

# The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan  
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2021



Dear friend,

Please consider this monthly column a personal conversation between the two of us. I'll be sharing things that don't fit in worship and yet are likely on your mind as they are mine. A "post script" if you will. (Plus, "P.S." works for "Pastor Steve.")

First of all, Alison and I can't express strongly enough how welcome you all have made us feel. The simple gifts of hospitality that have been extended to us - from fresh produce to new friends on Facebook - have been more than generous. Thank you!

As you get to know me, you'll recognize I typically preach in sermon series. This is so (1) I can go deeper on a topic over a series of messages, (2) help you think and pray on a subject over time that will lead to life change, and (3) encourage weekly attendance so as

to get the most out of the series (and grow your faith).

I've been planning - mostly listening to God for direction as to - what I'm going to be preaching in the weeks and months to come. Here's where we're going: (1) a series that will help us become excited about and more effective Bible readers called "The Love Letter" (begins August 15), (2) after Labor Day, I'll be sharing "Begin (Again)," a series that will help jumpstart our individual faith lives regardless if we're new to the faith, need to get re-engaged or want to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus (begins September 12). Following these will be a series on experiencing the vital ingredient for faithful living and being the church: the presence and power of God in our daily living (begins October 17). Finally, we'll be exploring how and why God shows up to do the miraculous (and why sometimes He doesn't) in a series beginning November 7.

In the weeks to come, I'll be sharing my thoughts and God's plans for creating a vital ministry to families with children and youth (one thing I know from experience is that we can't expect to grow a sustainable ministry for kids without engaging their parents and helping make Jesus a priority in their homes).

I want to encourage you to join me in praying for God to give us names of folks we can invite to church. When you begin to have a positive experience in worship, let these friends know by sharing the 3 powerful words, "come - and - see."

I'm not sure why God brought me here. What I do know with great certainty is that He's got something big planned for us! Let's discover this together.

See you at church, *PASTOR STEVE*

## COTTAGE MEETINGS in SEPTEMBER

With a new pastor, it is beneficial for both the pastor and the congregation to have small, informal gatherings called Cottage Meetings. The meetings offer an opportunity to meet with Pastor Steve in a small group setting so all can share memories, talk about goals, express suggestions, etc., while getting to know Pastor Steve better. We are looking for hosts for meetings in September. **Contact the office if you'd be willing to HOST a meeting.**



## ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER is SEPTEMBER 22nd



As things gradually return to normal, we have begun planning our Fall Staley's Chicken Dinner. The dinner is **Wednesday, September 22nd**, at the Vet's Auditorium. Serving from 5:00-7:00pm, the menu will be the same as previous years: chicken, potatoes & gravy, corn, homemade salads, pie & desserts, and beverages.

Tickets are \$12/adult, \$5 age 4-10 and children 0-3 are free. Sign ups are available at worship for food donations and working at the dinner or you may call the church office to ask about helping. This will be our TWELFTH year and we hope for a great turn-out. Let us know how you can help!