

# Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Pastor Joel Stevenor

March 2017

## PHONE TREE

### THE HOLY IN THE ORDINARY

We will be creating a new phone tree for those that are unable to receive e-mail updates and notifications. If you are interested in being a part of the revised phone tree, please call Becky at the church office. If you leave a message on the church's answering machine, please include your name and the best phone number to reach you.

Holy is the time and holy is this place,  
and there are holy things that must be said.

Let us say to one another what our souls whisper...

O Holy One, cast your tent among us;  
come into our ordinary lives and bless the living!

Forty days stretch before us,  
forty days of hungering after faithfulness,  
forty days of trying to understand the story,  
and then, Holy Week...

O God, if every week were holy...

These forty days stretch before us,  
and those of us who believe  
yearn to feel Your presence,  
yearn to be Your people;  
and yet, the days fill with ordinary things  
with no time left  
for seeking the holy.

Spiritual contemplation is all right  
for those who have the time,  
but most of us have to make a living.

Most of us have to live in the real world  
where profanity splashes and blots out  
anything holy.

Where, O Holy One, can we find You in this unholy mess?  
How, O God, can we find the holy in the ordinary?

- Excerpt from Ann Weems' book *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

### SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins on  
Sunday, March 12th. Don't forget  
to set your clocks **AHEAD**  
before bedtime on Saturday so  
you are on time for church!

Thank you so very much for the Valentines—  
it is so nice to be remembered by your  
church family. All is going well here. Hope it  
is for you too! God has blessed me in so  
many ways I cannot even begin to count  
them! My family for one and the church also.  
Sometimes it takes a little thing to make you  
realize how it greatly affects one's life!

Thanks again, and God Bless you all!

-Chris Metzger

**Thank You!**

# MARCH FOR MEALS

March is designated as a nationwide celebration for Meals on Wheels. Named “March for Meals”, communities across the country are asked to support a program that allows seniors to live healthy, happy and independent lives at home, where they want to be. One opportunity is the “Pass the Plate” fundraising initiative available to congregations in our community. This will assure that delivery of nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks of the area’s homebound seniors will continue.

In Erie County, alone, 523 seniors received Meals on Wheels during 2016. While we all celebrate the increase in lifespan, maintaining health while aging comes with a price. Without support from programs like Meals on Wheels, millions of seniors are forced to prematurely trade their homes for nursing facilities. It costs less to provide a senior Meals on Wheels for an entire year than it costs to spend one day in the hospital or six days in a nursing home.

Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal since the first know U.S. delivery by a small group of Philadelphia citizens in 1954 – to support our senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age. What started as a compassionate idea has grown into one of the largest and most effective social movements in America, currently helping nearly 2.4 million seniors annually in virtually every community in the country.

We ask your congregation to be involved in this fund raiser. Please contact us at the Erie County Senior Center for more information.

In addition, the Meals on Wheels Program is in need of a few more hands. Could you help out one day per week from 10:30 to noon? This is a great activity to participate in with a friend and enjoy some true quality time together.

Thank you so much for your help.

Sincerely Yours,

Meals on Wheels  
Awareness Committee



# SCOUT SUNDAY

Thank you to the Scouts and Leaders of Troop 31 for participating in our Scout Sunday Worship Service on February 5th! Thanks for providing the refreshments for our Fellowship Hour afterwards. We enjoyed trying some Gorp and Bug Juice!



# DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 2,000 references in the Bible to children and poverty. Obviously, then, children and poverty are very close to God’s heart. This is where Compassion International ministers – with children in poverty. Compassion has been named a “Top Ten Charity Changing the World” and for 15 years has had the highest rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. All this means that sponsoring a child through Compassion makes a BIG difference to the child you sponsor!

Take a minute to navigate their website – Compassion International.org, or call 1-800-336-7676. If you sponsor a child you will not only be a blessing to that child – and perhaps even save their life – but you will also be blessed as you develop a personal relationship with them through letters and pictures.

There are several people in our congregation who are sponsors and they all would testify to the wonderful ministry of Compassion and what their experience has been. Pastor Joel is one of them. Ron Ruble, Jann Glann, Susan Martter and Margaret Swords are among those who have joined Compassion to save a child in poverty.

God’s heart is for children and poverty. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Consider sponsoring a child. It will gladden God’s heart -and yours!

Call Susan Martter (419-602-0539) or see Pastor Joel for more information.



