



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 [Selected] (ESV)

September 2024  
Number 24-09



*Vox audita perit, littera scripta manet:* The heard voice perishes, the written letter remains.

# Good News

## In the Fullness of Time-- The Dawn of a New Season

Some of us are old enough to remember the Byrds 1965 hit, Turn, Turn, Turn. It was written in 1959 by Pete Seeger, and Pete performed it in various venues around Greenwich Village. It was recorded by several artists both before and after 1965, but the Byrds will be forever remembered as the group that made it famous.

Those lyrics incorporate, virtually verbatim, the text of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. These verses, generally attributed to King Solomon, present what may be the most eloquent depiction of the cyclical nature of events under the sun. Seeger added the repetitive phrase “turn, turn, turn,” invoking the rotation and orbit of the earth as an illustration of that phenomenon.

The change of ecclesiastical seasons is as universal as fall, winter, spring, and summer. A new season began for us in early 2023 when Shawn Carafa announced his departure. The eighteen months since then have been a season of prayer, introspection, searching, and (sometimes) frustration. That season also is now about to change.

The Pastor Search Committee has presented Thom Daubenspeck to the Ministerial Committee as a candidate for our new pastor. On August 26 he successfully passed his Ministerial Committee examination, so the Search Committee's next step is to introduce him to the congregation in Morning Worship on September 8. Immediately following the

**NEW SEASON** CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Special Meeting of the Congregation

Session has called a special meeting of the congregation for **11:45 AM, Sunday, September 8, 2024**. Two items of business are on the agenda:

- ◆ Approval of Thom Daubenspeck’s nomination as our next pastor
- ◆ Approval of the terms of Thom’s call

Since this is a special meeting, no other business may be presented. All members are encouraged to attend.

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# Meet Thom & Susie Daubenspeck

Thomas M. Daubenspeck was born in Holland, MI, on Mother’s Day, May 14, 1961. He is the youngest son of Harry and Marianne Daubenspeck, and he has two siblings, David and Beth, sister-in-law, a brother-in-law, two nephews and three nieces.



Thom was baptized in 1961 and received into communicant membership in 1977 at First Reformed Church of Holland. He was educated in Holland Public Schools, and was a competitive athlete in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Hope College, Holland, MI, and Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. He graduated with majors in Psychology and Sociology. He served as a counselor prior to entering parish ministry.



On May 26, 1990, Thom married Susan Lynne Taylor of Cutlerville, MI, daughter of Patricia Taylor and oldest sibling of Robert and Barbara. Susie is a graduate of South Christian High

School and has served and volunteered in a variety of capacities. Susie has often been a homemaker and has been highly active in the life of the local church and community.

After marriage, Thom began his divinity training and studied at Gordon-Conwell (South Hamilton, MA), Western (Holland, MI), and Moravian, (Bethlehem, PA) Theological Seminaries.

In 1996, he was licensed and ordained by the Holland Classis of the

Reformed Church in America. In 2010, Thom completed his doctoral studies at Fuller School of Theology, Pasadena, CA, in Christian Spirituality, with a dissertation entitled, *Pietas: The Pathway to Reformed Spirituality for Congregations Seeking to Live the Christian Life by Grace*. In 2017, he obtained a master’s degree in social work from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Thom has served as a therapist in mental health, addictions, and marriage, and as a spiritual director.

When not actively engaged in the work of the ministry and caring for family, the Daubenspecks enjoy walking their dogs, biking, hiking, kayaking, camping, and traveling. Susie enjoys quilting, painting, nature, good coffee, and spending time with friends. Thom enjoys history, genealogy, gardening, working with his hands, and driving his BMW 325. †

\* The term Pietas (imported directly from Classical Latin) does not find common usage in English. There is no direct English word that encompasses the full meaning of the Latin word, so it is difficult to translate. It is variously rendered as “duty”, “religiosity” or “religious behavior”, “loyalty”, “devotion”, or “filial piety” depending on usage and context.

## NEW SEASON CONT'D FROM PG. 1

worship service, a Special Congregational Meeting will be convened where we will vote to accept his nomination and approve the (financial) terms of call.

