



Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Pastor Joel Stevenor

October 2016



What happens when life becomes chaotic? To avoid discomfort and disorder, there's a good chance that most of us will shift into crisis mode to avoid the darkness of chaos at all cost. While we do not like to dwell on the subject, if we are honest, we will admit that we are afraid of the darkness of chaos. Perhaps this is because of what our culture associates with chaos and darkness. Evil, shadows, negativity, monsters, crime, and the boogeyman are just a few connotations that immediately come to mind. A wider reading of religion, society, and culture, however, reveals deeper meanings for chaos and darkness that hold it sacred and vital to the journey of faith.

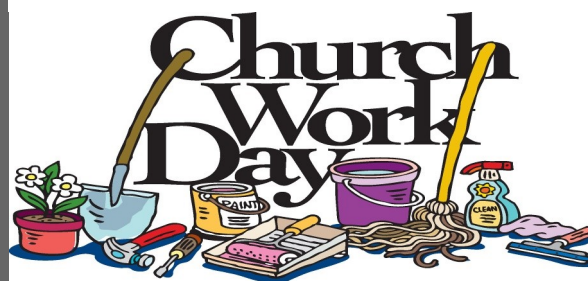
According to the Bible, the meeting place with God is often found in chaos. For St. Paul, the apostle, who helped to spread the message of the New Testament beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem, it was the chaotic darkness of his blindness. For Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, it was the dark night of his wrestling with a divine being. Both the crucifixion and resurrection are reported to have occurred in the chaos of darkness. The good news that we need to remind ourselves of is that even the darkness is as light to God!

While learning from the darkness of chaos is not a lesson that we would choose if given the choice, we all will eventually experience the fertile mystery of chaos. Sometimes such learning happens in spite of our best intentions. Remember that in order for something to be constructed, first something else must be deconstructed. In this way, Divine Order can come out of our chaotic lives. In the midst of chaos and darkness, if we are receptive, we can hear God's voice proclaiming, "Let there be light." God's light will shine in the chaos and darkness of our lives and the darkness cannot overcome it!

Prayer: *God, be my light as I face chaotic times. Amen.*

Come one, come all. The more the merrier. Our Church Fall Work Day will be Saturday, October 29. Starting at 9 am. Projects to be accomplished:

- Clean the kitchen drawers, cabinets, etc.
- Clean the nursery
- Clean the youth room
- Clean the pews in the sanctuary
- Store the window a/c units
- Drain and store garden hoses



The 2017 Flower Chart is in the parlor. Pick a date and sign your name on the chart. As your Sunday approaches, Pat Koch will call you for your flower preference and dedication. Some time prior to your Sunday, pay the church office \$24 to cover the cost. You may take the flowers home or the committee will be happy to deliver the arrangement to a shut-in. If you have a question, call Pat Koch (419-433-7140).





The leadership of Pack 31 would like to thank everyone who made our recruiting and Back to the Pack event a great success this year. This year we have signed up 32 new scouts (to date) which takes our pack to over 50 scouts. If you know friends and neighbors with boys in 1st-5th grades, suggest they come check us out every Monday at 7 pm.

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ~ Hebrews 12:14



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has reached out to the leadership of the Presbytery of Charlotte and Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery in response of the tragic events in their communities. As the situations continue to unfold, PDA stands ready to offer support and resources.

Laurie Kraus, Coordinator for PDA, has shared a prayer in the midst of violence and unrest in Charlotte and Tulas.

Worship Committee Report

This is the time of year when we talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work within the community of faith. To celebrate, our church members are being asked to participate in special ways.

In October, some special people will be picking a topic that is near and dear to them and teach the children during the worship service.

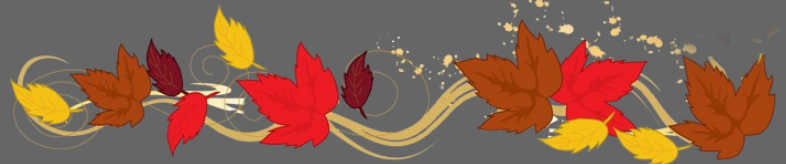
In November, our church members who are poets will be presenting poems of Thanksgiving.

Then, **in December**, an Advent booklet is being put together using individual devotionals created by our church members.

