

MAY SILO SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Our church will be hosting the second Community Dinner and Program on Thursday, May 14th. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a dinner of chicken, salad, potatoes, dessert and beverages. Following the meal will be the program "Healthy Cooking Can Be Fast and Cheap." This will be presented by Chef Bill Turney of From the Field Cooking School here in Morton. The talk will also include some demonstrations. After we learn about healthy cooking there will be a hearing of God's words on the subject.

The evening is open to all—friends, family, co-workers, etc. Please take the time to spread the word and invite them for some "Barnstorming for Better Living!" Enclosed you will find a flyer for the Community Dinners. This is so that you may post it in a location (library, a business, another church, a community room, a bulletin board like at Dairy Queen, etc.) so that others may learn about our new outreach program to the community.

THE CHAIRS ARE IN

Most of the pews in the sanctuary have been removed and we now have some comfortable chairs replacing them. If you still prefer sitting in a pew, there are four rows in the back for your pleasure. It is a new look, a new change and may take time for some to get used to. But like in all things we will come to enjoy the new seating and will be glad we made the change. 😊

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Promotion Sunday is on the 24th of May, which is a little later than it has been in past years. This is due to some unavoidable conflicts and some high school graduation ceremonies. We hope you'll be able to make it to church that Sunday to celebrate with our youth and their leaders the commitment they make is learning God's words and understanding what makes good Christians.

This year we have only one senior who will be graduating from high school—Andy Johnson. We are all very proud of him and wish Andy only the very best in his future endeavors.

OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

Now that flowers are blooming and trees are budding out, it is time to be thinking of our community garden, fondly known as "Ada's Acres." Reports are that the garden has been tilled and it wouldn't be surprising if some seeds haven't already been planted. Lori Lewis and Mike Johnson have already been putting their heads together planning the crops for the coming season.

The size of the garden remains the same as last year. It would have been nice to enlarge it as the two food pantries that it supports would surely accept more produce, but the lack of more helpers will keep it the way it is. Last year the garden produced over 4,000 pounds of veggies for families in need and any church member wanting some! I know that hopes are with our fertile grounds (thanks to all those cows that lived and worked here so many years ago) and good weather and rainfall, that the number is way higher this year.

So keep in mind that on Sunday and Thursday evenings your help is always welcome. They usually begin at 5:00 and end at dark with weeding, watering and eventually harvesting. Can't work then? Well, just talk to farmers Mike and Lori and they'll let you know what needs to be done and where.

THE CHURCH GROUNDS

While on the subject of gardens...our Ann Evans over the past several years has taken on most of the care of the flower beds and shrubs. Because she is making a move this summer to another location in Peoria (more on that in our June Silo—her address change), Ann is spending a lot of her time packing and moving items already. With that in mind, Ann is worried that she won't have the time to devote to keeping the area around the church looking nice. So volunteers are going to be needed to help out there too.

We won't need to worry about cutting grass though as Andy Ulavege and our 94-year-young Max McCammon are still taking care of that! 😊 😊

YEAH PASTOR PENNY!!!

In April of this year our very own Pastor Penny Frame was this year's recipient of Canton's YWCA's Woman of Achievement Empowerment Award! Penny was recognized for the many, many years she has been serving and volunteering in Canton and the surrounding areas. These activities that she has so willingly given time and talents to range from Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital to PTA to Great Rivers Presbytery. Penny was lovingly nominated for the award by her daughter, Connie Pelekoudas and Cub Scout Pack 104 Canton for whom she is Cub Master.

To list all that our Penny has done and those that she has served would take at least two pages. So if you would like to read in depth about her wonderful award and recognition, I have posted a copy of Penny's achievements and background that led to her being recognized by the YWCA of Canton.

Again, Penny, we are so very proud of you and are delighted to have you as our pastor! ☺

GARAGE SALE UPDATE

The church will once again be holding a garage sale along with a bake sale and barbeque luncheon on Wednesday, June 24th. Set up will begin on Tuesday the 23rd after Weight Watchers is through with the room—around 10:30. So start collecting and cleaning up items for the sale. All profits will benefit the Youth Group.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

May 8—Rob Harris

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

May 24—Helen & Mike Claver



KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Linda Harbaugh—as she works to stay on the road to recovery.

John Harbaugh—is doing well but shoulder surgery still lies ahead for him.

Ruth Bassett**—as she deals with her health at Morton Terrace.

Dorothy Williams**—her MS is taking more and more of her strength. She now resides at Lutheran Hillside Village in Peoria.

Gary & Lois Mort—for improved health for both of them.

Dorothy & Pete Vallosio—for continued good health.

Barb Necessary—for pain free health.

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



BARBARA McGAUGHAN

On April 14th Barbara McGaughan passed away. We came to know and love Barbara when she attended our church while her husband Mike was pastor here. Those that knew Barb will remember her smile that didn't just stop at her lips and for her quiet ways of getting things done.

To Mike, their five children and their spouses and children, and Barb's siblings we wish to extend our prayers and condolences. Our lives here at Morton Presbyterian were enriched by having been part of Barbara's life.

DICK STRIBLEY

Trying for 100, we were saddened to hear of Dick's passing at the age of 91 just recently. Dick was very much a part of this church when he was able to attend and even during the time when he just couldn't. We all enjoyed our times with him during fellowship hour even though he was such a staunch (University of) Michigan fan!

Our hearts and prayers go out to his children and step-children along with their spouses, to his grandchildren, and to any other family members I have failed to mention. Dick will be missed, but we can all find comfort that he is now living pain free with our Lord.

Another Summer of Discontent?

Most of you know, I'm a card carrying member of the child of the '60s club. I saw first-hand the results of political unrest and the challenging upheaval of the status quo. I tell you this to preface my thoughts of the protests and violence we are seeing this week from several major cities.

First, let me remind you that this is nothing new. Political unrest has its roots in ancient times, what they didn't have in ancient times was wall to wall media coverage that serves more to exacerbate a situation than to inform or report the news. For those of us who were there, the '60s were very turbulent times with Civil Rights demonstrations, anti-war protests, and cafeteria fights between blacks and whites.

The Old Testament tells us of angry crowds and mobs. The New Testament tells us of angry crowds and mobs, and in most cases leave us wondering how it got resolved.

Second, Jesus, Gandhi, and King were men who preached non-violent responses to violent and oppressive rule. All three were jailed, abused, and ultimately martyred in violent means, yet in the light of history, brought radical change to their times. Will the violence we've seen this week bring about change? I don't see how it can when people approach one another with bricks in one hand and clenched fists in the other.

The riots this week have only hardened the hearts of people on both sides. The violence will solve nothing, in fact, it only strengthens the need for police officers.

So as our summer unfolds, keep one thing in mind: God is at the helm. Perhaps instead of sitting mindlessly in front of the TV watching the coverage, you could find the time to get up and go do something for the betterment of the world. We have a garden that needs more help, children that need mentors and teachers, seniors who need someone to talk to, or maybe a cause that is close to your heart. Go volunteer someplace!

Jesus loves the little children; all the children of the world. Red and Yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Grace and Peace,

Mike

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“And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.” John 4:17

I've been doing a lot of sermons on “LOVE” lately; I thought my article for the Silo Soundings should be on love.

As children, we all dream about happily ever after. We pine away waiting for the knight on the white horse or daydream about love that is never anything less than perfect. When you think of perfect love . . . who do you think of? While some of you probably thought Cinderella and Prince Charming; when I think of perfect love, my thoughts turn to Adam and Eve.

Kind of a bad choice for “perfect love” you might think; but Adam and Eve, while best known for the single worst mistake in history, were still the first couple ever made for each other in the literal *and* spiritual sense. God made Eve especially for Adam. She was made *for* him and *from* him. Their relationship was God's handiwork and despite the whole apple thing, they created quite the life together.

Just like many love stories today, I have never turned a pumpkin into a carriage and my Terry has never trotted in on a white horse to save me from some wicked queen. However, I have turned lemons into lemonade many days and he made the cutest neigh when he gave our kids piggyback rides around the front lawn when they were younger. We bicker from time to time. We don't go dancing on Friday nights or awake every morning to breakfast in bed. He snores. I nag. He spends too much time on the computer and I watch too many reality shows. But while we two are far from perfect, we love each other perfectly. God created our marriage in His perfect manner, in His perfect way . . . as only He can do.

God tells us in 1 John 4:12, "If we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is perfected in us." So even though Adam and Eve were the epitome of imperfection, even though Adam probably forgot to take out the trash and Eve probably forgot to wash his leaf now and then, their imperfection was made perfect in their love for one another. No matter how flawed they were, their marriage was created in *perfect* love because the Master created it and He dwelt within the midst.

Don't stress over living up to the fairytale. Your love story, no matter how simple or how elaborate, was designed by God. He perfected it. He wrote it. He even illustrated it and signed his name on your copy. He's the author and the finisher.

Happily ever after doesn't always come with ball gowns and white horses. Most of the time, it comes with sweat pants and minivans . . . but that's ok, because if it comes from God, it's perfect and *nothing* less.

Shalom,
Pastor Penny