# THANK YOU

Dear Parishioners of First Presbyterian Church,  
Your generosity for Kinship is greatly appreciated and on behalf of the board, I thank you! It’s this sort of support from the community that sustains us all.

We at Kinship look forward to continuing our programs that deal with the subject of child abuse.

Sincerely,  
Nanette Straukel



Photo from Compassion.com

# REMINDER...

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or undergoing a surgery/procedure, please contact the church office. We understand that upon admittance they ask which church you attend, however we are not contacted by the hospitals to notify us of your hospitalization. In order to better serve you, please contact the church office with this information if you desire visitors and/or prayers.

# PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Dear Friends:

I recently received a note from a colleague who serves as the pastor of the Presbyterian congregation in Kirkuk, Iraq. He was writing to thank the PCUSA for its prayers and support in the wake of the July bombing in a Baghdad marketplace that killed more than 300 people. He said, *your prayers and concerns are deeply appreciated and very much needed and welcomed. Indeed the most recent attacks in Baghdad were a devastating blow to a community already reeling from much pain and sorrow. What's most saddening, however, is how desensitized we have become to such horrific actions...* He went on to describe how important it is for the church to stand up in the face of evil or suffering to proclaim good news and *help those whom the Lord sends our way.* He concluded: *The Lord is good, and always will be. We nonetheless want to ask for your continued prayers, support, and care- - your love and generous support is a reminder that our friends in the West have not forgotten us or our plight.*

Pastor Haitham's words—spoken in the midst of the challenges of wartime in Iraq—are echoed in the words of countless other neighbors in need here in the US and across the world, who receive grants for the repair and healing of their communities that are only possible because you have not forgotten their plight. In South Sudan, church leaders are able to provide desperately needed food, hygiene, and shelter for thousands displaced by violence and famine. In the Philippines, people whose livelihoods were destroyed by Super typhoon Haiyan are learning new trades, reestablishing farms, and stabilizing their families' lives. In Lebanon and Syria, children in refugee camps are again attending school and brave families who are trying to stay in their country are returning to renovated apartments in the battered city of Homs. In South Carolina and Texas, flooded homes are mucked out, volunteer work teams are joining hands to rebuild, and the most vulnerable of our neighbors are seeing their dignity and hope restored.

Thank God, you have not become desensitized by the magnitude of needs arising out of disaster and conflict, but instead, you have been filled with a spirit of hope and generosity. Your generous gift(s) given to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support emergency and disaster response in the United States and around the world helps bring the presence of Christ to a broken and hurting world and enables PDA to support the vision and work of recovery of those who are most affected when chaos strikes. We thank you.

With Deepest Appreciation.

Laurie A. Kraus.

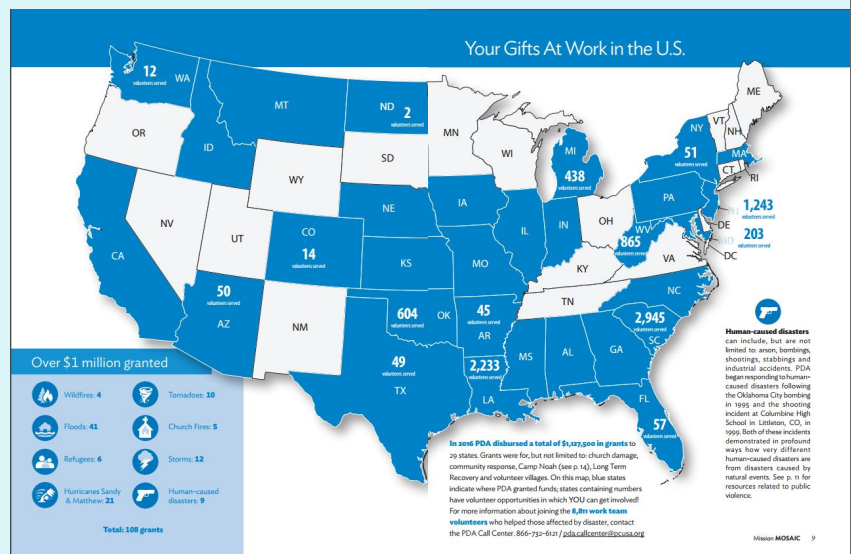
The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus

Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**





# HAPPY QUILTERS

The Happy Quilters group out of Huron, Ohio has expanded to various locations around the world including Florida, California, and Mexico. They could use your help in gathering supplies for quilts that they make for the homeless. Whenever they find someone in need, they give them a quilt packaged in a plastic storage bag that has handles added to them for easier transport. There are two pockets on the quilts that they fill with items to fulfill basic needs, including Bibles, blessing bears, hats, socks, toiletries, flashlights, washcloths, and McDonald's giftcards.