The final steps to having a new pastor for our congregation are now set. After our meeting on September 8, Thom will be examined on the floor of Presbytery at their meeting September 13-14. Final approval there will leave only the determination of a “start date” and scheduling the installation service (typically some weeks after a new pastor begins his ministry).

Welcome Thom and Susie— may we be a blessing to you as you are to us. †

## NATIONAL WHEN PIGS FLY DAY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

National When Pigs Fly Day is an annual observance that celebrates the English idiom “...when pigs fly!” Technically, “When pigs fly!” is an adynaton, a figure of speech— in the form of hyperbole, taken to such extreme lengths as to insinuate a complete impossibility. The precise etymology of “When pigs fly!” is a bit muddy (pigs like mud), but it is believed to have originated from one or more Scottish proverbs in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was mostly used as uncomplimentary sarcasm. Then in the 1930s, Ruth Plumly Thompson wrote about a flying pig named

**PIGS FLY** CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The Stated Meeting of Session was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 15, 2024, by the Moderator Kelly Kurth, in the church basement.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Psalm 27 and prayer by Kelly Kurth and the ruling elders present.

Members present: Moderator, Kelly Kurth; Ruling Elders: George Ellsworth, Howard Crawford, Jim Ely, and Jerry Watson Jr. constituting a quorum.

Mark Mason was present as clerk of session.

Guests: Thom and Susie Daubenspeck

On motion approved Mark Mason and Howard Crawford as commissioners to the Midwest Presbytery Meeting on September 13 and 14 at St. Andrew EPC in Auburn, IN.

The next prayer meeting will be September 1 following a noon luncheon.

Several members are meeting for prayer in the church basement from 7:00 to 8:00 on Wednesday evenings with Elder George Ellsworth.

Prayer Leaders after worship service for September:

- September 1 Mark Mason and Jo Ann Koekenberg
- September 8 Howard and Sallie Crawford
- September 15 Jerry and Mary Watson
- September 22 Jim and Barb Ely
- September 29 Mark Mason and Jo Ann Koekenberg

There were 31 communicants at the August 4 worship service and an average attendance in worship of 32 the last four weeks.

Pulpit Supply for September:

- September 1 Mark Mason
- September 8 Thom Daubenspeck
- September 15 Richard Hammer
- September 22 Jim Ely
- September 29 TBD

The Men's Fellowship breakfast met on Saturday, August 10 with six men attending.

The Women's Fellowship group meets in the church basement on the third Saturday of the month for a light breakfast, devotions, and prayer.

Barb Ely and daughters are teaching a fiber arts workshop on the third Saturday of the month following the women's breakfast.

The Homeschool Mom's/Kids Group is meeting at Williamsport Park during the summer months, weather permitting

The adult Sunday school class is being used for deacon training and the general education of members about the

duties of deacons by reading and discussing *The Deacon: Biblical Foundations for Today's Ministry of Mercy* by Cornelis Van Dam.



The junior high class is using *Great Commission Publication's* lesson series on the New Testament. This month students are learning about John the Baptist, the 12 disciples and Jesus's miracles.

The congregation enjoyed a fellowship meal with a salad theme on August 4 with prayer following the meal.

Mike Saylor has been repairing the drywall in the men's basement restroom.

On motion received Summary Financial Reports from treasurer, Rick Ely and financial secretary, George Ellsworth.

Approved transferring \$3,200 from the zXtra account to the Building Ins. budget line item, and \$300 from the zXtra account to the Building Cleaning budget line item and \$300 from the zXtra account to the Water Budget line item.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on September 8, to be served by Mark Mason and Jim Ely.

The next Regular Meeting of Session will be September 9 at 7:00 PM.

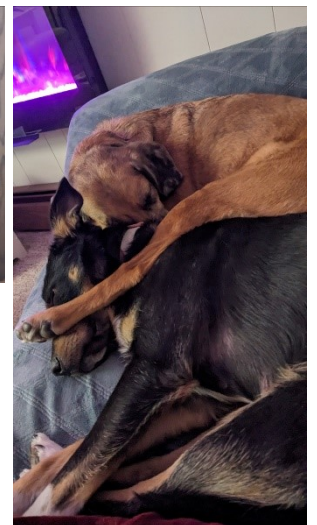
On motion the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Mason



Thom & Susie have two rescue dogs who are part of the family. Katharina von Bora "Kat" (left) is an Australian



cattle dog, and Nadia is a pleasant mix of regal but indeterminate lineage.

A dog named Kat might be confusing for some folks, but the name has apparently had no detrimental psychological effect on Katharina.



John Lundy  
Cary, NC



August 16, 2024

Greetings friends,

The Attica School's website informs me that the school year began on August 5! My goodness— was it always that way? So much for starting this report with the cliché about September being a time of new beginnings.

If there's a time of new beginnings in the TWR world, it's October, because that's when the fiscal year begins for us. This year, October is also the month for the unveiling of "Lifted: A dying tribe encounters new life." It's a documentary film about how Ivan and Doris Schoen arrived in the Amazonian rainforest of Suriname in 1961; befriended two animistic, illiterate tribes; learned their language; taught them how to read their own language; and introduced them to the love of God through Jesus Christ.

The reference to "a dying tribe" is literal. Trying to appease the evil spirits that the Wayana and Trio tribes believed to be in control, they were killing 85% of their own babies. Jesus changed all of that dramatically. Now well over half of the Wayana and Trio are Jesus followers, and they enthusiastically reach out to other tribes in the jungle.

Tom Schoen is the youngest of the three children— just 2 when the family moved to the jungle. He now serves with TWR, working with the Wayana and Trio to put in two radio stations to continue discipling their people as they become more spread out. That process is very near to completion.

For more than a year, TWR's small Marketing and Communications video team has been working on the

video *Lifted*." The editing is still in its final phases, but I've been watching it a lot because I've been working on some of the marketing materials. I can tell you, it's a compelling story, well-told.



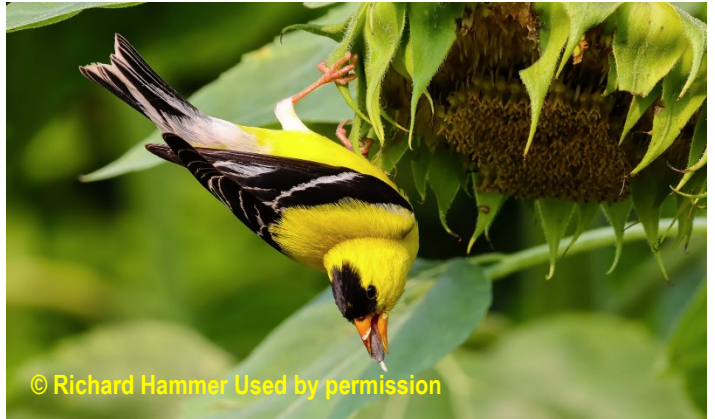
Tentative Title Screen  
for the Video

It will premiere on a Friday night in October at The Cary Theater, an arthouse

theater downtown. Tom Schoen is coming to town for a Q&A following the showing. We'll charge admission for

## The Fullness of Time

Anyone who watches and appreciates birds will likely be captivated by the picture below. It's the American Goldfinch, common across much of North America. The life of the Goldfinch holds an appropriate lesson for just such a time as this— this time, early fall 2024, this place in Attica, Indiana.



© Richard Hammer Used by permission

Unlike robins and cardinals that may have hatched and fledged three or four broods by late summer, the Goldfinch only begins nest-building in mid-July to early August. Far from just a skylarking sloth, the Goldfinch is awaiting the fullness of time. The Goldfinch's patience is a prerequisite for survival for two crucial reasons. Their nesting arts are very precise; their nests are so tightly woven they may even hold water. To get this level of structural integrity and still create a softly padded bed, two of their primary construction materials are spider web silk and thistle down. Spider webs are less plentiful

**THE FULLNESS OF TIME** CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 6)

that, but soon you'll be able to download *Lifted* for free. I think it would make a fun movie night for Attica-Williamsport Presbyterian. (You'd probably want to have an alternative for any young children.) Perhaps we could work out some sort of post-showing video link from the church to one of the filmmakers and me.

Just a thought.

Whether or not September feels like a beginning for you, I hope you have a glorious month. Kids, you already have one month of the school year in the books. That's not so bad.

With appreciation,  
John Lundy  
jlundy@twr.org  
218.260.0724





Ah, September! September 1 marks the beginning of Meteorological Autumn.

Meteorological Autumn differs from Astronomical Autumn by about twenty-one days (most years), which means we don't get to Astronomical Autumn for most of another month. This has always seemed like a wacky system that calls most of December Autumn, and most of March, Winter. But it's been that way since Pope Gregory XIII decreed it to be so in 1582. My name is not Donkey Hotey, so I'm not tilting at that windmill. But I digress.

In our little piece of Indiana, our average temperature range on September 1 is 62° to 80° F, with anything below 52° a rarity. By September 30, we have an average range of 52° - 70°, with occasional temperatures falling into the 30s. All this is to say that September is very likely to have some days when hearty soup is a good menu item for supper.

There are lots of recipes for potato soup, and at least that many for cabbage soup. There are tasty offerings for cabbage soup with potatoes, and some for potato soup with cabbage. But Potato Cabbage Soup with Kielbasa is not particularly common.

This recipe is a bit over my normal ingredient-count limit, but the oil and the salt and pepper don't really amount to much, and the cabbage dumps out of a bag— so my culinary limitations may not apply. An accomplished chef can probably have this soup-supper ready, start to finish, in about 45 minutes. Some of us less-talented kitchen denizens might want to plan for a little longer, especially if we have to make a last-minute run to the store because we forgot the carrot, or the quart of broth we had on the shelf leaves us two cups short. Be that as it may, as long as we're careful not to scorch the veggies, even a short-order cook can make this hearty soup.

## Potato Cabbage Soup with Kielbasa

### Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 14-oz. kielbasa, sliced ¼" disks
- ½ yellow onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- ¾ lb. chopped cabbage
- Salt and black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 2 large russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill

### Directions

Brown the kielbasa in oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir occasionally until sausage is lightly browned. Remove the sausage and set aside. Add cabbage, carrot, and onion to the pot, and season with salt and pepper. Stir gently over lower heat until vegetables begin to soften. Add garlic and continue cooking, waiting for the aroma of garlic. Then add the broth before the veggies scorch. Stir in the potatoes and sausage. Bring pot to a full boil, then reduce to simmer. Maintain gentle simmer until potatoes are fully cooked.

Remove from heat. Stir in vinegar and dill. Serve with grilled cheese sandwiches, crusty bread, or crackers (perhaps with pimiento cheese). ☩

## PIGS FLY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Pigasus— and the idiom became an English fixture. In September 2020, Lisa J. Schanley submitted it for consideration as a new holiday on September 9. It may not quite qualify as a 'holiday', but it does show up on a lot of calendars.

The common usage of "When pigs fly!" is still sarcasm— an attempt to ridicule a plan, project, or idea that is believed to command a zero chance of success. **National When Pigs Fly Day** is intended to celebrate those erstwhile impossible projects that actually came to fruition, or that might still beat the odds and do so.

Over the years, various pundits have tried to neutralize what they consider to be a silly idiom (and what idiom is not, at its core, silly?). One of my favorites is the claim that pigs *can* fly:

*With the application of sufficient thrust, pigs can fly just fine. However, this is not necessarily a good idea. Especially if one is sitting outdoors...*

Part of your celebration of **National When Pigs Fly Day** should include recounting pig-related Dad-Jokes. Here are two samples:

What do you call a pig who can't fly? A Groundhog  
But *if* it *could* fly, we'd call it: Swine Flu ☩

# THE FULLNESS OF TIME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

early in the season, and thistle down is totally non-existent. The second reason for their delay is the Goldfinch diet—which is 100% vegan. In the spring and early summer, the adults are able to forage for themselves—collecting last year’s seeds and whatever blooms and ripens early. But fending for themselves, versus feeding a nest full of perpetually hungry chicks—those are two entirely different daily grocery orders. So, they bide their time patiently until the bounty of God’s creation fills the earth with exactly what Goldfinches (young and old) need to eat. And so, the Goldfinch cornucopia arrives just when the chicks are hungriest. Which is exactly as it has been, ever since God created them.

None of us are very good at awaiting the fullness of time. For most of us, patience is only a problem when we have to wait. But God is never in a hurry. For Him, the fullness of time may be two months of the Goldfinch’s summer. For the Israelites in Egypt, the fullness of time was 400 years. From Abraham to the time of Christ, the fullness of time was 42 generations. From then until now, it’s been two millennia, and the fullness of time is not (quite) yet.

For our congregation, the fullness of time has proved to be 18 months, a miraculously short time. And yet, we have been impatient. Let us remember that the fullness of time is always on God’s schedule—and there’s always a reason for it.



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read a post on a website that from time to time uses his photography (e.g. the Goldfinch photos). The website is *ornitheology.com* (don’t read past that name too quickly—it doesn’t say quite what you first thought it said). The QR code is a link to the Goldfinch post, and the

This lesson about Goldfinches is in this issue of *Good News* because of a note from Richard Hammer. He thought of us when he



Late = On Time

Robotic weeder set to transform agriculture

## Weed ‘em and Reap

That’s the mantra of anyone who hopes to make a profit from agriculture.

Ever since Adam was banished from the Garden, weeds have been the bane of the farmer’s (and gardener’s) existence. Weed control is a never-ending job which, left undone, can significantly impair or even destroy a cultivated crop. For centuries, weeding was a labor-intensive task. Manually pulling weeds one at a time was effective but tedious and time consuming. The garden hoe accelerated the process, but risked damage to the cultivated crop and disturbed the soil causing other problems. The tractor-powered cultivator vastly increased the speed of the process, but it also magnified the hazards of the garden hoe.

Modern commercial agriculture, and even a majority of gardeners, have come to rely on chemical weed control. This is very efficient, but it’s expensive. And it leaves toxic residue in the soil leading to hazards, including some we have yet to identify. The biggest downside is that weeds are gradually becoming immune to the herbicides, so the chemical solution is ultimately self-defeating.

This is the challenge that paved the way for Israel-based AgriPass. Under the guidance of Guy Raz, founder and CEO, AgriPass has developed the first-of-its-kind precision robotic, Artificial Intelligence-enhanced, weeding solution for vegetable and row crops.

The detailed process, of course, is proprietary, but a simplified (albeit fantastic) explanation is in order. The machine is pulled by a tractor over the crop. Cameras scan the vegetation so the software can identify what weeds are present among the crop—essentially sorting out the wheat from the tares. The robotics then activate to mimic the effect of the erstwhile manual step of uprooting anything that is not the crop being tended. No chemicals, minimal soil disturbance, and hundreds of weeds per second are gone forever. And best of all, there is not a weed on the planet that will ever get immune to being pulled out by the roots.

Israeli technology is leading the way in many fields. AgriPass has its own slogan: **Weeding the Way.** ♣

lesson it teaches about the wisdom of our God. After you read the Goldfinch entry, take the time to browse around the rest of the website. It’s well worth your time.

The website’s “About” page starts with, “Hi, I’m Kevin. I’m an ornitheologist.” That’s *ornitheologist*, not *ornithologist*. *Ornith* (bird) and *logist* (science) offers a natural steppingstone to the mash-up *ornitheologist*—a pastor who is also a dedicated birder.

Scan the QR code with your phone, or if you’re reading this on line, click the QR graphic. If you like what you read, sign up to join the nest. ♣

# Wisdom: Gift of God

—Elder George Ellsworth, Editor

*For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

—Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

—Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!*

—Psalm 111:10 (ESV)

*The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

—Proverbs 15:33 (ESV)

*Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.*

—Psalm 119:97-98 (ESV)

When I was a kid, I wondered (apparently out loud) why things like acorns, pecans, and cherries (weighing, at most, a few ounces or less) grew on sturdy trees, while watermelons, pumpkins, and cushaws (weighing up to 30 pounds or more) grew on scraggly, ground hugging vines. That was probably when I got my first introduction to the story of Isaac Newton being bonked on the head by a falling apple— and how from that event he extrapolated his definition of the law of gravity. Dad pointed out that had the event occurred under a cushaw tree, the study of physical science could have been set back at least a generation if Isaac had succumbed to the resulting head injury. (While it is fairly well documented that a falling apple *was* involved, the actual head bonking is almost certainly a figment of imagination— woven into historical [hysterical] folklore by unscrupulous color commentators.)



