

The Link ~ October 2021



**You visit the earth and water it,
 You greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
 You provide their grain,
 for so You have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its ridges,
 softening it with showers,
 and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty,
 the tracks of Your chariot drip with fatness
The pastures of the wilderness drip,
 the hills gird themselves with joy
The meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 the valleys deck themselves with grain,
 they shout and sing together for joy.**

Psalm 65:9-13

Water is precious! H₂O is required for all us carbon-based life forms. And now, at the season of harvest, we see what God's blessing of water has given: lots of grains, fruits and vegetables, and flocks in our meadows. With the psalmist we can say, "You visited the earth and blessed it with your bounty!" The spring rains softened the fields, the seeds germinated, the plants grew, the trees produced flowers then fruit, and the cattle and sheep and goats grew fat with feed. A new cycle of harvest reminds us that we are dependent on God who gives us the rains that give us water to drink, and makes our farms produce abundantly. We live in a water-rich place, where water pours out of the taps whenever we want it. But in Israel, it is dry.

Large parts of Israel are arid grasslands, other parts are pure desert. And they depend on those seasonal rains, to come and water the land. When you visit the Galilee or the Dead Sea, you can see markers showing how far the water tables have dropped. In Israel, scientists are always busy developing new technologies for removing salt from sea water and also methods for conserving this precious liquid. They never take water for granted – they can't afford to. So when the psalmist talks about a year crowned with God's goodness, he is rejoicing in water abundance, in a place where abundance is rare.

Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37,38. Our Lord knew that this idea of abundant, eternal, living water would resonate with people who lived in a dry land. How about us? Do we understand how precious living water is to our souls? If we truly understand the power of Christ to save, we want to be refreshed by His living waters every day. So as our year winds down find time to read the Bible, to drink deeply of Him, to pray to Him, to worship with us on Sunday, and thank Him for the abundant water in our souls. In the bond of our Savior,

Pastor Beth Stone

Church News: Masks will continue to be available for everyone's use for Worship, Sunday School, or any church gathering. Please help yourself if you need one.

Our appreciation goes out to **Jan** who has faithfully recruited presenters for our children's messages in worship. Thank you, Jan for a great job for many years!

Trick or Treat: the community churches will not have an organized event this year due to covid, but our church will be purchasing a long shoot to safely deliver treats to children who are out and about on

October 31st. Pre-packaged treat donations are welcome!

November 21st is our annual **Congregational Meeting**, when we will elect officers. If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider giving of your time and gifts to the ministry in these leadership positions. We are asking for reports from all committees and boards for this meeting, just a couple of sentences about what has been done here at SPC in the last year. Get them to the pastor or the clerk by November 1st. An annual report will be available at the meeting.

Christmas shoe boxes: Put your donations in the box in the narthex: **WOW items (soccer ball with pump, doll, stuffed animal, shoes); toys (cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, light up or noisy toys with extra batteries); Toiletries (toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, washcloths); school supplies (pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring books, picture books, solar calculators); accessories (socks, sunglasses, jewelry, watches, flashlights with extra batteries).** Do NOT send: candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, sees, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans.

Stanford Presbyterian Church

213 E. Main Street

P.O. Box 180

Stanford, Kentucky 40484

(606) 365-7596

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

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

Website: www.stanfordpresbyterian.org

Find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/stanfordpresbyterianchurch/

Reverend Elizabeth Stone, pastor
website: www.valleyoftheshadow.org

Fall/Winter Calendar 2021

Tuesdays: AA

Wednesdays

Elementary – 5:30 p.m.

Sr. High Revive – 6 p.m.

Choir – 7 p.m.

October

3 – World Communion Sunday

FLCM Food Pantry offering

5 – Mary Circle at 11:30 a.m.

10 – Madison Carnes & Tucker Kilby wedding

13 – Martha Circle 7 p.m.

16 – Rebekah Stone & Martin Carbotti wedding

24 – Barley Basket 5 p.m.

24 – Deacons meet

31 – Session meets

Trick or treat for community children

November

1 – All Saints' Day

2 – Election Day! Pray for our nation and vote!

Mary Circle

2-4 Pastor away for continuing education retreat

7 – FLCM Food Pantry offering

Daylight Savings Time Ends – fall back!

10 – Martha Circle at church 7:00 p.m.

11 – Veteran's Day: Thank our veterans!

12-13 Tri-presbytery meeting

14 – Deacons meet

18 – Blood drive in Fellowship Hall

21 – Congregational Meeting after worship

22 – Session meets

Barley Basket 5 pm

25 – Thanksgiving Day

27 – Hanging of the Greens

28 – First Sunday of Advent

December

7 – Mary Circle

9 – Martha Circle

12 – Deacons meet after worship

24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion.