. Whatever you did, we all need to remember the hard work of our forefathers who helped build this wonderful country over the years.

Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. During 1887, four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York – passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

Continued on page 2

14th Sunday After Pentecost



1st Corinthians 15:12-22, 35-37, 50-57

Psalm 118:14-29

Luke 24:36-48

“I Believe in Resurrection”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 11

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

Prayer Requests

Nancy Gibbons, Pastor Beth's mother
Norma and Sam
Anita's friend Lori suffering from breast cancer
Patsy and Betty
Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman
Joyce and Bob
Juan's sister Norma
Donna West, having health issues

Continued from page 1

Who first proposed the holiday for workers? It's not entirely clear, but two workers can make a solid claim to the Founder of Labor Day title. Some records show that in 1882, Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, suggested setting aside a day for a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that machinist Matthew Maguire, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey, proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

According to the New Jersey Historical Society, after President Cleveland signed the law creating a national Labor Day, the *Paterson Morning Call* published an opinion piece stating that "the souvenir pen should go to Alderman Matthew Maguire of this city, who is the

continued on page 3

undisputed author of Labor Day as a holiday." Both Maguire and McGuire attended the country's first Labor Day parade in New York City that year.

Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, picnics and parties – festivities very similar to those outlined by the first proposal for a holiday, which suggested that the day should be observed with – a street parade to exhibit "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day.

Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

American labor has raised the nation's standard of living and contributed to the greatest production the world has ever known and the labor movement has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker.



SHOE DRIVE FOR ASTORIA PARK ELEMENTARY

As you know, over the last year we've been working to build more partnerships with nearby elementary schools. We provided the staff at Ruediger Elementary with lunch twice and some of our members volunteered at their end of the year fun-day celebration. In an effort to broaden our impact, we reached out to Astoria Park Elementary. We

found out they have many students who need shoes. **This September we will be collecting new and gently used children's shoes in sizes 3.5-7. Terry Williams has graciously agreed to oversee the collection!** Everything we collect will be taken to Astoria Park in early October. These shoes will be put to good use. When children come to school without shoes, with worn out shoes, or shoes that don't fit, the school counselor will be able to provide them with a new pair. You can bring in donations as soon as this Sunday and the **collection will continue through September 30.**



NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED IN SEPTEMBER

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, September 11. If you've been attending Gray for some time but haven't yet joined, let's make it official! Contact the church office for more information.



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Sept. 7	12 noon 7 pm	Wonderful Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study with Todd Clark via Zoom
Thursday, Sept. 8	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice
Saturday, Sept. 10	8 am to 12 noon 4-7 pm	Church Work Day – Mostly outdoors - Bring gloves and yard tools Town & Country Neighborhood Fall Block Party
Sunday, Sept. 11	11 am 4 pm	Worship Service – New Member Sunday Charge Conference with District Supt. Wayne Wiatt – Open to All
Tuesday, Sept. 13	2 pm	United Women in Faith (UMW)
Wednesday, Sept. 14	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark via Zoom
Thursday, Sept. 15	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice
Saturday, Sept. 17	7 pm	John Riley, Motivational Speaker
Sunday, Sept. 18	11 am	Worship Service – John Riley will speak