Following this illustration of how God's wisdom greatly outstrips that of a ten-year-old boy, Dad further clarified the point with this catchy tune that speaks eloquently of God's wisdom.

## I Marvel at the Wisdom of My God

Chorus:

I marvel at the wisdom of my God.

I marvel at the wisdom of my God.

When I see the tender lily push aside the mighty clod,

I marvel at the wisdom of my God.

The Lord said, "Let the weak say they are strong."

But I wondered in my heart if He was wrong.

Then I saw the little lilies pushing up the heavy sod,  
And I marveled at the wisdom of my God.

Chorus

The Lord said, "Repay evil with the good."

But I wondered in my heart if I could.

Then I saw the little lilies pushing up the heavy sod,  
And I marveled at the wisdom of my God.

Chorus

O they crucified the Father's only Son.

When they laid Him in the tomb, they thought they'd won.

But just like the little lilies, He pushed up the heavy sod.

I marvel at the wisdom of my God!

Chorus

In the ensuing years, I may only have heard the song once or twice, and then maybe only the chorus. That's too bad— in an age when wisdom is in such short supply, we have lost a valuable lesson on the subject. Fortunately, it is not lost and gone forever— you can still hear it on YouTube. Scan the QR code, (or if you're reading this online, click the QR code graphic) for a direct link.

*(Note: I searched for the name of the composer and got what may be a first: "Your search— 'marvel at the wisdom of my god' 'composer' did not match any documents[!]. It's tough to stump a Google search!)*

I Marvel at the Wisdom  
of My God



This little ditty extols the Wisdom of God— a message from God's own Word. The Scriptures are clear that God is the source of all wisdom. The Scriptures are also clear that if we would have wisdom, we should ask God for it— as King Solomon did.

When we survey the world around us, we see a great deal more foolishness than wisdom, and the secular culture doesn't even wonder why. There is a deception that afflicts *'those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!'* (Isaiah 5:20). The same deception causes them to take foolishness for wisdom. The deception, of course, is manifest because we, as a people, have turned our backs on God and His Holy Word. Apart from the regular reading and study of God's Word, we forfeit the benefit God's written record of His ways and His Wisdom. What we see happening is the result of Biblical illiteracy. While something like 87% of U. S. households have at least one Bible, barely 10% of the population has read all of it (even once).

*The man who does not read, has no advantage over the man who cannot read. —Mark Twain*

Men have tried to describe wisdom for centuries. The writers of Proverbs were more successful than most. Some more recent pundits have been more effective than others. This is one of my favorites:

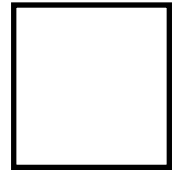
*Wisdom consists of the anticipation of consequences. —Norman Cousins.*

The ultimate destiny of the foolishness pervading our civilization is self-destruction— as substantiated by Biblical History. Apart from the wisdom of God's teachings, turning back can't come before it's too late. We won't have that wisdom without God's Word. See the Norman Cousins quote above.



*Attica-Williamsport Evangelical  
Presbyterian Church  
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Attica, Indiana 47918*

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR  
SEPTEMBER**

DOB	Name
9/05	R. James Ely
9/15	John F. Tanner II

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR  
SEPTEMBER**

Anniversary Date	Number	Celebrating Couple
9/28/91	33	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Smart



**Sunday:**  
 Sunday School 9:00 am  
 Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am  
 Morning Worship 10:30 am

**Every First Sunday**  
 Fellowship Dinner and  
 Congregational Prayer 12:00 Noon

**Weekly Small Group Meetings—  
Call for Schedules and locations**

**Note:** Please send Birthday or Anniversary corrections to the editor, in writing—by e-mail if possible.

**HONESTY IS THE FIRST CHAPTER  
IN THE BOOK OF WISDOM. —THOMAS JEFFERSON**