



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR, October 2023

From the Pastor . . .

Sabbath is one of those churchy words we use that can mean a lot of different things. It can refer to the practice of going to church on Sunday. It can mean the prohibition to work. For much of the last century, it also meant laws prohibiting various businesses from being open on Sundays. Sometimes we think of it as vacation or a day off.

Sabbath can mean all those things. But it has a deeper meaning. Sabbath, at its core, is a set aside time to connect with God and each other. Over the years, faithful folk have noted that it is easier to engage in Sabbath if there is some organization around it. So we engage in worship on the Sabbath to help us connect with God. For centuries the Sabbath was a time that most people didn't have to work. For much of human existence, this was some of the only time people had to think beyond the needs of immediate survival.

As with all attempts at human organization, sometimes these things became a bit much. Sabbath could be not about connection but about ostentatious rule following. The restrictions on work could lose their true purpose. Giving up these restrictions has had some benefits: I love that I can go pick up a pizza on Sunday afternoon instead of having to think about cooking dinner.

Yet along with those restrictions we've given up something good too. We have found that time for rest is hard to come by. How do we connect with God when our phone is always on? How can we connect with our neighbors when no one has the same day off? How can we form community when everyone has to hustle?

So, this month I'd like us to think about how we might engage in Sabbath and build that in to the life of our church. What might it look like for us to prioritize rest? What would our church look like if we were playful? How can we disentangle what we do from how we are valued? Maybe in the midst of this hectic world we might find time to connect with God and with each other.

Grace and Peace

Pastor David

Elevator Update

By: Roger Warner

Hazardous material inspections/testing were completed in August by Pearson Construction's contractor, Bluepoint.

Results indicate low occurrence of problem material in the areas that will be affected by the project. As suspected, we have asbestos based floor tile and some lead paint to deal with which can be abated initially or as the project develops at a cost below estimates.

Next, Pearson will have various potential sub-contractors visiting to review the project and its environment prior to the bidding process. These visits will begin first week October.

Meanwhile, we have begun steps to relocate the Pastor's Office and the secretary's office. This will be ongoing throughout October. It will be necessary to re-route traffic flows in the building as the project develops. Please be patient and "watch your step".

The best news: **THE ELEVATOR HAS BEEN ORDERED!**



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday October 15th there will be a special outdoor service to bless our furry friends!

All are welcome, including animals of all shapes and sizes. The service will take place on the lawn outside of the church. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside.

Following this special event there will be refreshments and treats in Fellowship Hall.

Guest speaker Linda McClare, representative for Leader Dogs for the Blind, will bring her own special Leader Friend, Apollo for everyone to meet (and love)!

Leader Dogs for the Blind is an organization based out of Rochester MI. Their vision & hope is that every person visually impaired or blind can travel safely and independently.



Congrats and Thanks to Dave Coulston!

October 15th from 2pm-4pm at the Roti Roti Art Center, our very own **Dave Coulston's work** will be showcased to raise money for FPCB's elevator fund.

Dave's love for photography started in high school and has grown tremendously since. He has taken pictures all over the world. Dave's photos have been featured in the Cook Nuclear Calendar. His photos can also be found in medical facilities in northern Indiana.

We are so happy to have Dave as a member of our church!



**Photos by Dave Coulston*



OCTOBER

Liturgists:

- Oct 1st – Louann Gardner
- Oct 8th – Donna Trigg
- Oct 15th - Dan Stenberg
- Oct 22nd – Mary Aalfs
- Oct 29th – Cheryl Warner

Assistant Treasurers:

- Oct 1st – Johanna Money & Dru Wrasse
- Oct 8th – Pat Johnson & Johanna Money
- Oct 15th - Dave Coulston & Dru Wrasse
- Oct 22nd – Jan Ivkovich & Pat Johnson
- Oct 29th – Jan Ivkovich & Dave Coulston

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship, Music & Sacrament Committee Meeting After Worship 11am	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Blessing of the Animals Service 10am Dave Coulston Art at Roti Roti Art Center 2pm-4pm	16	17	18 Rev. Pat Ramsden Potluck! 4pm-6pm Bring a dish to pass & a memory to share.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Trick or Treat Candy Chute, Front St. entrance of church, 6pm  Happy Halloween				