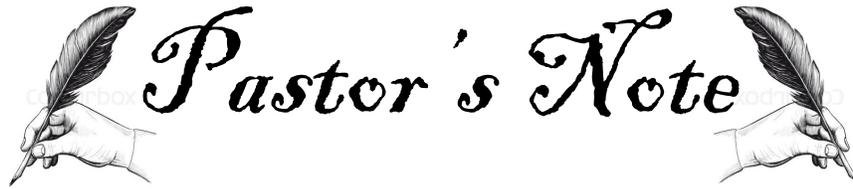


The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2015



Pastor's Note

From the Pastor – It's the End of the World as We Know It – And I Feel Fine.

This month, I will begin a sermon series on the End Times – on the Scriptures that talk about the last days, the last things, the coming Day of the Lord. I thought that in this space, as an introduction, I could introduce a few points here that we will be studying.

1.) We know the end of the story. God's already told us how things are going to pan out – and the Good News is: He wins! Good triumphs over evil. Sin and death are utterly defeated. (See especially Revelation 18-21). That is our hope, and our assurance, my friends! In every Scripture that talks about the End Times, God is absolutely clear: this is all heading toward a victory for God and His people. We don't need to be afraid! To paraphrase the immortal words of the band REM: When the end of the world as we know it finally does come, we can feel absolutely fine!

2.) Nevertheless, there are tough times ahead. Before it gets better, it's going to get worse for those who believe in Jesus. There is a Great Tribulation to come – several books of the Bible talk about this, but we see it especially in Matthew 24. These passages all talk about a time of great pain and upheaval that will come upon the earth. The Church will be greatly persecuted by the world, which will become captivated by evil. God will also release His final judgments upon the earth, which will have cosmic repercussions.

3.) Our task is to be ready, and to persevere. Jesus tells many parables about our need to be prepared for what is to come, such as the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids in Matthew 25. He calls us to be ready, and to know the signs of the end of the age – to study His teachings, and to pay attention to what is going on in the world. There is no excuse for being caught unready or unaware; He has told us what to expect! Moreover, in the tough times that are to come, we are called to stay strong in our faith: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved”, He says (Matthew 24:13, ESV).

4.) A great reckoning is coming. Most of us have a natural aversion to the idea of there being a Great Judgment to come. In the West, we have been subtly taught that judgment is always bad – that we should be willing to accept and tolerate almost anything. The Bible teaches no such thing, however. The Scriptures teach over and over that in the end, we all will have to go before God to give an account of how we have lived our lives. Jesus teaches that we will be judged for every word we have said (see Matthew 12:36-37). He also teaches that we will be held accountable for our stewardship of all God has given us, and by how we have treated “the least of these” (see Matthew 25:14-46). On the face of it, this is bad news for all people – but for those who are in Christ, for those who have put their trust in Jesus, and have been united to Him in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have nothing to fear, for when we stand before the throne of God, we will be judged not by our deeds, but by the deeds of Jesus Himself, and by what He has done for us on the cross. And that is incredibly Good News! It is also incredibly Good News that evil will finally be judged and cut off – all the wrongs that are being done in the world will finally be made right. In the words of J.R.R. Tolkien, “everything sad will come untrue”. Nevertheless, we should never grow complacent, for the Scriptures also teach that how we live matters, and that there will be heavenly rewards given for the deeds we do for the Lord (1 Corinthians 3:11-14, Revelation 22:12).

5.) All things will be made new. In the end, after sin, death and evil have finally been defeated, all things are going to be made new (Revelation 21:5). There will be a new heavens and a new earth (Revelation 21). We will be given new resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15), and there will be a new Jerusalem (Revelation 21). Scholars argue as to whether this means that all things will be wiped out, with an utterly new creation, or if this heavens and earth will simply be renewed and refined – but in the end, the result will be the same: all things will be fresh, clean and new. All things will finally be restored to the way they were before sin came into the world – and we will dwell forever with Jesus. Scripture teaches that we will help Jesus rule the world – that we will join with Him in His sovereign administration of His realm. (2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 5:10, 17; 20:6). We will have good work to do! Hallelujah!

I could say much more about all these things, but I think this gives us a good head start on our coming sermon series. God has given us a sneak peak of what is to come! I look forward to studying what He has to say with you!

To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,
Joshua



COFFEE & tea
WITH THE PASTOR

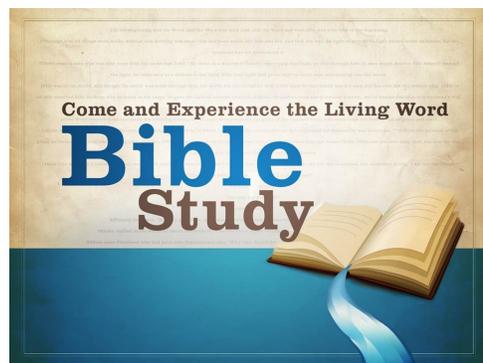
Our next **Tea or Coffee With the Pastor** will be held from 2-4pm on Wednesday, September 16. (Please note – this is now on the 3rd Wednesday of the month!) We will meet again at the Coffee Peddler in downtown Harrison (112 Harrison

Avenue). Come for good fellowship, good conversation, good hot beverages, and for a chance to ask any question you want! All are welcome!



The Session will be hosting a **Town Hall Meeting** after the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, September 20 in SonRise Hall. The purpose will be to introduce the Fellowship Community, and to answer any questions about this group we have joined. A light lunch will be provided. All are encouraged to attend!

For more information, see one of the ruling elders.



The **Pastor's Bible Study** is back! Have you been missing our weekly studies of Scripture on Mondays? Or are you perhaps looking for a new way to dig into God's Word, or to get closer to Him? Come join us beginning Monday, September 14 at 7pm in the Conference Room for a relaxed, informative Bible Study! We will begin with Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All are welcome!



The Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. Normal office hours (9am – 1pm) will resume the following day.

Dear Rev. Long,

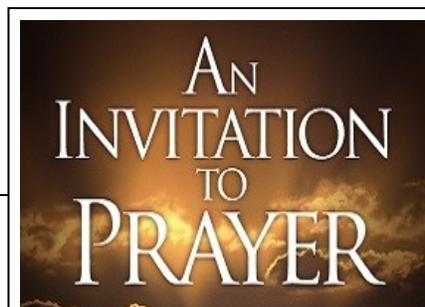
My father, Alvin Sigafus, served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in your community during a portion of the forty-year period of his ministry, from 1951-1991. Since his retirement, he and my mother, Phyllis, have moved to northwest Illinois, the area of their birth, where they have continued their service to their community and their Lord. They will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on September 29. If you feel appropriate, would you please share this information with your congregations? Our family has very fond memories of each and every church where my parents have served, and I know they would appreciate this opportunity to share this very special event with the church families who were such an important part of their lives. God has given them many long years together,



and we feel very blessed and privileged by this gift. Thank you in advance for allowing me this opportunity to share our family's joy with members of your church.

Sincerely, Lydia (Sigafus) Hurst

Rev. Alvin and Phyllis Sigafus
PO Box 44
Apple River, IL 61001
(815) 594-2518



Prayer Meeting – Our next monthly prayer meeting is Saturday, September 12 at 11 am in the chapel. Please join us as we lift up our congregation, our leaders, our nation, and other needs in prayer! All are welcome!



Plans are underway for an adult mission trip to Buckhorn, KY. Unlike in years past, we will not stay as long and the projects will be smaller (which means the work will be easier!) We will stay at the state park lodge with a much lower quoted daily rate than previous years. The dates for this year's trip are October 5-8. Please contact Dick Morris (367-5416) for more information.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY BAKERS:
Amy, Deana, Marcia

- 5 Leah Craft
- 6 Art Wolfram
- 7 Jean Gibbs
- 8 Nancy Wolfram, Stuart Gibbs, Carol Barnes
- 9 Anne Troy
- 10 Kristoffer Thiele
- 11 Mark Wolfram
- 15 Abby Sebastian
- 17 Taaron Meyers
- 18 Molly Hasenohr, Tim Frenz
- 21 Elaine Burkey
- 22 Carol Longhauser, Grant Meyers, William Doepker IV
- 23 Lana Bybee
- 25 Beth Snape, Nancy Francis, Kelly Thiele, Olivia Pitstick, Rachel Hockl
- 27 Christopher Unroe
- 30 Connor Findlay

Quote to Ponder...

"He who testifies to these things say, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" ~ (Revelation 22:20, ESV).



"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!



Pastor Long will be on vacation in North Canton from September 2-7. If you have a pastoral care emergency during this time, please call the church office. Also, be sure to come worship with us on Sunday, September 6, to hear Elder Fred Burkey preach. **Please note - the 8:30 service will NOT BE HELD this day and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will not be celebrated during the 10:45 service.**

News from the **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

The Women's Association will take their annual Fall trip on September 3.