As a way of extending our church hospitality to our community, church members will be putting seasonal decorations up outside our church as a way of welcoming the community in.

And, we will be starting a new tradition of having our children take turns being acolytes. A peace candle will be set next to the pulpit and lit at the beginning of each service.

So, with excitement and anticipation, we look forward to seeing the Holy Spirit at work within our church and out into our community. Come join us and see the hand of God at work.



Fun Facts



Janet Mueller



Debbie Schippel



Jann Glann

Which one of these ladies once taught a class on a military base? Who skipped school to go skiing? And whose childhood dog was named Peanut? (answers on page 5)



Loans Empowering Women

A letter from Ruth Brown serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Some of you can appreciate the expression “We’re running on African time!” Time has a different quality here. Church services are four hours long, and just this past week I waited two hours for a meeting to begin. But at this meeting, 23 of 24 seats were already filled at 9 a.m. sharp. Then, upon the arrival of the last woman at 9:05 a.m., the group secretary requested immediate payment of a late fee of 100 Franc Congolese (FC)—about 11 cents—and, in front of everyone present, that tardy member quickly placed money into a red plastic bowl.

The group included women from four different Christian denominations and those with no church membership. They began with prayer, and then three women, each with one key, came forward to unlock the three locks on a heavy metal chest. The secretary then removed all the contents of the chest: 24 small notebooks, 2 larger notebooks for the treasurer and secretary, 2 plastic bowls (1 green, 1 red), and 3 different-colored cloth bags of money. The first “Loan” meeting of the first micro-finance group implemented with a grant from the PC(USA)’s Presbyterian Women’s Thank Offering had begun!

The majority of the women present work in the market for 8 to 12 hours each day, selling oil, soap, bread, vegetables, and/or small bags of peanuts. A few of the women work in corn mill cooperatives, a couple of them are seamstresses, and one is a primary schoolteacher. All are acquainted with one another and live in the same neighborhood. We look forward to holding educational sessions with them to help them plan how to improve their businesses and/or begin sales of products with their earned savings.

The group members decided that all their members would be able to contribute each week a “share” valued at 500 FC (54 cents). Additionally, every member contributes 200 FC (22 cents) every week to a “social account” set up to give grants rather than loans, upon agreement of all members, to any member requesting funds for urgent family situations. And the members will also be reimbursing all costs of their start-up kit—the metal box, locks and all contents—at 200 FC (22 cents), paid every other week for 10 weeks. At this first “Loan” meeting four women requested loans ranging from \$13.98 to \$16.13 (USD).

Kristi Rice, PC(USA) mission colleague here in Congo, has been working with the Presbyterian Church of Congo’s Community Development Program (CPDC) since 2012, carefully planning this micro-finance program. Kristi has shared with CPDC members proven methodologies for successful micro-finance programs.

International development organizations have found that targeting women for such economic empowerment programs raises household living standards more than micro-finance programs with male membership. That’s why we chose only women participants for the first two years of our program. If all goes as planned, more than 1,000 families will experience the benefit of added income before the end of this two-year grant! This project directly addresses one of Presbyterian World Mission’s critical global initiatives: “to eliminate the root causes of poverty, particularly where these causes affect women and children.”

Thank you for making this program possible through your prayers, your financial support for my position, and for contributing to the Presbyterian Women’s Thank Offering. If you have not yet supported this ministry, please consider doing so.

The clock mounted on the mango tree is a symbol of the discipline needed for these communities to take a step into a healthier, more secure future. Please consider micro-savings programs as a way to respond to your own community’s needs. And if you already have a similar program in your community, please do let me know.

With thanks to you!

Ruth



One by one, each woman comes forward to pay her share.





Saturday, Oct 22nd at 8:30 am

You are cordially invited to join the Presbyterian Women at a breakfast shoe cutting party! These shoes are made from old jeans. We will have patterns and instructions and divide into teams.

Why are we making shoes? The shoes are to prevent the jiggers from infecting the feet of children in Africa.

How? We get together for a fun morning of food, fellowship, and teamwork. The jeans are cut into several shoe sizes. The pieces are pinned together and sent to the finishers (see the web site www.solehope.org) who add the sole to the shoe.

