



October 9, 2019

### ***A TIME TO PLUCK UP WHAT IS PLANTED***

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.  
... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted."  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

"Oh, I know, the church with the pumpkins!"

Those words are often the point of recognition when we talk to people about our church. Whether they live nearby or miles away, they remember those beautiful October days when the church yard is filled with pumpkins. It's not a bad way to be known, right? Consider...

- The pumpkins communicate welcome: it is joyful, colorful, and festive. For many families, it is an annual photo with the children. Our pumpkins show we are a congregation that is here for our neighbors.
- The pumpkins help people. The money we raise provides funding to meet human need. This year, the pumpkin sale will support both hurricane recovery in the Bahamas and service-learning trips for our students. Our pumpkins show we are here to serve our neighbors.
- The pumpkins celebrate life. For more than two weeks, volunteers from the church include children and adults of all ages, meeting and interacting with the community in a cultural ritual that celebrates the harvest and change of seasons. Sometimes it is hard to see from the road just how alive our church really is, but not at the end of October.

Scripture reminds us that, "to everything there is a season; a time to plant, and a time to pick up what is planted." When the pumpkins are plucked and appear on the church lawn, we begin to plant seeds of a different kind: seeds of welcome, help, and life.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister