

Tidings

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October 2019

It Takes Grace...

It is almost numbing, isn't it? Way too often there's another mass shooting with more people killed. It defies rational thought. So we offer up a prayer and file it away in that bulging file "Not Understandable." Then we move on to read about business or sports or politics. There's no one single reason these shootings are happening more often and with greater intensity. (You can pick out the people who think they've got it all figured out; they're typically the louder ones in the room...)

We are all pretty helpless against isolated, angry, emotionally unstable people bent on doing evil. Some of their weapons include guns and knives and homemade bombs. Most of the conversation among talking heads and politicians have to do with outlawing weapons. I'm hearing very little regarding anyone's spirituality. One thing is for sure: No one with healthy relationships (with other people or with God) could do these heinous acts of evil violence. I always think of that person

who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge years ago and lived to tell about it. He said that as he walked to the bridge that morning if one person had greeted him or even smiled at him, he would not have jumped. Obviously, no one did... I think, too, about the number of children who are not raised in God-focused homes. With no spiritual foundation in their lives, how many hours a day do they entertain themselves with mind-numbing games killing imaginary enemies on their phones, ipads, etc.? Psychologists tell us that when a person's "imaginary life" becomes their life, it is no longer imaginary to them. And life (especially of others) becomes valueless – whether it's an unwanted child in the womb, or someone who disrespects you at school or work, or someone of another culture or religion. There may be things our legislators can do. But thinking we can legislate people with evil thoughts and desires away from evil deeds will go only so far.

Legislation, history tells us, is only successful among people who choose to be legislated. (The speed limit outside my office is 35 mph. Believe me when I say there are many people driving past your church daily who have chosen not to be legislated.) So then, let's go ahead and legislate a bit more of these pieces of this cultural puzzle; just don't be surprised if more legalism doesn't bring about better people. Christ came to do what the law could never accomplish. Love is the only thing that will conquer hate. Hope overcomes despair. Compassion can bring some off the bridge. We cannot put a stop to senseless acts of evil. But we can persist in showing what Jesus taught us to show this world...to everyone, in spite of the chaos. And we can refuse to give up on the knowledge and firm belief that despite what we cannot understand, God is still in control. Blessings,
RevLon

Special Dates of Interest:

- *World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2019*
- *Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2019*
- *Reformation Day, October 31, 2019*

Inside this issue:

YOUTH NEWS	2
REMEMBER?	2
WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOTDOGS, HALLOWEEN PARADE...AND...	3
JUST PLANT IT	3
FINANCES	3
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	4
CALENDAR	4

YOUTH NEWS

October 2 the middle and high school youth group will meet at the Wilsons with a meal provided. (weather permitting)

November 1-3 is our annual Fall Retreat at Camp Loucon with our friends from our W. KY Presbytery. The weekend will be filled with focusing on God, experiencing His creation in the outdoors of Camp Loucon, renewing and building friendships and learning how much we mean to God and

His purpose for all of us. Plus a lot of fun as we enjoy the activities that the camp provides. Middle and High school youth are eligible for this trip and details for cost and what to bring can be gotten from Rob.

November 20th is our annual Angel Tree fundraiser meal. Please support our middle and high school youth groups mission to show generosity in abundance to the underprivileged youth of our community. We will be

shopping for those gifts December 4 if you would like to make a donation but unable to attend the fundraiser meal. Thanks so much for your support!



REMEMBER?

It's the morning of September 11th as I write this. Today is sad day for our country. We remember the broadcasts and the images of the tragedies taking place. Do you remember that day? It's etched in most of our memories and most can tell you where they were and what they were doing. I was working at Hibb's Electric and I remember the emotions that were being felt by all of us there. I remember praying and talking with co-workers and answering questions about where God is in the midst of all this. I remember hearing about the heroic people and the courage and compassion shown and I said, "there's God in the midst of the chaos!" His peace was there even through the dust and debris of those burning collapsed buildings and destroyed planes. He was there in the people that ran into the danger to rescue them. He was there as the ones trapped huddled together to pray. He was there in the courage of those that said, "Let's roll" and made the decision that their plane would not be used to kill innocent lives.

I also remember holding Denise and crying about the families that had lost loved ones. A tragic reminder that evil has no sympathy and cares nothing for the sacred bond of family. I remember meeting with a handful of people at

church and praying for those families and our nation. I remember praying a lot during that day. I remember that eerie silence of no planes in the sky. I remember thinking, "what's next?"

Days like September 11th show us the best and the worst of humanity. We can learn and lean into what we view as most important as we remember days like this. Because when we've lost everything but God, we still have everything we could ever need. And I know that's hard to hear for those that lost husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and children but we are living a temporary life in a world that is anticipating with each day that passes the coming of our Lord Jesus to make all things new. That reality is our hope and our faith remind us that Jesus said, "I will return and make all things new." He showed us what the kingdom looks like in himself, even though he was God he declined to exercise His divine authority but instead took the position of a slave, serving us as He submitted to His Father's will and dying a death that He didn't deserve to save a humanity that would reject Him and His truth of salvation to all. But He conquered death and is seated at the right hand of the Father and everyone will bow and proclaim, "Jesus is Lord, to the glory

of God the Father!"

We remember each time we gather together to share communion the power of God's love through the sacrifice of Christ's death and the hope we all have in His resurrection. He is alive and He lives through each of us that trust and believe, being guided daily by the gift of the Holy Spirit. We pray that our peace will be found in the prince of peace! Remember how much He loves us and calls us to love others. Amen!

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12



WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOTDOGS, HALLOWEEN PARADE...AND S'MORE!

Our Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal for October 30 will be the annual cook-out in the Lorton's backyard (next door to the church). Come at 5:30. All the wieners, buns, sides, drinks, and fix-ins will be provided. Just bring a lawn chair and enjoy the company. We'll also have our children's Halloween Parade after we eat; you may want to bring a bag of candy to

fill the kid's sacks! There will be no Bible Study that night, but we'll be sure to finish up in time for choir members to make it to their rehearsal at 7:00PM.



JUST PLANT IT

As the church year wraps up, many Bible readings address the end times and Jesus' return at an unknown date (unknown to all but God the Father, that is). Specific beliefs about the Second Coming vary throughout Christendom, but our attitude about that momentous event affects how we live right

now. "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces," Martin Luther reportedly said, "I would still plant my apple tree." Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of

life and hope in the process.



FINANCES AT A GLANCE—AUGUST 2019

Income	\$20,519.00	YTD Income	\$214,834.04
Expense	<u>-\$24,461.39</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$197,085.33</u>
Net	-\$3,942.39	YTD Net	\$17,748.71

Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$17,457.00	Income	\$189,739.43
Expense	<u>-\$22,837.03</u>	Expense	<u>-\$180,044.21</u>
Net	-\$5,380.03	Net	\$9,695.22

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$3,062.00	Income	\$25,094.61
Expense	<u>-\$1,624.36</u>	Expense	<u>-\$17,041.12</u>

Operating Funds: Beginning Balance \$301,899.62 Ending Balance \$298,363.85



- 1st Billie Ann Bevels
- 3rd Mike Bassett
- Joe Cates
- Ann Hewlett
- 5th James McClain
- 11th Joe & Karla Cates (A)
- 14th Kyle & Brianna Gregory (A)
- 19th Mike & Yvonne Bourland (A)
- 23rd Cindy Lansden
- 26th Matt Agin
- 29th Elizabeth (Ellie) Lansden
- Joel Lansden
- Chelsey & Becca Wilson (A)
- 31st Suzanne Wilson

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6PM Session Meeting	2 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 6PM Pickle Ball	4	5
6 	7 6PM G.B. Team Meetings	8	9 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10 6PM Pickle Ball	11	12
13	14 6PM G.B. Team Meetings	15	16 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	Men's Great Banquet #189 →		
20 →	21 6PM G.B. Team Meetings	22	23 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24 6PM Messiah Rehearsal	Women's Hopkins County Detention Center Great Banquet #30	
27 →	28 6PM G.B. Team Meetings	29	30 5:15 Cook-out at the Lorton's 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31		