Currently they are in need of the following items:

- McDonalds Giftcards in \$5 amounts
- Socks (regular mens white)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Washcloths
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Hats
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes-
- Quart & Galloon Storage Baggies

Please drop off any donations to the box in the parlor next to the Helping Hands Food Pantry basket. You may contact Shelia Preston with any questions at 419-602-3298.



# LENT

Lent is a time to take the time  
 to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
 a time to let the events  
 get up and walk around in us,  
 a time to intensify  
 our living unto Christ,  
 a time to hover over  
 the thoughts of our hearts,  
 a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
 or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
 a time to touch his robe  
 and feel the healing surge through us,  
 a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

- Excerpt from Ann Weems' book *Kneeling in Jerusalem*



## PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

- March 5, 2017**  
Lighthouse Assembly of God Church  
Pastor Tom Holzaepfel
- March 12, 2017**  
St. Peter Catholic Church  
Father Jeff McBeth
- March 19, 2017**  
United Methodist Church  
Pastor Roger Skelley-Watts
- March 26, 2017**  
Zion Lutheran Church

**HELP WANTED:**

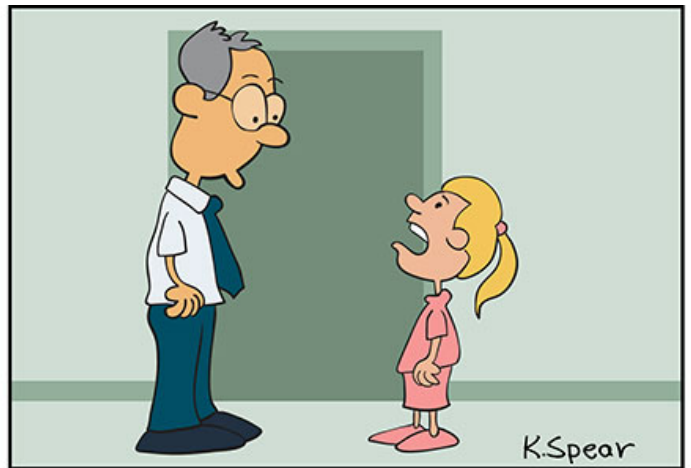
We are in need of ushers and hospitality volunteers for the months of March and April. If you are available, please sign-up to usher on the sheet in the Narthex and on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to provide hospitality. Or you may call or e-mail the church office.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

- Mar 4 Little Wonders Open House @ 10 am-Noon
- Mar 7 PW Circle @ 7 pm
- Mar 8 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
- Mar 8 F&M and Worship Meetings @ 7 pm
- Mar 9 N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Mar 12 Eagle Scout Ceremony @ 1 pm
- Mar 15 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
- Mar 20 Steeple Notes Deadline
- Mar 22 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm



- Mar 2 Kathryn Wittmer
- Mar 5 William Marsh
- Mar 5 Harry Wright
- Mar 8 Hollie Mueller
- Mar 9 Bob Kaman
- Mar 12 Katherine Brouse
- Mar 14 Joel Stevenor
- Mar 15 Andrea Kaman
- Mar 16 Cordell Holloway
- Mar 18 Ann Hansen
- Mar 26 Carol Mack
- Mar 28 John Phillips
- Mar 29 Anne Marie Koch



"I heard you singing during worship. Why don't you use Auto-Tune?"



	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
<b>Mar 5</b>	Clark Culbertson	Cynthia Brown Mathews	Jann Glann	Jack and Marcia Arthur
	<b>Communion Servers:</b> Janis Brewer, Carolyn Culbertson, Jack Arthur, & Bill Roose <b>Set-up:</b> Jann Glann			
<b>Mar 12</b>	Kathy Kirby & Patti Smith	John Blakeman	Kathy Kirby & Patti Smith	Margaret Swords
<b>Mar 19</b>	Ed Osteen	Agnes Toldy	Carolyn Culbertson	David and Jeannine Asher
<b>Mar 26</b>	Clark Culbertson & Ed Osteen	Casey Wittmer	Ellen Drumm & Katy McGraw	Mark and Pat Koch

