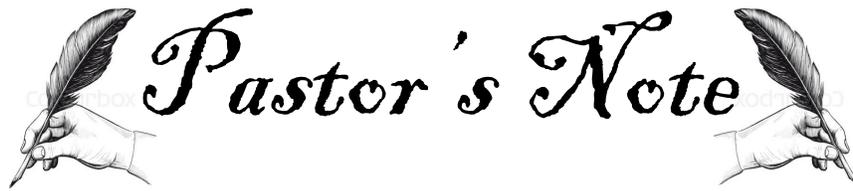


The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JULY 2015



Pastor's Note

From the Pastor – Disciples Practice the Disciplines

Some of you may have heard that we are talking about spiritual disciplines here at First Presbyterian this summer. Every Monday evening in June and July, we are meeting in the Conference Room to talk about these ancient Christian practices, and how they can be used as engines for growth in our spiritual lives.¹ Because let's face it – we sometimes need help in that department. Sometimes, we stall out in our growth. We get stuck in a rut. When we stop to take stock, we find that we are no more patient, no kinder, no deeper in our prayer lives, than we were the previous year. And we wonder why – why do we read a good insight or hear a good sermon, but it makes no difference in how we actually live? What are we doing wrong?

Classically, the Church has addressed these questions through the spiritual disciplines. The disciplines are a group of *intentional, purposeful* practices which enable us to grow in our relationship with God. They put us in a place where we are able to receive His blessings, a place where we can be filled by Him. God does the work, but the disciplines enable us to receive His work. Paul talks about this in his first letter to Timothy: “*Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*” (1 Timothy 4:7b-8, ESV). In other words, just as an athlete trains his or her body for competition, or just as a musician spends much time practicing, so must we be disciplined in our training in the faith. We will not grow unless we apply ourselves to these engines of growth! We will not grow unless we are serious about putting the time and effort in to it. Spiritual maturity does not “just happen”!

Everyone's spiritual life is, of course, different, and while one person may need to practice the disciplines of silence and solitude to grow in the Lord, the next person may need to practice fasting, instead. We aren't all the same. There are two practices, however, that we *all* need to engage in: prayer and the study of Scripture. Our faith is, after all, really a saving relationship with God Himself – so how can we grow in that relationship if we never communicate with Him? And how can we grow in that relationship if we never read His Word or take time to meditate upon it? The more I study these disciplines, the more I find that so many of our problems would be addressed, and so many of our needs would be better met, if we simply applied ourselves carefully to these two disciplines. In fact, when people come to me now in the midst of a problem or crisis, I am learning to ask “So, how is your prayer life?” and “Tell me about your times with Scripture recently”. The way we answer those questions is a key insight into our relationship with God. If we aren't spending time *daily* in prayer, and *daily* reading Scripture and meditating upon it, then we are setting ourselves up for failure in life.

The bottom line is: Jesus' *disciples* are people who practice the *disciplines*. Those words are related for a reason! So, how would you characterize your practice of the disciplines? How is your prayer life? What Scriptures have you been meditating upon recently? What about fasting, or spending time in solitude and silence, or being disciplined in servanthood? As a way to help with these things, how about joining us for the last four classes this month? The studies are stand-alone, and don't build on each other, so all are

¹ Topics we are discussing in this class: prayer, Scripture study and meditation, fasting, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, guidance and worship & celebration. This is, of course, not an exhaustive list of the various disciplines!

welcome to come to even just one class. Elsewhere in the Evangel, we will publish a schedule as to what we will be studying each week. How about taking one step this month toward greater depth in your life of faith – come join us, and learn about ways you can grow in the Lord! I promise you – you will not regret it!

To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love, *Joshua*



The pastor will be on vacation from July 21–26. Be sure to join us in worship on July 26 as Elder Bev Hughes fills the pulpit. **Reminder: There will be NO 8:30 worship on July 26!**

The Administrative Assistant will be on vacation from July 20-July 28. To make life a little easier on her fill-in, Arlene Brackett (thanks again, Arlene!), the **AUGUST EVANGEL DEADLINE has been moved up to July 16**. Please email articles to kkathman@harrisonpresbyterian.com.

The Facilities Manager will be on vacation from July 10-17. If you are interested in helping to keep our building clean and tidy during that time, please call the church office, and we will find something for you to do! Thanks!



Can't make it to church? Out of town last month and want to see what you missed? You can watch Rev. Long live and catch up on previous sermons via our church's website (www.harrisonpresbyterian.com) or via our new YouTube station (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr_A4d3L-GAEF8ymxJF_8Zg) or search "First Presbyterian Church of Harrison" in YouTube.

First Presbyterian July 4th Parade Float!

If you would like to help decorate the church float, be in the church parking lot by 7:30-8:00am. If you would like to just board the float, meet us in the parade line up at 9:30am at the Community Center.

