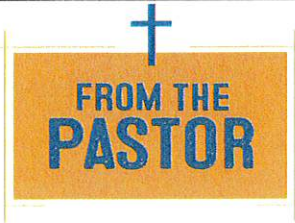


THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Let Us Labor For the Master

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Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

Labor Day weekend is a nice time for a barbecue or a family gathering. Labor Day, as a federal holiday in the United States, began when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law on June 28, 1894, designating the first Monday in September as a day to honor the nation's workers. It seems like there are more holidays than ever, but our country actually doesn't take as many days off for vacation as other countries, such as Germany and Australia.

A jovial question is sometimes asked - "are you working hard or hardly working?" Reminds me also of the guy that applied for employment but was told, "sorry, we don't need much help." His reply was "that's okay, I won't be much help." Unfortunately, many struggle with laziness in our culture. Some might even need a labor day designated to do labor, not rest from labor. But rest is good and necessary when we've been working at a regular pace.

Proverbs 6:6, which says "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways and be wise," encourages diligence and hard work by using the ant as an example. It highlights the ant's industriousness, particularly its preparation for the future by gathering food in the summer and harvest. The verse serves as a rebuke to laziness and a call to learn from the ant's work ethic. It's a good verse to apply to serving the Lord.

We need to labor for the Master. Of course, it's good to take a sabbath.

But the normal days include labor. Let's be active for the kingdom of God, while we have the opportunities in this life. There will be a day when we rest from our labors.

In Christ Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn

2025

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Trustees Meeting

August 12, 2025

Members present: Bob Ritchey, Jeff Weis, Matt Nusbaum, Deb Thomas, Travis Watkins
Pastor Dunn opened the meeting with a prayer for family as well as church members in need. Bob Ritchie presented the treasurer's report in Joyce's absence. A motion to pay the bills was presented and passed. It was noted that present amount in the new sign account stands at \$14,420.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob noted that contact has been made with Lawson Bros. for replacement of roof over new addition. We are scheduled for end of September. The revised job description for the Church Custodian was approved and will be available in the office. The job will be open October 1, so it was agreed that applicants will be reviewed and the position filled at the next Trustees meeting. Any interested individuals should contact a trustee and submit a letter of interest to the office before that meeting.

The need for a new computer for the Church Secretary was discussed. Authorization was approved for Susan to shop and find one that fills her needs. Bob will call Grothouse Plumbing and get scheduled for a replacement of the furnace for the office area.

Special thanks to Micah and Bob for addressing the weeds and overgrown landscaping in the front of the church. Also, a huge thank you to Bruce Lloyd for removing that debris and replacing the dirt with clean fill. Grass seed will be planted soon and also, finishing touches made this fall.

Travis will address the removal of the parking timbers and stone on the north side of the church.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt brought attention to the fact that an oven is not working in the kitchen. It was agreed to table it for future discussion. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas---secretary



Betty Rager – Lima
Convalescent Home, 1650
Allentown Rd, Lima, OH
45805

Dick Williams – The
Meadows of Kalida, 755
Ottawa St., Kalida, OH
45853

Take Courage: Trusting the One Who Overcomes

A young woman was deeply troubled by the suffering she saw in the world, as well as by struggles within her own family and friendships. Unsure of how to help or where to begin, she turned to her pastor for guidance. He responded with a heartfelt letter. A portion of it read:

"Life is difficult. It is sometimes like a mindless boot camp. We seem to be rehearsing for something that is beyond our present knowing. We come from a beginning that we cannot remember, and we move toward a destiny that we cannot see. Only imagination, faith and a friend here or there give us the strength to go on.

When Jesus said that we would always have trouble in this world, he added an encouraging word that we should never forget: *'Take courage; I have overcome the world.'*

I cannot fix you. You cannot fix you. Do not put your ultimate faith in me, or in yourself, or in any human being. Trust the Lord of the Harvest. He will fix you when he comes."

— Excerpted from a letter by Dr. Thomas Lane Butts



Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:30-11:30am beginning in September.

Congratulation to
James and Chelsea
Wells on the birth of
their daughter Lane
Carver Wells. Proud
grandparents are Jeff
and Mary Weis.



The Gift of Music

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.—Martin Luther



**Calling Back
All Choir
Members
and New
Members!**



Joyful Noise will meet at 5:30 on September 3rd for bell cleaning. Regular practice will start September 10th at 6:00. New members welcome. Thank you



Doris Joan (Lloyd) Thomas
January 6, 1932 – June 21, 2025

Memorial Fund: Fred and Milena Howald, Martha Britt

Choir Fund: Bruce and Vi Lloyd



Join us for Rally Day on Sunday, September 7 as we officially kick off the new church year! We will gather for worship, Blessing of the Backpacks and Communion. It is the perfect time to get plugged in, and recommit to life together in Christ.



Starting September 16, the adult Sunday School class will be beginning. Come join us as we dive into "12 Daring Women of the Bible". It will be led by Carolyn Dyke.



Our custodian for the past 25 years has submitted her letter of resignation, for retirement purposes. Norma Fryinger will be retiring as of October 1.

Anyone interested in the position should contact any trustee for further information. A complete job description is available in the office.

More than Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic

You may recall that many followers of Jesus called him "Rabbi." In essence, the word means teacher. Clearly the word describes the brilliant Nazarene who was constantly teaching his listeners about God and God's expectations of humans.

In a secular society, it is of paramount importance that the teachings of Christ be proclaimed and affirmed wherever possible. In the early days of our country, it was customary for public schools to teach reading, writing and arithmetic as well as Christian principles. Subjects being taught were presented in a setting of morality, religion and character development.

The reading book compiled by William H. McGuffey in 1836 focused on such themes as self-denial, temperance, obedience, and warned against laziness, profanity, stealing and vanity.

In our time, however, when it is difficult to focus on God and spiritual matters in public schools, our churches and families have a great responsibility. Sunday school attendance, not only for children but for adults as well, must be of primary importance. Prayer, as well as discussion of social issues from a Christian point of view, must be practiced in the home and church. We must learn and teach about Christ.

"Learn from me," Jesus said. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29 NRSV). Where shall we learn of him or from him if not in our churches and homes?



Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 7th from 9am-10 am. This will be open for children from preschool through middle school. Blessing of the backpacks will also take place on Sunday, September 7th during the church service.

Planning is underway for Fall Fest which will be held on October 25th from 4-6pm. More details to come!

The children will also be singing during the church service on Sunday October 26th.



Stewardship and Missionary Committee September cause is monetary donations to Meals til Monday. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides kid-friendly weekend meals for local elementary children whose primary source of food is the school cafeteria. Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, Meals 'til Monday packs sacks of food on Mondays to be delivered and distributed to students on Fridays. Please help us support Elida school children who don't get regular meals at home.



The Decorating Committee would like to thank everyone for their donations for the Lincoln Highway Yard Sale! Although, the traffic was much slower than we had hoped, we were grateful to have made \$320 to add to our "decorating fund"!



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The goal for the new sign \$25,000. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$14,420.



Our 108th Annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Honoring the Gift of Work



The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, ESV).

In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work" (Exodus 20:9, ESV). Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world. Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV). On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care. —Author unknown



Sept. 7	Jim & Susan Siefker	Beckett Sunderland
Sept. 14	Bob & Deb Ritchey	Jameson Thomas
Sept. 21	Cheyenne & Dian Ridley	Rayna Ogle
Sept 28	Sandy Schwartzengraber and Sue Grusenmeyer	Wyatt Diller
Oct. 5	Dave & Pam Smith	Carson Sunderland
Oct. 12	Donna Martin and Jeni Martin	Genna Thomas
Oct. 19	Dave & Iris Jay	Madi Larimore
Oct. 26	George & Hope Diller	Beckett Sunderland
Nov. 2	Rod & Nancy Watkins	Jameson Thomas

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle. Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

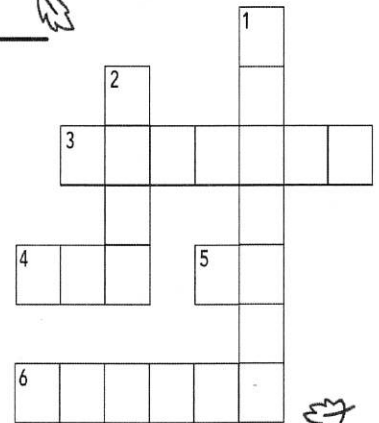
GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST, YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

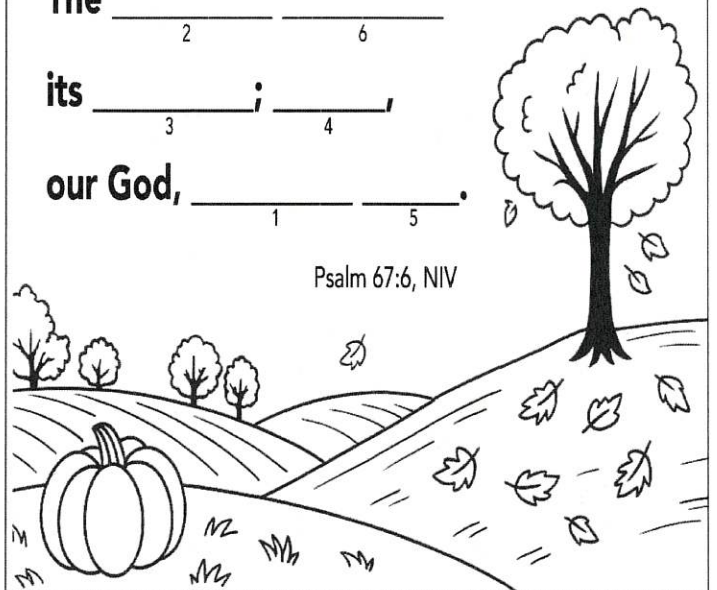
DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.

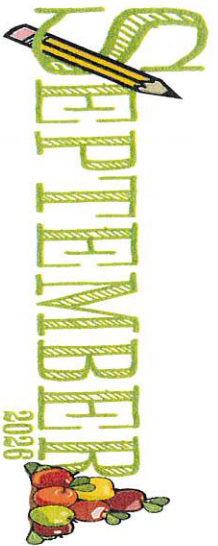


The _____
its _____;
our God, _____.

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV



Birthdays

- 4 Marty Thomas
 - 7 Travis Watkins
 - 9 Derik Mooney
 - 10 Sydney Evans
 - 12 Dian Ridley
 - 16 Seth Tadana
 - 16 Maren Clevenger
 - 16 Carol Sunderland
 - 16 Waylyn Long
 - 17 Carolyn Dyke
 - 18 Austin Jackson
 - 20 Nathan Ewing
 - 21 Kim Roethlisberger
 - 22 Richard Williams
 - 22 Kylie Carpenter
 - 23 Jordyn Stewart
 - 23 Matthew Nusbaum
 - 25 Anna Ogle
 - 25 Betty Rager 96
 - 26 Anna Watkins
 - 27 Mary Jane Vandemark
 - 28 Linda Nichols
 - 28 Oren Long
 - 30 Lucas Hollar
 - 30 Ryan Stewart
- Penblwydd Hapus i chwil!
(Happy Birthday to you in Welsh)

Anniversaries

- 4 James & Christine Lester
- 7 Larry & Deb Stewart
- 10 Pam & Bill Askins 58th
- 14 Bryan & Keri Evans
- 26 Peg & Dave Walters
- 28 Katie & Nick Battershell

SPECIAL DATES

- Labor Day, *September 1, 2025*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 7, 2025*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2025*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 7, 2025*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2025*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2025*

Bible Quiz

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?



- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.

Christian Symbol

BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is

burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the



Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival

Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.
Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the
promise of harvest.
May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Bible Quiz Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

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Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

