

The Evangel



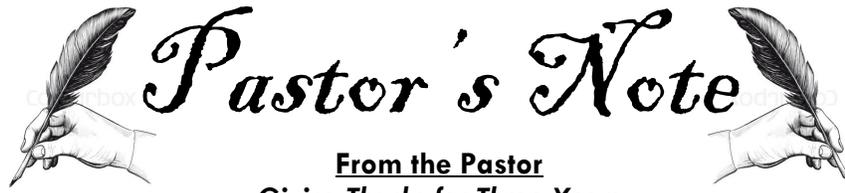
IN everything
GIVE THANKS;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

The First Presbyterian Church

NOVEMBER 2015



Pastor's Note

From the Pastor *Giving Thanks for Three Years*

As I was ruminating over what my article for this month should be, it occurred to me that November marks the end of my third year as your pastor. (I officially began here December 1, 2012). How has it been three years already? They've been three good years, three challenging years, three exciting years. With God's blessings, my next three years with you will be even better.

As I look back, I can't help but remember some of the harder times. We've had some difficult goodbyes over the past three years. We've faced being robbed three separate times in the space of a month – something which happened within the first two months of my coming here. (Baptism by fire!) We've seen some beloved programs and events come to an end, and have faced some challenging financial struggles. We've walked through a labor-intensive, and at times confusing, time of discerning our future with our denomination. All of those times have been demanding, even exhausting. And yet, at the same time, God has been with us through them all, and in His grace, He continues to work those times for good. Therefore, in this month of thanksgiving, we remember to give thanks even for the tough times, and for the ways that God uses them to bless us.

But to my mind, the good has far outweighed the bad over the past three years, as it always does when you walk with God. I've had the privilege of celebrating six baptisms over the past three years. We've welcomed twenty-two new members, and are in the process of preparing for eight more by the end of this month. I've had the privilege of leading our catechism class three times, and each time I've been so impressed by the caliber of our young people. I've preached 140 sermons, including sermon series on our mission statement, the Great Ends of the Church, and the End Times. I've also preached through the books of Philemon, James, Romans, Jonah, and Acts. In Bible Study, we have studied the books of Judges, Ruth, Matthew, 1-2 Kings, and are soon to finish up Ephesians. We've read books together for summer studies, and have spent times examining the spiritual disciplines. We've hosted two incredibly successful evangelism seminars, and have participated in our city's Hope Over Heroin campaign. You've allowed me to begin a new degree program which has radically blessed our ministry together. And in the midst of it all, I have seen God at work in the lives of His people. I have seen young people and old people, men and women, long-time members and new folks all grow in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Being a pastor can be a challenging job, to be sure, and it is certainly a lot of hard work – but, oh, there is nothing quite like the joy of seeing God at work among His people!

And for this, my friends – for *all* of this – I give thanks. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor these three years. I am excited to see what our next three years together will hold! But above all – thanks be to God for His indescribable gifts, His glorious grace, and for His love for us through His Son, Jesus Christ! To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love, *Joshua*



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2am Sunday, November 1. "Fall Back", or you'll be an hour early to Sunday School and Worship!



Election Day is Tuesday, November 3 this year. As Christians, we are called to be responsible citizens of our nation, and to use all the power and influence we have for the glory of God. So remember – vote!



Presbytery Meeting Tuesday, November 10 at 5:00 pm at Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati.



Our next **Tea or Coffee With the Pastor** will be held from 2-4pm on **Wednesday, November 11**. We will meet again at the Coffee Peddler in downtown Harrison (112 Harrison Avenue). Come for good fellowship, good conversation, good hot beverages, and for a chance to ask any question you want! All are welcome!



Prayer Meeting
Our next monthly prayer meeting is Saturday, November 14 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!



There will be a **Special Session meeting** after the 10:45 worship service on **Sunday, November 15** in the Conference Room. We will be examining the students of our catechism class and hearing their statements of faith as they seek to become members of the church. Those students will then make their professions of faith in worship on **Sunday, November 22**.



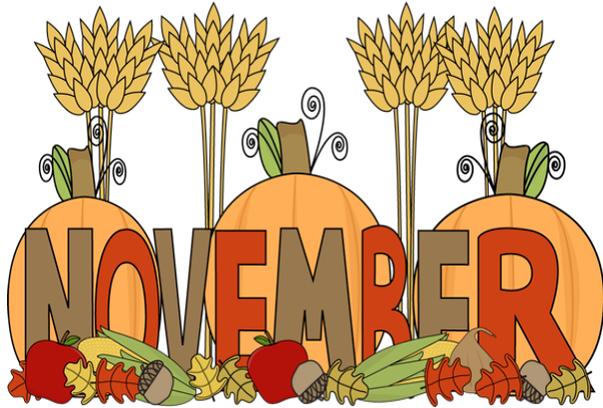
We will have our annual **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 22 after the second worship service for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons, and for reviewing the pastor's annual terms of call.

All active members are encouraged to participate.

2¢ A MEAL NOVEMBER. 8

You can place your donations in the gold pots located at both entrances to the sanctuary. Thanks for your donation to feed the hungry.





Birthdays

- 1 Ryan Green, Charlie Steuver
- 3 Jamie Pitstick, Aaron Arel
- 4 Ginny Thiele, Kelsi Unroe
- 5 Hannah Moul, Jeff Watts, Kristy Kathman
- 6 Gloria Culley
- 9 Olivia Steuver, Ryan Doerzbacher
- 15 Joshua Long
- 18 Marci Biddle, Sara Findlay
- 21 Lisa Steuver, Laura Ventre, Alexis Hasenohr
- 24 Pamela Coleman
- 27 Doug Jones, Terren Frenz, Kari Unroe,
Stephen Bybee, Gerald Steelman, Sr.
- 29 Elle Ventre
- 30 Meg Doerzbacher, Gerri Heineman

BAKERS: Reta Crone, Belinda Moul, Marilyn Rueger



FELLOWSHIP TABLE 2016 SIGN-UP: Special invitation to the men of the church – you are also included in this request! It's time to sign up for the Fellowship Table for next year. Remember, this is a NO STRESS activity. It can be home-made or store brought. Set-up time is around 10:15 and you will be responsible for staying after the 10:45 service to clean up. You are usually gone by 12:30 at the latest.

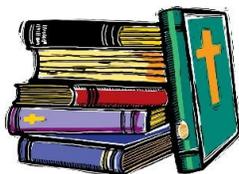
If you have specific weeks or months that you are NOT available, please let Pat know (202-9409 or email patscheer838@gmail.com) before the list for 2016 is sent out. If after the list is distributed, please try to switch with someone if you cannot provide for your assigned date. Hopefully, you will only need to do the table two times a year.

If you are interested in proving drinks for the children, please let Pat know. Any donations of cups, napkins, plates, coffee supplies are always welcome.

Thanks for signing up! *Pat Scheer and Shirley Fury*



The Church office will be closed November 26 for Thanksgiving.
Gobble, Gobble!



The **Pastor's Bible Study** continues! Come join us each Monday at 7pm in the Conference Room for a relaxed, informative Bible Study! We are finishing up the Book of Ephesians, and will soon begin the Book of Galatians. All are welcome!

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Interested in going to Matthew 25? Plan to meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am on **Monday, November 23.**



News from the WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



“FILL THE CHANCEL” The Mission Committee is sponsoring the annual “Fill the Chancel” tradition on Sunday, November 22. We are asking the congregation to bring bagsful of non-perishable foods, in addition to personal items and cleaning supplies on this date. The committee will then distribute the bags, as well as a ham paid for from 2 cents a Meal funds, to families in the community. The names of families are supplied by the schools.

Bags with a list of suggested items will be distributed on November 8. Look for reminders in upcoming bulletins.

STUFF SALE RESULTS

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make this past Stuff Sale a success. Because of your hard work and many donations, we were able to make \$2,436.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM TRABEL for setting up all the tables on the Sunday before the sale.