Any questions, contact Jeff Sindiong 513-289-4033 or Mindy Sindiong 513-235-3778.



Prayer Meeting – Our next monthly prayer meeting is Saturday, July 11 at 11am in the chapel. Please join us as we lift up our congregation, our leaders, our nation, and other needs in prayer! All are welcome!

Quote to Ponder... "The strength and happiness of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going that way, too." - Henry Ward Beecher

Sweet Sounds of Summer

The **SUMMER CHOIR** continues to meet at 10am each Sunday in the music room. No prior choir experience required. If you enjoy singing and want to be part of our worship service, please join us!

We are also looking for musicians to add to our worship service this summer! If you have a talent that you would like to share with our congregation, please see Beth Snape (265-8425 or bsnape67@gmail.com.)

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (James 5:14-15,ESV). In obedience to these verses, we offer a **HEALING SERVICE** in the chapel on the last Sunday of each month after the 10:45 worship service. Any who are sick or in need are welcome to come receive anointing and prayer from the elders of our congregation. God has given us a great promise here – let's take Him at His Word!



Love Thy Neighbor
12 Months
of Giving

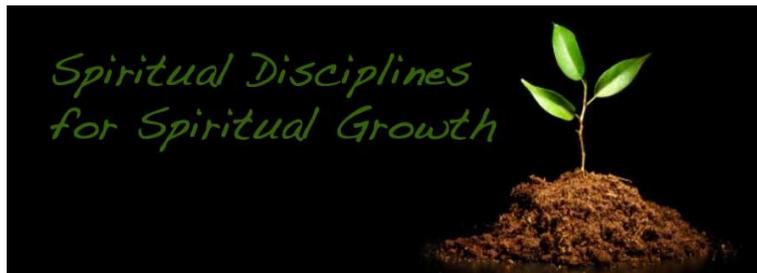
Love Thy Neighbor Mission 12 Months of Giving

The Mission committee continues to be amazed by our generous congregation in response to our monthly "Love They Neighbor" missions.

July Outreach/Mission Opportunity

Miamitown Elementary hosts a summer program called "Meet Up, Eat Up, Read Up". Current expected attendance is 60 participants.

Starting July 5, we will start collecting boxes of cereal and milk money. Collection boxes for cereal will be in Faith Hall. Money for milk should be given to Pat Scheer or Sandra McCauley. Cash is preferred but if by check, please make them out to Pat Scheer. If you want your monetary donation tracked on your donation statement, let either of them know and they will provide our financial secretary the information. See Pat or Sandra with questions.



*Spiritual Disciplines
for Spiritual Growth*

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, our weekly **Spiritual Disciplines Class** continues through the end of this month on Monday nights in the Conference Room at 7pm. All are welcome to attend! This month, we will be studying the following disciplines:

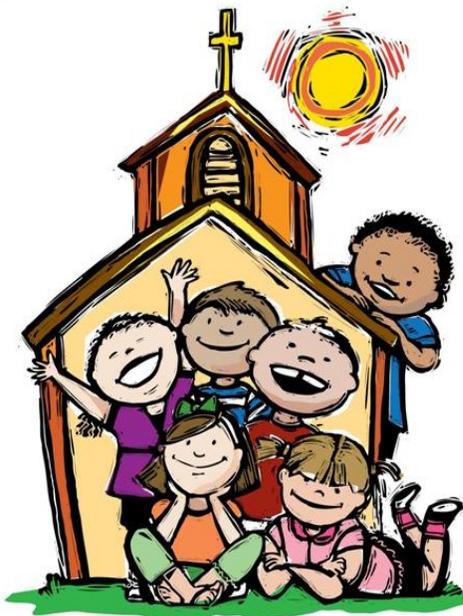
- July 6:** Simplicity, Solitude and Sabbath
- July 13:** Submission and Service
- July 20:** Confession and Guidance
- July 27:** Worship and Celebration

(Note—your participation in these classes will help support your pastor in his Doctorate of Ministry work! Thank you!)

**First Presbyterian
Church presents:**

**Summer Story time,
Songs & Games**

**Wednesdays, July 1 - August 5
from 6:30 - 7:30pm**

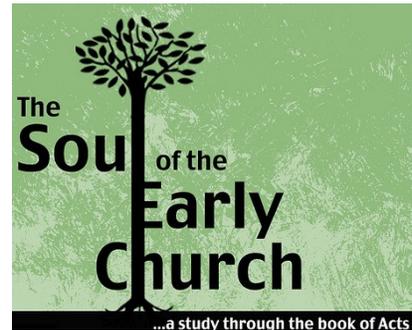


Join us in the grassy area in the front of our church (corner of Vine & Broadway) for a relaxing hour of storytelling, songs and games for children ages 1 - 7 (accompanied by an adult.) Bring lawn chairs/blankets and end your day on a positive note! Popsicles will be provided to all children who attend.

In case of rain, story hour will be held inside the church.

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, 115 S. Vine St., 367-4301

Quote to Ponder... "There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers on earth."
- C.H. Spurgeon



This month, we will be continuing our sermon series on the Book of Acts – the Acts of the Apostles, the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Be sure to join us in worship as we learn about the mission and growth of the early Church, and how we have that same mission and that same potential for growth. All are welcome!



Our next **Tea or Coffee with the Pastor** will be held from 2-4pm on Wednesday, July 8. (You can come and go at any time during those 2 hours.) We will meet again at the Coffee Peddler in downtown Harrison (112 Harrison Ave). Come for good fellowship, good conversation, good hot beverages, and for a chance to ask any question you want!

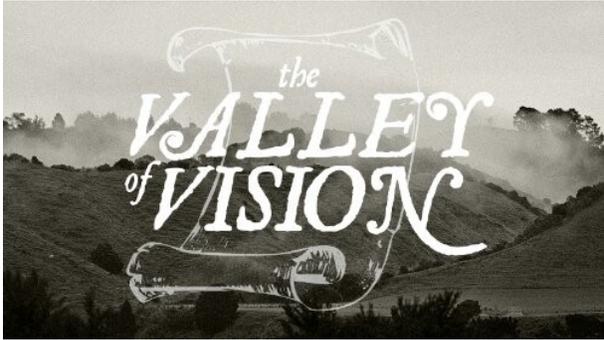


HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- 1 Dana Kist
- 4 Jean Vest
- 6 Mitchell Thomas
- 7 Christopher Brown
- 8 Fran Myers, Jody Rivera
- 9 Erwin Hein Sr., Benjamin Pierson
- 11 Michael Hursh
- 14 Tara Tucker
- 15 Mark Jones, Carter Jones
- 16 Megan Corcoran
- 17 Logan Kucera
- 18 Terry Johnson
- 20 Jeff Gibbs
- 22 Phyllis Wolfram, John Taphorn
- 23 Denise Reindl, Judy Rutherford
- 24 Lois Coy, Chris Loos
- 26 Jeff Ventre

JULY BIRTHDAY BAKERS:

Janet, Shirley & Lieschen



THE VALLEY OF VISION

(From the book "The Valley of Vision")

LORD, HIGH AND HOLY, MEEK AND LOWLY,
Thou has brought me to the valley of vision,
where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights;
hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.

Let me learn by paradox
that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from
deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the
brighter thy stars shine;

Let me find thy light in my darkness,
thy life in my death,
thy joy in my sorrow,
thy grace in my sin,
thy riches in my poverty
thy glory in my valley.

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES

If you are interested in going to Matthew 25,
there is a group meeting in the church
parking lot at 9:00 am **JULY 27.**

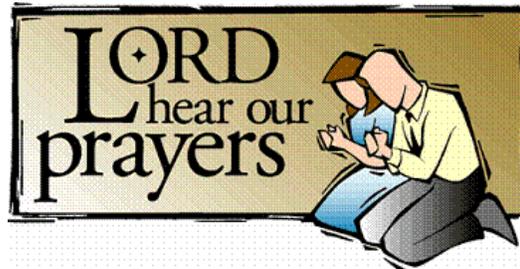
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

For Health Needs

Kathryn Pierson
Gene Steelman
Georgia Dwelly
Louanna Smith
Bennie Pierson
Hester Konkle
Janet Coakley
Russell Taylor
Ellen Puckett
Jim Mendell
Elaine Harris
Nomi Taylor
Jane Poland
Earl Dwelly
Pam Kraus
Diane Arel
Jean Vest

Our Shut-Ins

Pauline Zimmerman
Nora Montgomery
Theresa Johnson
Jeanette Rae
Gloria Culley
Ginny Thiele
Don Kraus



Specific Prayer Needs

Deb Menninger: for her son's health;
June Merten: for her brother's health;
Stephanie Trabel: for her aunt's health;
Jim & Ellen Puckett: for her sister's health;
Georgia & Earl Dwelly: for their daughter's health;
Gloria Culley: for her grandson and his Mission Team;
Nancy Mendell: for her niece, Mary Ellen Watts', health;
Ted & Janet Coakley: for their granddaughter's, her sister's & his

PRAYER CHAIN CALLS - The Prayer Chain is a group of people who are committed to praying daily for those requesting prayer. This ministry is administered through our Board of Deacons. If you have a prayer request please contact **Marcia Merse** at 812-637-3702 (home) or 367-4301 (work) during the day or **Phyllis Wolfram** at 367-4578 during the evening. For two weeks, the people on the chain will pray daily for the person or situation requested.



Quote to Ponder...

"How often do we hear about the discipline of the Christian life these days? There was a time in the Christian Church when this was at the very center, and it is, I profoundly believe, because of our neglect of this discipline that the Church is in her present position. Indeed, I see no hope whatsoever of any true revival and reawakening until we return to it." - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones