

SEPTEMBER SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

WHAT DO YOU THINK???

On the last Sunday in August we turned our Casual (summer) Sunday into a Vacation Bible School for Adults and Children. It was well attended and now we would like some feedback. If you were one of the lucky ones to attend, then please share your thoughts with one of the session members. We want all thoughts—good or bad. Or if you have some ideas of your own as to what we could do next summer for one of our Casual Sundays, then please pass that along too. ☺



WHILE YOU ARE THINKING...

Session has also been doing some thinking. They are wondering if members would be interested in having CD's available that are of the Sunday service. It might be just the service with none of the music included. Session needs to see what our current equipment will do as to what can or cannot be easily recorded. So if you are interested, please let a member of session know.



SPEAKING OF MUSIC

Choir Mistress, Nancy Campbell has recently announced that choir will begin practicing again this week. The first practice will be on Wednesday, September 6th. It will begin at 7:00 and run until about 8:00.

Nancy is looking for some more people for the choir. If you are interested and can carry a tune, you'll fit right in. You'll be guaranteed to have a good time. Those that

have been singing in the choir have found it to be a lot of fun and a good stress reliever!

So all you have to do is show up on Wednesday night at 7:00. The choir members meet upstairs and will welcome you with open arms. ☺ So give it a try because you may be sorry that you didn't!



ALL CHURCH WORKDAY

Work is going to be needed around the church—soon, before the weather gets too cold. One thing that needs doing is painting the trim around some of the windows on the main floor. The windows in the fellowship room were capped when the room was remodeled, but none of the others were done. So instead of capping them, it has been decided to prime and paint them along with a few of the older exterior doors. Other items can also be taken care of on a workday. After all, as we all know there is always something that needs taking care of and the more you put it off, the bigger the list grows!

So as soon as the date is set, we will let you know. Hopefully we'll have a great turnout as that always helps make the work go faster.

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Please update the address for Jamie Berry Acosta to the following:

4020 N. Westport Ct.
Peoria, IL 61615

The phone number and email address remain the same.



AND HOW HAS OUR GARDEN GROWN?

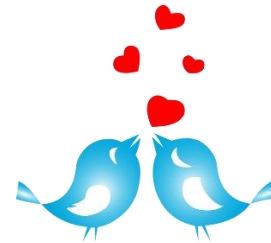
People have been hard at work in Ada's Acres. Lots and lots of harvesting has been going on with lots and lots of different kinds of veggies. I don't have the most recent count (That Mike Johnson has been meticulously keeping!), but I do have the August 6th tally. Back at the beginning of August, 1,922.5 pounds have been given to the two food pantries we support. Last year's final count was 4,395 pounds. We are a little behind were we were last August. This is due to some items not getting planted and the weather we had this year vs. last year. So we may not exceed 2016's totals, but every little bit helps.

Help is still needed in taking care of the garden. Some cool weather crops were recently planted, so if you can stop by on Sunday or Thursdays your help will be greatly appreciated. Work begins around 5:00, but as the days get shorter that start time will get moved back.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

September 7—Nathan Null
September 12—Mhona Ricknell
September 22—Ashley Wiker
September 26—Ann Evans



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

September 2—Lois & Gary Mort



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lois & Gary Mort—for better health for both of them.
Linda Harbaugh—to stay healthy.
John Harbaugh—is finally having surgery the first week of this month for his shoulder, so prayers are needed for a speedy recovery.
Edna Johnson—she's through with chemotherapy, but needs her strength to return.
Sue Troxell—for the loss of her father.
Dorothy & Pete Vallosio—for continued good health with more energy and strength.
Barb Necessary—for pain free health.

OCTOBER SILO

Information and articles for the October edition of the Silo Soundings Newsletter needs to be turned in by Sunday September 24th. Thank you.



Enjoy the Pumpkin Festival
September 13 - 16

A Month of Painful Contrast

The Summer of 2017, is rapidly winding down - at least on the calendar. The weather has been fickle changing from cool and wet to hot and dry now back to cool and wet. Leaves are changing color as the days grow shorter. The corn is drying out making itself ready for harvest, and big yellow buses are delivering children back to classrooms across the country.

In the past few weeks, we've seen violent demonstrations over statues whose mere removal perpetuated racism and murderous hatred. We've seen the mid-day sun blotted out by our moon drawing millions from their homes to witness the event. And now, a flood of Biblical proportion is hitting the fourth most populated metropolitan area in the country, bringing destruction for hundreds of miles on both sides of the "eye-wall". As many as eight million people have had to evacuate their homes wading in chest deep water to seek shelter as upwards of ***four feet*** of rain has fallen - and will continue to fall for the next several days.

This summer has been a showcase of the best and worst of humanity.

As I sit here typing with the television on in the background, I'm seeing a flotilla of fishing boats moving down urban streets rescuing strangers from flooded homes. These aren't the paid responders such as fire, EMS, police, National Guard, and Coast Guardsmen, although they are there too, risking their lives for people they've likely never met. No, I'm referring to the fishermen and gator hunters from Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and wherever else they came from who loaded their flat bottom boats on the backs of their pick-up trucks, and drove for hundreds of miles, to quote one man in his tattered camo ball cap and dirty t-shirt, "to help people who needed rescuin".

They call themselves the "Cajun Navy". They blushed with humility when a reporter asked, "How many have you rescued today?" His reply, "We were only able to get 75 today. We'll start up again in the morning. There's more out there who need us."

What struck me the most in the early hours this morning, was the fact this "good ole' boy southerner", with dirty hands and crooked teeth, badly stained by what I assumed was tobacco, had in his boat a family of African Americans he had just pulled from their home.

I didn't see any racial divides, any political divisiveness, any hate. I saw only love.

I was reminded of the story of Dunkirk. Trapped by the advancing Nazi army in Northern France, 340,000 British and French troops were rescued from annihilation by another navy of small boats and human beings willing to risk crossing the English Channel to save strangers. Many boats that would hold no more than one or two people, made the 20 mile trip across open water to pick up strangers, and take them to safety.

We should not be surprised at the human capacity to exhibit love and hospitality. It takes us back to our Old Testament roots in Judaism where people opened their homes to travelers, complete strangers, because they never knew if the stranger was a messenger from God or God Himself. Neither should we be surprised by the segment of our population who thrive on racial hatred and Hitler like Nazi beliefs in a superior race.

What we saw in Charlottesville, was a clash of good against evil, love against hate. It was wrought by a small percentage of humanity who encountered a much larger backlash of love. The antics of those hate groups backfired. They backfired because love is much stronger than hate, and will always win out in the end.

How you see our nation depends on which lens you view it through. You can choose to see the hatred of club wielding, name spewing, splinter groups, or the love of people driving their boats into unknown waters to pluck people from the most dire of life-threatening circumstances.

Which behavior do you think is more Christ-like?

Your call, but I know where I stand.

Grace and Peace,

Mike

THE SAFEST PLACE

How to stay safe in the World today:

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals.

So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But,

...You will be pleased to learn that only .001%

of all deaths occur in worship services in church,

and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

And...Bible study is safe too.

The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So,

Attend church,

and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!



From Grace Presbyterian Church in East Liverpool, Ohio.