



The Mountaintop Community Churches, One Mountain Foundation, and the Fort Ritchie Community Center hosted *A Remembrance Service* on Patriot's Day. The service remembered and reflected on the fallen of September 11, 2001, honored America and our local community First¹ Responders, united together in song and patriotic music, and collectively joined in prayer for our Nation with those still grieving. Approximately 150 mountaintop community residents and friends participated on the 10th Anniversary of the day that changed our lives forever.



The service opened with Words of Welcome by Pastor Mark Hosler from the Germantown Church of God, Cascade, who said that America is a nation blessed by God, and “we believe it is our privilege and duty to pray for our nation. There is a great need for the church to be a positive influence in our culture, to be a source and influence of healing and transformation.”

The audience then sang the song *Now Thank We All Our God*, led by Pastor Warren Rice from the Living Word Church, Blue Ridge Summit. Pastor Rice was the song leader throughout the service.





Pastor Arietta Grimm, “Life Changing Ministries” of the Church of God of Prophecy, Sabillasville, gave the Invocation and said that the day was not a day of celebration, rather it was a day of remembrance; a day of honor for those who lost their lives, for the first responders who continue to risk their lives; and a day of healing wounds that have still not healed.

Pastor Arietta, with assistance of the children at the service, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. The song *America* followed.



Pastor Sandy Price from St. Stephen’s United Church of Christ, Cascade, provided Words of Remembrance to focus the audience on September 11, 2001, 10 years ago. She then read the comforting scripture of Psalm 23 and gave a prayer for healing.

Pastor Richard Daughtridge from Jacob’s Church, Fairfield, sang *Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning* written by Alan Jackson.





Pastor Janet Comings from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and St. John's United Church of Christ, Sabillasville, honored our First Responders from the Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Department and the Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad for their dedication and service to the community.

Pastor Janet told the First Responders that the community thanks God for them and how they continue to respond to God's call to loving our neighbors as ourselves.



Pastor Richard Daughtridge then honored and gave prayers for our Churches. This was followed by the singing of *America the Beautiful*.

Pastor Arietta Grimmiett followed with thoughts and prayers for our Nation.



Pastor Rice then led the audience in singing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *God Bless America*. Mary Stottlemeyer provided the accompanying music for all the singing during the service.



Father Robert Malagesi from St. Rita Catholic Church, Blue Ridge Summit, then provided closing remarks and prayer.

Father Robert also provided the benediction.



A special thank-you to the Pastors and the congregational members of the local mountaintop community and local area churches who joined together in this service of remembrance. Thanks also to the members and friends of the One Mountain Foundation and the Fort Ritchie Community Center who participated and assisted with this service.

May we never again have an event to remember like September 11, 2001.