All leftover donations were taken to an area in Kentucky where they will hopefully be used to benefit the people there. Thanks again to all who helped out!

Many THANKS to all the ladies who recently cut out and sewed/pressed Christmas stockings. They will be filled and given to “Head Start” kids in the Southwest School District.

The November 5 Women’s Association meeting will be a special one for the annual “Thank Offering”. All women of the church are invited. The meeting/lunch begins at noon.



Love Thy Neighbor Mission 12 Months of Giving

The Mission committee is extending the October “Love Thy Neighbor” project through the month of November.

During these months, Missions is supporting Reach Out Pregnancy. Their purpose is to “Save a Life of a Child, Transform ‘At Risk’ Families into Thriving Families, Bring the Gospel to the Parents, To Do It Again Tomorrow!”

In order to best assist our mission partner, we are asking the congregation to donate baby formula (all types; just check expiration date), baby wipes and **larger** size diapers and pull-ups.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. Be sure to join us in worship as we again prepare to worship Christ the Newborn King!



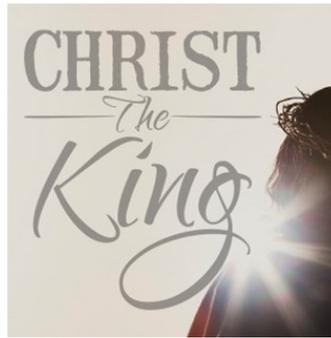
The holidays will be here before we know it and I have a couple of dates for your calendar. I will be taking the **Cherub Choir** to

Shawneespring to sing for the residents on Saturday, December 5 at 10:30am. Following our visit, I'll take the children to McDonalds.

Additionally, our annual **Christmas Program** will be held on December 6 at 6:30pm here at church.

If you have any questions regarding these upcoming events, please call me at 367-9783. *Thanks, Phyllis Wolf*

Snow Removal Help Needed - As winter approaches, we need to plan for the weather that comes with it. We must make sure the church building is safe to enter and exit. Facilities is asking for people to help remove snow and ice and spread salt in the parking lot and walkways around the building. We will have the shovels and salt in an accessible location. This is not just for Sunday mornings but for other activities during the week. Please contact Doug Jones or Marcia Merse if you're available to help.



Sunday, November 22 is **Christ the King Sunday**, the final Sunday in the Church liturgical year. Be sure to come join us as we worship Christ, our King of kings and Lord of lords!



There will be a **HEALING SERVICE** in the chapel after the 10:45 service on **November 29**. All who wish to receive anointing, the laying on of hands and prayers for healing are welcome.

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.



Speaking of snow...look for Worship and Sunday School cancellations and delays at the following TV channels & websites. You can also check the Church's Facebook page for updates.

- WCPO – Channel 9

www.wcpo.com/

closingsadmin

- WKRC

– Channel 12

www.schoolwatch.com





Just \$1.92 provides a complete meal (and more) for one homeless person. Can you spare \$1.92?

The City Gospel Mission is expected to serve over 31,000 hearty meals to hungry and homeless men, women and children during the autumn months. When you give a gift

of any size, you are helping to provide meals, shelter, and life-changing services to the homeless and hurting in Cincinnati.

If you drop off \$1.92 to the office, Kristy will collect the money and make a one-time contribution to City Gospel for their annual Thanksgiving campaign. Kristy is hoping to collect \$99.84 (52 people donating \$1.92) by November. 22.

THOUGHTS and PRAYERS for our CHURCH FAMILY

Our Shut-ins

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



For health needs

Lou Rozmarynowski
Gene Steelman
Georgia Dwelly
Louanna Smith
Bennie Pierson
Hester Konkle
Janet Coakley
Russell Taylor
Jerry Frances
Ellen Puckett
Carter Jones
Nomi Taylor
Jane Poland
Earl Dwelly
Diane Arel
Jean Vest

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;
Bill & Sherry Schlager: for his brother and sister's health;
Ted & Janet Coakley: for their granddaughter's, her sister's & his brother's health



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.*