

From Pastor Matt.....

September marks the end of Summer and the start of Autumn. Along with this change of season comes the time for the harvest in this part of the world. Each year the harvest is the accumulation of what has taken place over the course of the growing season. Many factors throughout the season affect the outcome of the harvest. The amount of rain, sun, and pests throughout the growing season come to fruition in the harvest. At the end of September, it is common for congregations to mark the harvest season with Harvest Home celebrations. During this time, we give thanks to God for the harvest and collect food to donate to those in need in the community.



In the church though when we think of harvest, we mean much more than just the produce of a growing season. Throughout the Bible we encounter the idea of harvest as a metaphor that speaks to spiritual growth. In this sense harvest can be a product of our individual faith or the collective fruits of faith of the church. In our lives as individual disciples of Jesus and as the whole body of Christ we want to experience a plentiful spiritual harvest.

In the church a harvest does not follow the rhythm of the seasons like an agricultural harvest does. Instead, the harvest comes when and where God wills. Sometimes the harvest comes not as a result of our own faith but the faith of others, people we may not even know. Jesus speaks to the Apostles about this in the Gospel of John.

> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." John 4:35-38

One sows and another reaps. I see the fruits of a harvest that was planted long ago in the faith of the people of the congregation. Generations before us have sowed seeds and labored in the fields, we are present to reap the harvest. We too will sow seeds that someone else will harvest. Just like a crop planted in a field we do not harvest in the church a day or even a week after planting. Growth takes time, and while there are things we can do to assure a good crop and harvest, the ultimate result is out of our hands.



The cycle of planting and harvest is not set by the weather in the church. Instead, we are always planting seeds of the gospel. We do this through prayer and worship, service to neighbor and study of scripture, lending a helping hand or an ear to someone in need of it or proclaiming the good news of Jesus crucified and risen to a world living in the shadow of death. While we are busy planting seeds we are also looking out for signs of a harvest, ripe for the picking. Oftentimes it is a harvest from seed planted long ago by someone unknown, but as a part of the Body of Christ, the Church, we are blessed to do a small part in bringing that harvest home.

Consider sponsoring a bulletin for \$12 a week......forms are located on bulletin board along with other forms you might need. The goal from the office was to have a bulletin sponsorship each week in 2022. These Sundays are currently available!!!!!! October 2, 16, 30 November 6

If we fill these dates.....we only had 10 out of 52 not sponsored!

Let's try for 100% in 2023!



Harvest Home will be celebrated on September 25. Please bring your donation of non perishable items to church during the month of September and place on the table in the narthex! Thank you for helping us to help others in our community!

Shares of Faith

20 shares in memory of Edmond Littlefield by Stephen Core



Remember In Your Prayers

Our Church members, family and friends.....

John Mroz, Cleora Shellaway, Marie Stauffer, Grace Stauffer, Lillian Sweinhart, Kathy Hoffman, Willard Koch, Mary Ann Levan, Michael Billetta, Marion Eshbach, Ruth Miller, Eleanor Ruth, Joan Roth, Sylvia, Brian Fontaine, Harry Henning III, Clifton Shaw, Mike Moyer, Michael McLaughlin, Beth Harpel, Barbara Marlow, Christa Mitchell, The Billetta family, Willard Koch, Shirley Heydt, Tom Serwinski, Toni and Tom

The young men and women serving in our armed forces....

Noah Ziegler, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield, Adam Wolford

For the families and friends who mourn the loss of their loved ones......

Thomas Weiss, Shirley Nester, Arthur Yerger, Walter Dittman, Fern Hein, Micki Mroz, Barry Shirey, Mark Gladfelder, Linda Harpel, LeRoy Roshong, Debra DeTurck, Donald W. Cook, Edmond Littlefield, Gerald Higham

Our Volunteer Ministry Schedule

Date	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Acolyte	Sue Prutzman	Geoff Littlefield	Helena Finney	Donna Long
Reader	Jodie Moyer	Geoff Littlefield	Donna Long	Merilyn
	-		_	McLaughlin
Ushers	Dawn Hydock	Allen and Ruthy	Donna Long	Kimberly Heydt
	Diane McGlinchey	Heydt	Joan Davis	Brianna Heydt
Counters	Dawn Hydock	Allen and Ruthy	Donna Long	Kim Heydt
	Diane McGlinchey	Heydt	Susan Prutzman	Kristi Heydt



Golf Outing meeting on Sunday September 11 following worship.

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STAFF

Pastor Matthew Finney Lili Sanderlin, Music Director Andrea Kershaw, Secretary Becky Higham, Sexton

> "To know Christ and make Christ known Spread the Gospel by word and action."

