



## THE LINK

STANFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2020



When fall hits and that first whiff of crisp autumn air blows in, when the scent of leaves and apple and pumpkin spice seasons the atmosphere, I always get excited, because it feels like something new is beginning. There is a promise of fresh starts and second chances. About 500 years ago Martin Luther did a bold thing: on October 31<sup>st</sup> he trotted on down to the Wittenberg Castle where All Saints Church stood and he tacked on the door a paper with a list of things he wanted to talk about. This wasn't an unusual thing for theologians to do; that is how they shared new ideas to debate. He posted his 95 ideas, concerns about how the church had drifted away from the truth of Scripture, and it ignited a firestorm that swept across Europe, calling the church back to God. It was a huge new beginning, and it actually split the Roman Catholic Church into factions, one of which became our Presbyterian denomination. But the purpose was not so much to start something new as to return the church to the basics of faith in Christ from the purity of the Bible. There were, however, as there always are, people in the church that were clinging to their ways, even though what they were teaching and doing had nothing to do with the Gospel of grace, or the truth of God's Word.

Today I wonder if we are not warming up for another reformation, another new start. Most

people are guided not by the Bible, but by their feelings and experiences. All too often our churches go along, trying to make people feel good rather than to challenge them to hear and receive the truth of the Bible. Are we entertainers giving people a laugh, or spiritual nursing homes to keep them warm in their cherished traditions until they die? From time to time the church needs to be reminded about our roots and our faith and our mission. The culture and history is always changing, but God reminds us that He never changes:

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8**

And Scripture tells us that the Word of God, the Bible, is corrective:

**“For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12**

Maybe there is a fresh breath in the air, a new wind blowing. Maybe the presage of fall includes the bracing storm of the Holy Spirit, come to call His church back to the Bible.

In the bond of Christ,

Rev. Beth

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### Church news

**Youth Group:** Starting with September 9<sup>th</sup>, youth group will again gather on Wednesday evening for a meal and fellowship. **Elementary** aged kids' meetups will be phased in later in the fall season.

**Women's Circles** have started up with the new *Horizons* Study on Lament.

**Worship Service for Life.** Suicide prevention day is September 10<sup>th</sup> and there will be a worship service on the parking lot at 6 p.m. to celebrate hope and recovery for survivors and attempters.

**World Communion Sunday** is October 4<sup>th</sup>, communion will be served during worship.

**The Church Picnic** will be held October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the evening at William Whitley Park. Bring side dishes and a smile – photo op will be available!

**Operation Shoebox** is beginning to collect items for our Christmas Child project. First request is for bar soap and washcloths.

**Barley Basket** is still giving out hearty food bags once a month are held the third Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Food donation items needed for Barley Basket are: green beans/peas/corn; ramen noodles; canned fruit; instant mashed potatoes; spaghetti sauce; spaghetti; noodles; dried beans; canned tuna; canned chicken; boxed macaroni and cheese.

**Home with the Lord:** Carolyn Rankin went home to be with her Lord on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Stanford Presbyterian Church

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. – online

Worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

213 E. Main Street [P.O. Box 180]

Stanford, Kentucky 40484

### Fall Calendar 2020

#### Sundays:

Be the Bridge Bible Study until October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Tuesdays:** AA

**Wednesdays:** Sr. High Revive – 6 p.m.  
Choir – 7 p.m.

#### September

1 – Mary Circle at 11:30 a.m.

5 – Kentucky Derby

6 – Food offering

9 – Youth group resumes

10 – Suicide Prevention & Recovery day

Worship Service on Parking Lot at 6

13 – Tailgate Worship at 10 a.m.

Deacons meet

17 – Martha Circle

20 – Barley Basket

27 – Session meets

#### October

4 – World Communion Sunday

Food Offering

6 – Mary Circle at 11:30 a.m.

8 – Martha Circle 7 p.m.

11 – Deacons meet at noon

Church Picnic at William Whitley House 5 p.m.

18 – Stephan Kern presents his mission work with Ethnos 360 during our worship.

18 – Barley Basket 5 p.m.

25 – Session meets at noon

## November

- 1 – All Saints' Day
  - Daylight Savings Time Ends – fall back!
  - Food Offering
- 3 – Election Day! Pray for our nation and vote!
  - Mary Circle at church, 11:30 a.m.
- 8 – Deacons meet at noon
- 11 – Veteran's Day
- 12 – Martha Circle at church 7:00 p.m.
- 15 – Congregational Meeting after worship
- 22 – Session meets at noon
  - Barley Basket 5 pm
- 26 – Thanksgiving Day
- 28 – Hanging of the Greens
- 29 – First Sunday of Advent