SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

IT IS HERE AT LAST…

As of September 22, autumn has finally arrived. And arrived it did with blue skies and cooler temperatures! While driving around or just walking through your neighborhood, one can see that the leaves are starting to change. So get out and enjoy it while you can because as we all know—it won't last!

WORK DAY SCHEDULE(S)

It is difficult for one or two persons to keep our church and grounds looking nice. Because of this a couple of work days have been scheduled so that all can lend a hand. The first Work Day is **Tuesday, September 30th**. The plan is to start at 5:00 p.m., but you most definitely can get started earlier! (Because it will be dark before 7:00 and weed pulling and other yard work needs to be done.)

You might want to bring any garden tools you think will be needed and definitely work gloves as there is a lot of thistle out there. Work will also be done inside, so there should be something for everybody to do.

Following our time of labor will be a meal provided by Mary Jane Johnson. So if the thought of working doesn't entice you to come, then perhaps Mary Jane's cooking will. ☺

If a second date is needed, we will meet again on Thursday, October 2nd to complete the work we started that Tuesday. At the end of that day of labor, we will order out pizza or something. (If you can't make the 30th, but planned to work on the 2nd, then please contact a session member to see if we are going to be working that day. Session members—Lori Lewis, Mary Jane, Jim Grant, Nathan Null, Kris Reeser, Claudia Ulavege. Along with Pastors Penny and Mike and Mike Johnson.)

HARVEST FEST & WIENER ROAST

Because we want to celebrate another great year of our community garden, what better way than to have a wiener roast and festival?! This will all take place on Sunday, October 12th beginning at 5:00 p.m. The invitation that is going out to those that we have helped or have been involved. Your invitation is included in this edition of the *Silo Soundings Newsletter.* Even if you weren't able to work in the garden, you are a part of this church, so you were involved, ☺

Please try to come and bring a dish or two to share.

SPEAKING OF OUR GARDEN…

When Session last met on September 8th, Lori and Mike J. reported that 3,420.75 pounds of produce had made it to the tables of those in need. WOW, that's a lot of veggies!!! They had a record day in mid-August of 324 pounds. Knowing Mike and Lori, you could just see the wheels turning and thoughts of beating those numbers next year.

There is still some late season produce in the garden and then there will be the final clean up that will need to be done. (If not, disease and pests can overwinter in the garden and then affect next year's plantings.) Some dates are still listed on the church calendar, but more may be needed and of course starting times will need to be changed. Please contact Lori or Mike J for further information, or listen to announcements at the beginning of the service on Sundays.

ACRES AND ACRES OF MOSTLY GRASS

All of our summer rains certainly helped produce a bounty of fresh vegetables, but it also produced lots and lots of grass to mow… and mow…and mow! Max McCammon and Andy Ulavege have been real troopers getting out there and trying to keep the church's yard looking nice. It wasn't easy as many mower dates had to be rescheduled due to the rains. Jim Grant even took a turn or two when asked to be a vacation replacement. Thanks guys…we know it wasn't always easy, but "you done good!"

Not only the guys, but our gal Ann Evans was out there many a hot day trying to keep order in our landscaping. She planted, pulled, snipped and watered as much as possible while dealing with a bum knee. A big thank you goes out to you too Ann.! ☺

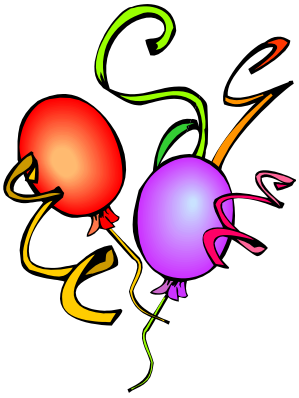
MOVIE NIGHT

The pastor at Washington Presbytery recently contacted Lori Lewis about the two churches getting together for a movie night. Pastor Becky Weltman mentioned Sunday, October 19th with the movie "Hocus Pocus" as the possible choice. Because we have the big screen, we'll see if they'd like to have it at The Barn with us making the popcorn (we have a popcorn maker) and they could provide the drinks.

We'll keep you know if this will take place via emails, announcements, and phone calls. Sounds like fun—hope it happens!

CHAIRS, CHAIRS, CHAIRS, CHAIRS…

We are getting a step closer to changing the seating in the sanctuary from pews to chairs. Some samples of chairs have been arriving and are currently located in the Fellowship Room. Please take the time to tush test them. Once the final chair has been chosen, then the color will be selected.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

October 2—Dick Stribley
October 13—Denny White
October 23—Edna Johnson
October 25—Steve Reeser
Kathy Voekler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

October 5—Jean & Bill Turney

NOVEMBER SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

Don't forget to have articles in to Claudia for the November issue of the *Silo Soundings Newsletter* by Wednesday, October 22nd.

YUMMMMMMM

The recipe on the back of Pastor Penny's page is from Edna Johnson. Edna recently brought these scrumptious Caramel Apple Cheesecake Bars to serve during Fellowship Hour. Needless to say they were a big hit!

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Linda Harbaugh—as she works to stay on the road to recovery.
John Harbaugh—for continued strength and patience as he deals with Linda's health issues and his own health issues.
Dick Stribley**--for good health as he lives at Restmor.
Ruth Bassett**--as she deals with her health at Morton Terrace.
Dorothy Williams**--for continued good health while living at Brandon Wood.
Lois and Gary Mort—for improved health for both of them.
Dorothy and Pete Vallosio—for continued good health.
Barb Necessary—to stay healthy and pain free.
Mike Claver—for continued healing and patience.
Ann Evans—for healing after she has knee replacement surgery on September 2nd.

**Our members in Morton nursing homes and senior residences would enjoy a visit from you as they are no longer able to get to church on Sundays. ☺

Winter, spring, summer, and fall are God's seasons. I have always been a big fan of spring and winter and not too fond of summer and fall. But lately I have changed. I think it is something about those leaves of red, orange, yellow, and burgundy that fall from the trees. I feel as if I have noticed them for the very first time.

I like taking a ride and watching people setting out pumpkins in the yard with hay bales and planting mums in the yard. I am looking forward to getting some lavender and yellow mums myself for my yard and a few pumpkins.

The other day, one of my friends and I went to visit a friend who has been ill, and in her neighborhood, we noticed many yards decorated for fall. I don't remember seeing this too much in the past. Have I missed this season all these years, or is it just that as I get older I appreciate God's world just a little more?

The latter is what I concluded. The Bible says, "This is day that the Lord hath made, and I will rejoice in it." Each day He has given me beauty to enjoy, so I think I should sit back and take in this glorious creation.

God is the best artist in the world, for only He can create such different themes. We see many artists that try to capture the seasons on their canvases by painting what they see around them, and they do a wonderful job. However, neither picture nor paint could ever replace the real thing splashed across the sky and spilled over the earth like the Master's display of His finest artwork. God's creativity is unmatched, for every day is different, just like every snowflake in winter.

When people say there is no God, I know they do not see with eyes like mine. They must see a plain, white canvas or a black drop cloth and not the blue skies that fade into light pink in the evening. Nor do they see the flowers that no paint on any artist's palate could attempt to match or the trees that were each given a certain color leaf to change into when autumn arrives. 'No God,' they say. It is just that they do not know the Master of the seasons, the One who has created such magnificent displays of perfect art.

Instead of always looking forward to the summer and springtime, I have decided to enjoy the Master's autumn masterpiece for the rest of my life.

Psalm 147:4, 8, 16-18 (NIV)
[4] He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.
[8] He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

[16] He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.
[17] He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?
[18] He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow

Pastor Penny

Caramel Apple Cheesecake Bars

Recipe from Edna Johnson

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Crust:
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

In a medium bowl, combine flour and brown sugar. Cut in butter with a pastry blender (or 2 forks) until mixture is crumbly. Press evenly into a 9x13 baking pan lined with heavy-duty aluminum foil. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cheesecake Filling:
3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
3/4-cup sugar
3 large eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with sugar in an electric mixer at medium speed until smooth. Then add eggs, 1 at a time, and vanilla. Stir to combine. Pour over warm crust.

Apples:
3 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and finely chopped
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2-teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4-teaspoon ground nutmeg

In a small bowl, stir together chopped apples, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Spoon apples evenly over cream cheese mixture.

Streusel Topping:
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1-cup all-purpose flour
1/2-cup quick cooking oats
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened

In a small bowl, combine all ingredients. I like to really combine it by using my clean hands to thoroughly combine the butter into the mixture.

Sprinkle evenly over apples. Bake 40-45 minutes, or until filling is set. Drizzle with caramel topping and let cool. Serve cold and enjoy!

To celebrate another successful year in the garden,

you are invited to our first annual

Harvest Fest and Wiener Roast at the Barn!

Sunday October 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Morton First Pres Church ~ 1020 E. Jackson Street in Morton

Ada's Acre has hosted new families this year along with those who have been with us from the beginning. We have delivered thousands of pounds of vegetables to WeCare, Community Harvest Food Pantry and many families in the Morton community. So many of you have come to help ~ and your help does make a difference!

If you want, bring a dish to share ~ we will be featuring dishes made from vegetables grown in the garden! Hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks will be provided.