Part of the trip will involve lunch at Riley's on Rt. 4, Springfield Pike.

Meet in the church parking lot at 11:00am. All ladies of the church are welcome!



Time line for The Women's Association Fall "Big Stuff Sale"

Sunday, October 4 after 10:45 service:

NEED VOLUNTEERS to help set up
tables in Sunrise Hall.

Monday - Thursday, October 5-8 from 9:30-3:30:

Drop off your "Stuff" and if you can,
stay to help sort and price.

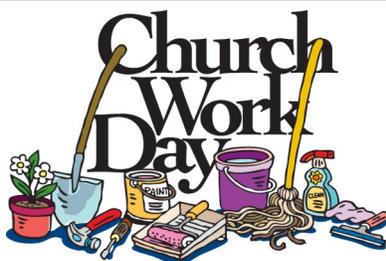
Friday, October 9 from 9:00 - 3:00 - STUFF SALE IS ON!

Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 - 1:00 - STUFF SALE IS ON!

Saturday, October 4 at 1:00: NEED VOLUNTEERS to help bag and box left over items.

Please see June if you have questions and

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING IN YOUR "STUFF"
UNTIL THE ASSIGNED DATES! THANKS!**



The Facilities Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in our (inside) Church Clean-Up Days. We'll be washing walls and windows throughout the first floor. We hope you can lend a hand at 9am either Thursday, September 10 or Thursday, September 17.

Quote to Ponder...

"After this, I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out:

'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory,

For the marriage of the Lamb has come,

And His Bride has made herself ready;

It was granted her to clothe herself

With fine linen, bright and pure."

(Revelation 19:6b-8a, ESV).





Catechism Class Parents' Meeting:

Beginning in October, the pastor will again be offering a Catechism Class for junior high and high school aged youth of the church. All parents and youth in this age group are encouraged to attend a brief parents' meeting after the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, September 27 in the library. The format and responsibilities of the class will be discussed. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Long at the church office (367 4301).



Stewardship Committee meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in church library. The Stewardship committee encourages the congregation to give generously in response to

God's grace, and assists the congregation in exploring its gifts, talents and resources in order to support the mission of the church. The committee works with Session to develop the annual budget, manages and advises on the finances of the church and runs the annual pledge campaign.

Outreach Committee meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in parlor. Outreach is not just about adding numbers to our membership roles. It is about introducing people to the Word of God. It is about being good examples of what it means to live a Christian life. The committee organizes fellowship type events or opportunities and organizes Christian based seminars/events. The committee works with other church committees as Outreach touches all things we do within our church or in our church's name.

The Women's Association is a group of ladies from our church who get together for nine meetings during the year. At these meetings, we plan for our fund raisers (mainly the annual Sauerkraut Luncheon in February and the Stuff Sales in April and October.) We use the income to purchase needed items for the church or provide funds for activities at church. We also like to have fun so we have a picnic in June, a Christmas celebration in December, and try to make two trips to an interesting location. All women who attend our church are welcome to join us at any of these meetings or activities. (We are also a part of the larger Presbyterian Women's Association.)



5K Run / Walk for Life

Sunday, September 27 at 3pm
Miami Whitewater Forest
Please join us!
For more info:
(513) 367-7710
reachoutpregnancy.com

If you have an article or event you would like featured in the **October Evangel**, please submit them to Kristy by **September 21**. You can leave a note in her mailbox or email her at kkathman@harrisonpresbyterian.com



PRESBYTERY
will meet on Tuesday,
September 8 at 5pm
at St. John's
Westminster Union
Church.



**MATTHEW 25
MINISTRIES**
If you are interested in
going to Matthew 25,
please meet in the church
parking lot at 9:00 am
on **Monday, Sept. 28.**

Quote to Ponder...

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man". ~ (Matthew 24:36-39, ESV)

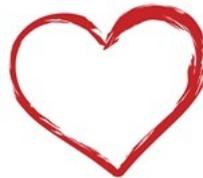


Kroger Community Rewards Update:

For the period of May 1 - July 31, we had 48 households supporting our church and the check for this period was for \$591.78. To date we have collected \$15,398.42. Please contact Reta Crone at 367-4917 with questions or help with signing up.

Love Thy Neighbor Mission 12 Months of Giving

The Mission committee is grateful for our generous congregation's response to our monthly "Love Thy Neighbor" missions. With your help, the July "Meet Up, Eat Up, Read Up" mission brought in 63 cereal boxes and 20 half-gallons of milk for the students at Miamitown Elementary. HOW AMAZING IS THAT?!



**LOVE THY
NEIGHBOR
PROJECT**

For September, Missions will be supporting the youth of our church with their food drive. Next month however, we'll return to business as usual as our Love Thy Neighbor projects looks to assist Reach Out Pregnancy. More information regarding what we're hoping to collect will be announced in future bulletins/October Evangel.

Thank you for your continued support of our 12 MONTHS OF GIVING!

PROVERBS 22:9 FOOD DRIVE

- It's time to prepare for the 3rd annual Proverbs 22:9 Food Drive. Our local food pantries run low on food during the months of September and October, so the church youth plan to collect and deliver non perishable food items to Love Inc and the North Dearborn food pantry each week during the month of September. Starting on Sunday, September 6 and ending on Sunday, September 27, the Youth Connection and Frogs would like to challenge the congregation to a friendly competition of collecting the most non perishable food items each week. This will be a month long food drive to support our community food pantries. There will be two large collection containers located in Faith Hall each Sunday for everyone to collect non perishable food items before or after church services. All items will be counted and delivered once a week to Love Inc and the North Dearborn food pantry. The youth will announce the totals each week to see who has collected the most items. Please join this friendly competition to help our neighbors in need.



~ Sincerely, Youth Connection, Frogs and parents

Goodbye August

Hello September



**CHURCH
ONLINE**

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.

Mark your calendars! On Monday, October 5, the Outreach Committee will be hosting Rev. Russell Smith, pastor of Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, for a wonderful evening event on the nuts and bolts of doing evangelism. We hope all will be able to attend. (Note: Rev. Smith and Covenant-First Presbyterian are also members of The Fellowship Community!)



Join Love INC for their annual Gourmet Dessert Tasting on Friday, September 25 at Miami Whitewater United Methodist Church on Dry Fork Rd. Doors open at 6:00 pm for raffles with the dessert tasting beginning at 7:00. Tickets for “all you care to eat of fabulous homemade desserts” are \$15 (drinks included). Raffle items include two quilts, several gift baskets, desserts from area bakeries and restaurants, along with some mums. It's a fun date night, ladies night out, or just a great night to socialize with friends! (Age 16 and over.) Seating is limited so purchase your tickets ahead of time by sending your check payable to Love INC, PO Box 607, Harrison, OH 45030. THANKS!



Llanfair
Retirement
Community

Llanfair Retirement Community has several workshops coming up on topics that may interest you. Below is a brief description of a few. Please see the Fellowship bulletin board for flyers with more information.

Pastoral Training: We have two programs schedule that would greatly benefit your pastoral teams, as well as the general public. On September 29, we have a program, *Spark Your Visit and Their Interest*, where you will be trained on how to make the most of visiting those with dementia, Alzheimer's and other memory-related impairments. The second program, beginning November 10, is a three-part series *Memory Maker, You Are the Key* on how to serve, minister, visit with and help a loved one with memory-related challenges. And Llanfair has a team in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's event that is coming up October 3. Any help you can spread the word about this crucial fundraiser is important to share. The flyers are included with this email.

Financial Workshop: We are hosting a free day-long financial workshop for women only. *Taking Control, a Financial Workshop Just for Women* is set for September 22. We would love you to promote this as well in your church bulletins...it's especially good information for those who are single, widowed, divorced or new to handling finances. All these experts are offering education for free to help us plan better for our financial futures.

Other programs of fun and interest coming up:

Two Part History Program *Those Daring Young Men and Women and Their Flying Machines*, and *WWII on the Air, and Changing the World Forever*

We are again the west side location for **OLLI**, the Lifelong Learning Institute at UC. Friday classes begin here at Llanfair in late September. Course Catalogues can be found online or at your local library branch.

We are hosting a series of Brunches for small church groups of 20-30 here on the campus to learn about Llanfair and what we offer for older adults. I'm currently scheduling for the fall and winter. It's a good informal way to come as a group and learn about a day in the life at Llanfair. Please contact me if you'd like to bring your church group here!

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Our Shut-Ins

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



“BLESSED BE
GOD,
WHO HAS NOT TURNED
AWAY MY PRAYER,
NOR HIS MERCY FROM ME!”
PSALM 66:20

For Health Needs

Gene Steelman
Georgia Dwelly
Louanna Smith
Bennie Pierson
Hester Konkle
Janet Coakley
Russell Taylor
Ellen Puckett
Elaine Harris
Jim Mendell
Nomi Taylor
Carter Jones
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;
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.

