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SEPTEMBER 2017

A Message from the Minister –

This Sunday after preaching, my daughter is herding me into a truck for a 540 mile trip to Hopkinsville, Kentucky for the following day's solar eclipse. According to the latest estimates we will be joined by 25 million other sky gazers along the band of totality. This is the first time in 99 years that a total solar eclipse has run the width of the entire country from sea to shining sea. Having said that, the sun should be directly overhead in Hopkinsville during the moon's transit, allowing for the longest period of totality—two minutes and 40 seconds. Right now (the Thursday preceding) the weather is calling for partly sunny skies in Hopkinsville. That is enough encouragement to start gathering solar viewers, a cooler full of "eats," bedrolls and other needful items to store in the back of the truck which will be our home for this 36 hour whirlwind trip.

Normally we report back after returning from such adventures. We detail the unexpected happenings, the humorous stories and the sights & sounds. There are, of course, the proof-of-fun pictures and maybe a video or two to share. One of the best parts is the bonding with our fellow travelers and the memories to cherish. It is a little different writing about an adventure before it unfolds. How embarrassing if you ask how it went and the report is that we didn't go after all because the weather turned foul. Or we tried to make the trip but ran into such unbearable traffic heading into Cincinnati and toward the same event that we had no choice but to turn around and head back. Or maybe our plan to sneak in during the wee hours of morning works, and the skies are clear for the event, and the atmosphere at the venue is festive and the eclipse itself is so much more than we imagined. In the latter case, all the advance planning and effort and risk will pale in comparison with the awesome experience it achieves for us.

St. Paul wrote: *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all* (2 Corinthians 4:17). Getting more infirm is the price we pay for growing old. Crosses to bear are the price we pay for following the Master. Even the faithful have troubles. But compared with the eternal glory they achieve for us, they are light and momentary. It is helpful to remember this in the midst of difficulties, especially when, given these challenging circumstances, we are seeking to make a faithful response to the Almighty. Instead of our typical denial of death, it is helpful to actually look forward to the grand adventure that awaits.

Sometimes, when death is clearly approaching because of a terminal diagnosis or accident or simply the advancing years taking their toll, pastors will go to visit those who are not long for this world. Other well-meaning folks will say, "I don't know how you do it," as if it must be a great burden to bear—such is our fear of death. But most pastors will confess that such visits prove to be the greatest of privileges. The big mystery will be resolved for one of us soon. There can be a transcendent sense of anticipation akin to that preceding a magnificent adventure, especially if advance preparations have been made.

Paul coached his young protégé Pastor Timothy: *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life* (1 Timothy 6:18-19). Those who generously share their personal resources in the family of faith and with those in need as God gives them every opportunity tend to arrive at the last hour as those who are a people prepared for what the Lord has prepared for those who love him. And there is this abiding expectation that what they have given is a small price to pay for what it promises to achieve for them by God's grace.

So here is to looking to what lies ahead. In that spirit I just re-checked the weather report for Hopkinsville. It now calls for a possibility of thunderstorms on Monday. That can only help the traffic situation. -Bill

IN THE PULPIT DURING SEPTEMBER –

Sept 3 – Rev. Schnell (Picnic)
Sept 10 – Rev. Schnell (Rally Day)

Sept 17 – Rev. Schnell
Sept 24 – Rev. Horak

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE -

July 16 - 203
July 23 - 159

July 30 - 173
Aug 6 - 184

Aug 13 - 198
Aug 20 - 190



BIRTHS, BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES-

Baptisms: Trey L. Hamilton (July 30) and Jace Kenneth Asad (July 30)

DEATHS- Joan Merkel on July 16, Beverly Fuller (Reed’s Mother) on July 16, Jenine Reichelt (Jerry’s sister-in-law) on July 22, Charles Timblin (Josh Sutter’s uncle) on July 22, Kenneth J. Wolf on July 30, James Hollo (Ted’s brother) on August 2, and Robert Williams, Jr. on August 16

MODERATOR’S REPORT from Jim Maulis

The Church Board’s monthly meeting was on Monday, August 21. Some of the highlights included the Treasurer reporting that 2017 revenues to date are 3% over budget, and expenses are 2.8% below budget. The Security Review Committee and the Trustees reported that 4 security cameras have been installed outside of the west and north doors, with a buzzer system to unlock the doors as needed during normal business hours. The north entranceway (facing City Hall) will begin a much-needed refurbishment in about two weeks. This may cause that entrance to be unusable for a short time. Rev. Horak reported that the 4th of July Open House saw approximately 600 visitors enter the church for tours, restrooms, use of the water fountain, ask questions, or just peek around. The Membership Committee reported that the next dates for photos being shot for the new pictorial directory will be on October 17, 18,19, 20, and 21st.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE –

“Thank you all so very much for your concern, cards, and support you gave me and my family when my mother passed on to be with the Lord. Your kindness was overwhelming and much appreciated.” - Barb Brookhart and family

“Many thanks to all those who provided nearly three dozen backpacks this year. They were most welcome and sorely needed. Thank you all for your generosity.” – Circle 3H

“THANK YOU to all those who helped fill up the box with USO supplies...repeatedly. It is an honor and a privilege to support our service men and women.” – Joey Esposito and The Missions Committee

“I must send out a huge thank you to Greg Tomasko for the hours spent making a video of the concert given by the Mennonite Children’s Choir of Lancaster. Combining his video with video from Kent Ramsay and Walter Chapman, he came up with a fantastic finished product. For those that were at the concert, it will bring a smile to your face as you recall memories of the children and their beautiful singing. If you were unable to attend, you are in for a treat when you view this video. Please see “Other News & Announcements” below for information as to how you can get a copy. I guarantee it will be well worth your time. Thanks for everything, Greg!” - Anne Ramsay

“Jerry and I express our SINCERE APPRECIATION for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and meals received the past several weeks for the loss of our sister-in-law, Jenny, at the age of 56. Her 4-year journey with cancer was unmarked with her positive attitude and loving, caring personality. Everyone she touched came first before herself. To us, an angel here on earth and now God’s angel. We were truly blessed to have her in our lives. We ask for prayers for her husband, Ed, Jerry’s brother. With Christian love” – Jerry and Lin Reichelt

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES-

The Missions Committee is pleased to announce that the latest home finished by **Habitat for Humanity** in Ravenna was dedicated on July 19 for a veteran’s family of 6. They will be donating to project #66 in Kent. Habitat for Humanity is always looking for volunteers. Please visit www.habitatofportage.org for more information. Missions will also be donating to two other organizations that were represented at our July Missions Expo. They are **NewDirections** and **Berea College**. Check

out the great work being done by these organizations by visiting www.newdirect.org and www.berea.edu. See our bulletin board at the entrance to Fellowship Hall for more great things your money does for other charities!

Food Pantry Requests for September – This month the VOA needs canned meats, breakfast cereals/bars, laundry/dish/bath soap. Put your donations in the grocery cart in the Great Hall.

CALENDAR REMINDERS-

ANNUAL PICNIC IS SEPTEMBER 3 following outdoor Worship on the lawn of The Escape. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on and a side dish to share. Hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, and paper products will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. The rain location is the Sanctuary with our meal in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:30 AM AND 11:00 AM RESUME SEPTEMBER 10 – RALLY DAY.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is Monday, September 11 in Fellowship Hall from 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm.

3-H PM: The first meeting of the new year will begin with a potluck gathering at the home of Ingrid Cuppage on Thursday, September 14 at 6 pm. Please call her (330-562-6482) to let her know what you are bringing. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 12 6-8 pm when they begin a study of the New Testament in chronological order. If you would like a book, contact Kathleen Horak (330-562-1930) or khorak78@yahoo.com. 3-H PM will continue their ministry of making prayer shawls and prayer squares and would love to have you join them.

BUSY BEE RETREAT IS SEPT 14-16. Get your crafting done! Register for the Busy Bee Retreat. You will be provided 31 hours of uninterrupted work time to scrapbook, card make, sew, bead, or complete any project on your list. In addition, you won't have to cook! Dinner is provided on Friday and Saturday, with lunch, snacks and drinks on Saturday as well. Register for this event by picking up a registration form in the church or contacting dawnbowencm@gmail.com. **The \$65 registration fee benefits 2018 Youth Work Camp.

CHARLES SIDOTI TO SPEAK ON SEPTEMBER 20 – Charles W. Sidoti, BCC, is a clinically trained board-certified Chaplain & Co-Coordinator of Spiritual Care at South Pointe Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Health System. He is the author of two books, Living At God's Speed, Healing in God's Time & Simple Contemplative Spirituality. He will be speaking at the church on Wednesday September 20 at 7 pm.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP IS LOOKING FOR YOU. They meet from 8:30-9:30 am in the Church Library. Contact Reed Fuller (330-562-3388) for more information.

THE THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP RESUMES SEPT 14 at 10 am in the Church Library and is beginning a study of Isaiah. All are welcome. Let Rodger Shaulis (330-562-5683) know if you plan to attend so that enough study guides are available.

PLAY-N-WORSHIP RETURNS SEPTEMBER 26. This is our pre-school program that teaches bible stories through purposeful play. Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 26 for ages 4 & 5, and on Thursday, September 28 for ages 2 & 3. Both classes are at 10:00 am and free and open to the public. Registration can be done through our website or by contacting Liz Sutter.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE IS SEPTEMBER 27-28.

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

DVDs OF THE MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF LANCASTER, PA PERFORMANCE ARE AVAILABLE. On June 15, 2017, TCIA welcomed this choir to our sanctuary for a concert. The IT Committee made a video recording of their

concert and it is now available to you on DVD for \$5 (to help cover the cost of materials to make these DVDs available). You may purchase one following any Sunday worship service. Please find Greg Tomasko or email him at getomasko@roadrunner.com.

MEN'S "FELLA-SHIP" CLUB TO BEGIN... This new club invites men of all ages to meet to recover and reclaim an intimate, growing relationship with God while engaging in fellowship with other men in the church. Starting in September, we will meet once a month at the church, someone's home or a local establishment where we can sit down and talk about the issues men face. We'll get out and be active as we go bowling, hiking, or camping. We'll also examine how we know God and our identity in Him. To start off, we'll take a look at Pete Alwinson's book, "Like Father, Like Son" and what he has to say about being a "real" man. For more information contact Brad Hilliard at (330) 687-6645.

NEW ADULT FALL CLASSES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. We are gauging interest in two options for Sunday at 9:30am that will meet biweekly: 1. Believe – a survey of the bible to determine what you believe through a DVD presentation and discussion. 2. Praying with the Gospels – a class to develop ways to grow your relationship with Christ and listen to His word through prayer. Let Liz Sutter know if you are interested.

CONFIRMATION 2018 – This year's 9th Grade Confirmation Class will meet during the Church School hour at 9:30 am. The class offers students an overview of the Christian faith and church, as well as their part in it. A Parent/Teen Orientation will be held on Rally Day, September 10 with info on the class and our first field trip – a caving adventure in Pennsylvania's Laurel Caverns. As a 9th grader (or the parent of one), if you have not already received an invitation in the mail, please call Rev. Horak (330-562-9266) ext 222. We'd be honored to have you join us.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP begins September 27 at 7 pm and meets monthly. Our book for discussion this fall is entitled *Giddy Up, Eunice* by Sophie Hawkins. We welcome new members, if interested contact Liz Sutter.

2017 ICCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - This year's conference was held from July 17-20 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ (a 20-minute drive east of Philadelphia). 226 adults, teens and children attended the event—a 10% increase over 2016. It featured daily worship services, an outstanding Bible study for two mornings, several workshops, evening entertainment, documentary movies on social justice issues for discussion purposes and thematic luncheons with speakers, etc. The highlight of the conference were the two Bible study sessions led by Tony Campolo, the renowned Christian leader and author of 35 books on our faith. Tony spoke for 2 hours on each of two consecutive mornings. He was mesmerizing. Not using any notes, he provided one eye-opening insight after another about the Christian faith. He interspersed his at times riveting faith-based observations with relevant laugh-out-loud humor. As in past years there was a robust program for teen attendees. They helped package food for needy families, visited a shelter for the homeless and served food to dozens of homeless people among other social service related activities. For a complete report, contact Bob Harris (one of our voting delegates) at bobus1963@gmail.com.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE OUR CHURCH PHOTO ALBUM. Professional photographers will be at the church **October 17-21**. Schedule your photo session ASAP. Visit the church website @ www.TCIA.cc to find a link or log-on to <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y0tcrs6x/>. All those who have their photo made for the directory will receive a free 8x10 and a copy of the finished directory. On behalf of the rest of the church family, the Membership Committee thanks you in advance for sharing your smile with us!

WOMENS GUILD NEWS from Anne Ramsay - The summer is winding down which means Women's Guild is winding up for the 2017-2018 year. We have had a rather sad summer losing very dear friends and long-time members, Cheryl Miller and Betty Martin. We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Barb Brookhart's Mom, Ann Perigo, and Alice Ann Wolf's husband, Ken. We mourn with Cindy Hollo and family after the tragic loss of Ted's brother recently. It is our trust in God's faithfulness and perfect wisdom that will be our comfort through this difficult time. The first Guild meeting is Wednesday, September 13 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. The lunch will be catered by Twiinz Catering, and dessert will be provided by those with last names beginning with the letters A-L. A couple dozen bars or cookies would be great! The cost

of lunch is \$7. Barb Brookhart will begin the year as our new president sharing devotions that day. Our first program will be presented by "Women in History" with a portrayal of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Due to illness we were not able to have this program last year. We are looking forward to it this year. You will find the list of this year's Guild programs included in this Spire. They are expected to be both informative and enjoyable. **Did you know that as a woman and a member of the church you are automatically a member of Guild?** We welcome all of you so please be sure to join us for our first meeting and bring a friend!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS from Sally McGill – It will soon be time for our weekly choir rehearsals to begin. Dates and times are summarized below. If you have questions, please call me at 330-562-9178 or Barb Brookhart at 330-562-3445.

Chancel (Adults)	Begins Thursday, August 31 at 7:30 pm
*B.A.S.I.C (grades 7-12)	Begins Sunday, September 17 at 12:05 pm
*Youth Handbells (grades 7-12)	Begins Sunday, September 10 at 12:05 pm
Adult Handbells	Begins Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30 pm
Childrens Choir (formerly Littlest & Choralier)	Begins Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 am
*Note: B.A.S.I.C. and Youth Handbells alternate Sunday rehearsals.	

CHECK THIS OUT....from Carol Bowman, your Church Librarian – Your library has many new titles for adults and young adults on September's theme: **Race Relations**. Adults may want to read or reread The Invention of Wings, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (Maya Angelou), The Help, or Small Great Things (Jodi Piccolt), or listen on CD to Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. For young adults, check out Stella by Starlight and Hidden Figures. Younger children may benefit from The Colors of Us, Let's Talk About Race and If a Bus Could Talk, the story of Rosa Parks. My thanks to Cheryl ShROUT for many of these recommendations, which we were able to purchase via Nutcracker Sweets and Library budget funds.

GOD SIGHTINGS...by Brad Hilliard – "God sightings" are a familiar thing we hear every summer when Workcampers tell stories of their experiences at Workcamp. The stories are never something big like witnessing the healing of a plague or watching the waters part. They often are small, yet simple things where we know God is there. And, even though Workcamp is only a week long, we know God is still with us every day. For the next year we would like for you to embark on a journey that will change the way you view everything – yourself, your friends and family, the world, and especially God. You will begin to see God at work in your lives in fresh, surprising ways every day. It's great to know the Bible and know God. But, through monthly devotions in the Spire you'll get to experience God in a fresh, powerful way through God Sightings. This is a way to look past the pages of the Bible to discover God and see Him at work. Are you ready? Through this journey allow yourself to be transformed... to see the world through new eyes. To engage with God in a fresh new way. To see practical ways God is expressing Himself in our world and in your life. To capture your thoughts and grow your faith and develop a deeper relationship with Him. Incredible things will happen! This month as we begin our journey, look for beginnings. For new life. Fresh starts. Clean slates. You'll see them everywhere. And each beginning is an echo of God's creative work in the world – a God Sighting. God's a big fan of beginnings. He created a sprawling universe – a hotbed of beginnings – and kept them rolling. Kept crafting new starts and a new life... including yours. For the next month keep track of the new beginnings you see. Write them down. Celebrate them. Allow God to speak to you. Listen for His voice. Recognize Him. See Him.

DID YOU KNOW??? Bereavement rates are now available at the THE AURORA INN. Have your guests call 330-562-0767 and request the rates when needed. **AND TCIA CARE TEAM** is available for those who need meals during a time of recovery or a ride to an appointment or someone to pick up prescriptions or just a friendly visit. If they could help you, call Rita Suchanek (330-562-3273 or 216-570-9808) or Lin Reichelt (330-995-4393 or 330-268-3420). **AND STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE THERE AFTER YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS HAVE HEARD YOUR STORY ONE TOO MANY TIMES, BUT YOU STILL NEED TO TALK IT OUT.** Call Rev. Horak to learn more.