

September Newsletter

September 2026

Pastoral Message

September Devotion:

Building What Matters Most

September often feels like a season of new beginnings. As routines return, classes begin, and ministries launch, we are reminded that God is always at work—planting seeds of faith, wisdom, and hope in the lives of His people.

This month, we celebrate the beginning of several important ministries at Upward:

Adventurers, Pathfinders, Financial Peace University, and the opening of another school year at Upward SDA School. Each one serves a different purpose, yet all point toward the same mission: helping families grow closer to Jesus and preparing people to live faithfully.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Our children are not simply the church of tomorrow—they are an essential part of the church today. Through Adventurers, Pathfinders, Sabbath School, and Upward SDA School, we have the privilege of helping young people discover God's love, learn practical life skills, build friendships, and develop courage to stand for Christ.

As these ministries begin, let us pray for the children who will participate, the parents who will support them, the teachers and leaders who will serve, and the families who will take steps towards financial peace.

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Perozo

Upcoming Events

Adventurers & Pathfinders
Induction - 9/12
Women's Ministry Meeting - 9/13
Financial Peace University - 9/13
Fellowship Meal - 9/19
Church Picnic - 9/26
Sunshine Band - 9/26
Food Pantry - Every Sunday
12-2pm
Prayer Meeting - Every
Wednesday at 7pm

Announcements

Worthy Student Fund

We are off to a wonderful start to this school year. Thank you for your continued support and prayers! To help students who need financial assistance, please consider donating to the Worthy Student Fund. You may give using a tithe envelope by writing "Worthy Student" on the blank lines under "Local Church," or donate online by choosing "Additional Funds" from the drop-down menu and selecting "Worthy Student Fund." Every donation is greatly appreciated. For questions, please contact Kim Hudgins at 828-606-3529. May God bless your generosity!

Ministry Updates

Adventurer Update: Our Adventurers had a wonderful first meeting! We learned about Bible heroes and people who have helped spread the gospel. We also enjoyed making a fun scrapbook craft and playing some exciting games. We are so excited to be back and have lots of fun meetings planned for this year! We can't wait to see what God has in store for our Adventurers. Our Induction Service will be September 12th! Please come and support our young people as they begin another exciting year of learning, growing, and serving Jesus!

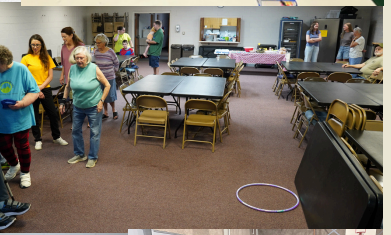
Pathfinder Update: Our Pathfinders had a great first meeting! We are excited for another year of learning, growing, and serving together. This year, they will continue practicing knot tying and marching, while building valuable skills and knowledge along the way. At their first meeting, they learned how to identify dangerous situations that can happen at a campsite and how to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors. We are also getting excited for our Camporee at Kulaqua next month! There are lots of exciting adventures ahead!

Pathfinder Induction will be September 12th during the church service. We would love for you to come and support our Pathfinders as they begin another year!

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth!

Women's Ministry Update: Our Family Fun Day turned out great! Thank you to everyone who came out, brought food, and helped make the day so much fun. We are so thankful for our church family! This month, we're excited for a fun apple-themed Women's Ministries meeting! Bring your favorite dish that contains apples, along with the recipe to share with everyone. We will also be putting together gift baskets for an outreach project, giving us an opportunity to bless and encourage others in our community. We can't wait to see everyone there!

Social Committee: We will be having one more church picnic this year! Unfortunately, we don't have enough time to plan a Fall Campout this year, so we thought a church picnic would be a great way to enjoy some time together instead. We also have a Fall Party coming up on October 24th! Be on the lookout for more information and details coming soon. We hope you'll join us for these fun opportunities to fellowship together as a church family!



Upward Adventist School

Thanks to many volunteer hours from various people, we now have our Forest School back in operation! Hurricane Helene did a lot of damage to this area and has been unusable since then. These past few weeks, a lot of activity has been going on down there. Kris Wetmore was contacted by one of our school board members to see if he could help us with this project. He volunteered several hours there with a crew clearing the area out and mulching the trees that were taken down. Then on Sunday, Aug. 23, several members from the church came out to do a little more clean up. The steps were cleared, more outdoor seating was made available, wood chips were spread, and more brush was cleared. The Forest School is an area for students to explore, create, imagine, work together, build, and pretend. Construction on forts has already started. Come down and check it out! It is located behind the playground through the gate at the back of the field. Thank you to everyone who made this dream a reality!

