

January 2018 SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER



CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

Sometimes we need to cancel our church service for the safety of our members. This can be due to snow, extreme cold, or other events Mother Nature or mankind presents us with. When this happens, Session members send out emails, text messages, and or phone calls to our church members and those that attend our services.

Just recently we had to do this for the last service in December. If you did not receive notification of the cancellation, then please let Claudia Ulavege or someone on Session (Lori Lewis, Mary Jane & Mike Johnson, Jim Grant, or Andy Ulavege) know. We try to keep our contact list up to date, but sometimes phone numbers or email addresses change. When this happens, it is important to let one of the above know—especially Claudia who has the master list in her computer.

Just remember that if you have any doubt about a church service or church event being held due to the weather or other reasons (like power outages), then check your emails, text messages, and or phone messages. Thank you!



RETIRING OF THE GREENS

What goes up must come down. Now that Advent season is behind us, we need to put those decorations away. We plan to do this after the service on Sunday, January 7th. We hope you'll be able to stay and help. Taking the trees, wreaths, greenery, and Advent candles down goes much faster than putting them up it seems-- especially if we have a lot of help! 😊



SOUP AND GAME NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 27th. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. we will be holding an All Church Soup and Game Night! There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship room as certain items will be needed to make this a successful evening. Things like soups, chili, cheese, cracker, bread or rolls, snacks, sweets, etc. will be needed. Plus we'd like you to bring some of your favorite games for us to play after we warm up with some soup. 😊 In the past we have gotten some big groups playing Trivial Pursuit (women vs. men) along with Mexican Train Dominos, Chess, cards, etc.

So sign up and join us for an evening of food, fun and good Christian fellowship. If you forget to sign up, just show up anyway! Guests are welcome too! And if you're an "early to bed person," don't worry, we're usually finished by 9:00! 😊

COMMITTEE REPORTS

This is a reminder to all Session members to get their committee reports in to Lori by Sunday, January 14th. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The reports mentioned above will be presented to you, the congregation, at the Congregational Meeting which will be held after the church service on Sunday, January 28th. Also included in that meeting will be the treasurer's report on the state of our church financially during the past year and projections for 2018. The report along with a budget for 2018 (Yes State of Illinois & U.S. Government, WE have a budget!). All of this has been

diligently prepared by our treasurer, Mike Johnson. Mike has done an excellent job as our treasurer over many years for which we are extremely grateful!

So plan to attend church that Sunday and stay afterwards for the meeting. These meetings don't take too long so you'll still have time to have a cup of coffee and a cookie or two before you need to leave to go home.



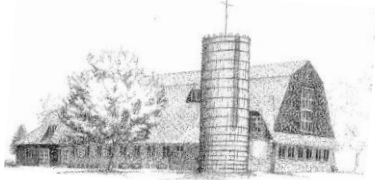
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

January 2—Dorothy Vallosio
January 3—Nancy Campbell
January 18—Pete Vallosio
January 24—Andy Ulavege
January 27—Nick Reeser
January 31—Gary Mort



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

January 17—Teri & Denny White



OUR CHURCH

After reading Pastor Mike's page which was written on December 27th, one can see that we will be without his services for a while. Your elders on session will be meeting on the 8th to discuss how our church and members will be taken care of during this time. It may not always be easy, but as a church family we will get through it. I'm sure that all of you feel that the main thing to work on is to help Mike and Helen get through their recovery. Doing this with prayer and helping where needed are some of the ways. Mike has always been there for us and so it's now our turn to be there for him and Helen.



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen & Mike Claver—as they recover from their car accident.
Lois & Gary Mort—for better health for both of them.
Linda Harbaugh—to get healthy again.
John Harbaugh—continued recovering from successful shoulder surgery.
Edna Johnson—for her strength to return now that chemo is behind her.
Dorothy & Pete Vallosio—for continued good health with more energy and strength.
Barb Necessary—for pain free health.

FEBRUARY SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

Don't forget to have any information you want in February's newsletter to Claudia by Sunday, January 28th. To help everyone be informed, we need to have it in the Silo!



WINTER

Winter can throw a lot of things your way—like snow and freezing weather. Take time though to enjoy it. Cuddle up in an afghan with a hot cup of coffee (or tea or hot cocoa) and read a good book. Or you can learn a new hobby, or call an old friend, or get a bird feeder and watch the action that takes place at it. You could also plan your garden, volunteer, visit at a nursing home. The ideas are endless and because things slow down after the rush of the holidays, we have that time to try some of these ideas and or others. Yes, this season can be more than cold and snow—it's just up to you!

In An Instant

I've always known that our lives can be changed in the blink of an eye. By now, I think you all know My bride and I were involved in a high speed, head-on collision last Thursday evening on our way to the school's Christmas Concert. Unfortunately, I remember in great detail, everything that happened from just before the collision until they rolled us through the ER doors. From there, I've lost the memory of the past few days.

As best I could, I've tried to keep in touch on Facebook and text messages. To bring you up to speed on our progress:

Helen is recovering from a broken arm, four broken ribs, and a broken vertebra in her neck. It's a "non-displaced fracture" for which we are grateful. She's grounded for the next 3-6 months to let her internal organs heal. All in all, she is doing amazingly well, up walking around, and looking her always beautiful self.

I'm doing well. I've been allowed to have more time to be a husband, father, grandfather, preacher, teacher, firefighter, writer, singer, dancer (wait I'm not a dancer). Both of my knees were sprained, both shoulders sprained, and have what they call a "bow fracture of my lower left leg. I'm told that's what happens when the bone bends outward but doesn't break. I also have a deep bone bruise on the bottom of my right foot. And to top things off, a concussion.

Having served on a fire department for the past 36 years, I can tell you that I have removed people no longer among the living from far less serious accidents. There is no scientific explanation why we all (us and the other driver) survived this accident. I felt the hand of God with each of us as strangers came to our aid in that grassy field, and in our hospital rooms. The doctors, nurses, and technicians were called to their professions for just such an encounter.

God puts us into each other's lives for those special moments when we need each other.

In the days, weeks, and months, to come, please remember how important you and your family is to me and my family. Many of you stopped by or sent lovely messages. Those have great lasting healing powers for Helen and me.

As I said, in the blink of an eye, it can all change.

Grace and Peace,

Mike