When? Saturday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are invited. Families, friends, neighbors are all welcome for some good food and a fun project!

What to bring? Please bring your old jeans, fabric scissors, large safety pins, black sharpie marker, any plastic items (milk jug, thin plastic folders, laundry detergent bottles, 2-liter soda bottle).

Stations. There are several steps involved. You are welcome to join in any one step or move around the room. There will be four stations: tracing, cutting, assembling, and quality control.

If you would like to help, but are unable to attend the party, there are items needed for foot washing and jigger removal. Please drop off these donations in the basket in the parlor any time before October 22. Thank you.

Donations needed:

- Large safety pins
- Surgical gloves
- Cotton balls
- Medical tape
- Antibiotic cream
- Gauze
- Band aids



Looking for a Ministry?

If you would like to help the homeless, perhaps you would consider joining us on the morning of the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. You could help by:

- ◆ Stretch quilts
- ◆ Stuffing quilt pockets
- ◆ Learning to make blessing bears
- ◆ Piercing tops for a scripture blanket
- ◆ Cutting large fabric squares
- ◆ Helping the homeless at the shelter to sew

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Beverly Johnson at 419-433-7696

Historical Society Presents

The Huron Historical Society is sponsoring "A Night in the Cemetery", Saturday, Oct. 8 at 5 pm at the Huron Cemetery on S. Main Street. Local actors will bring nine early Huronites to life who are either buried in the cemetery or in the case of undertaker Henry Krock, buried his fellow villagers. Actors include Jann Glann portraying Julia Haskins, the wife of an early Huron physician; Geoff Stephenson portraying Jabez Wright, surveyor and justice of the peace; Joel Stevenor portraying Jean Baptiste Flammond, trader and trapper; and Steve Koenig portraying Capt. Charles Fairchild Church, ship captain and ship builder. If you are interested in attending, please call the Huron Library at 419-433-5009 so we know how many people to expect. The event is free, but donations are always appreciated.



Presby Mouse

I hope you have been enjoying this beautiful time of the year as much as I have. It has been an exciting time here at the church.

Our Little Wonders are back in the church.

The start of the school year has been fun. Of course, there were some close calls

with my tail and their little feet.

I hopped in Joel's pocket and got to attend the Shared Dinner's kick-off dinner at the Muntz's. The food was excellent especially Bob's sauces. It was a lot of fun to visit and catch up with so many people.



The poetry reading on Sept 18th was well attended. The thoughts shared were touching and provoking. The music was inspiring. Thanks to all who shared their talents. I was so moved by the experience that I am working on my own poem. Maybe I will share it in November with the other Thanksgiving poets.



Our church Adopt-a-School program is off to a good start and we would like to thank everyone that is participating either by volunteering in the schools or praying for the classrooms. Grandparents Day at Shawnee will be October 19th. As soon as we get details as to what will be needed, we will contact everyone that has offered to help out that day. Again, Thank You!

~ Sharon Velliquette

Nurture and Mission Committee Report

Nurture and Mission Committee is working with Pastor Joel to organize the Oct 2nd BBQ lunch. We are also planning to deliver Halloween Treats to shut-in members later this month. It is that time of year again for us to recognize some special people (our 50+ years members). Watch your bulletin for more information.



It is so nice to have the choirs practicing again. I love it when the halls are filled with music. And speaking of delightful music wasn't that string trio amazing. Thank you Eugenie, Daniel, and Annabelle for sharing your talents with us.



Fun Facts Answers

Jann Glann once taught a communications class to a group of officers on a military base in Texas. Janet Mueller skipped school to go on a skiing trip with Boots Behnken. Debbie Schippel had the dog name Peanut. Their family's collie had puppies and Peanut was the smallest one.

THE DANIEL PLAN

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR YOUR HEALTH

Start a journey with us toward better health through The Daniel Plan! This program will equip you with practical tools and resources to bring health into every area of your life. We are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am. We are providing a child friendly and safe environment for little ones to play during our meeting time. If you have questions, please email Agnes at agnestoldy@yahoo.com.

FAITH

FOOD

FITNESS

FOCUS





- 3 Priscilla Auble
- 3 David Prout
- 3 Annabelle Ryu
- 6 Ross Marsh
- 6 Joanna Oller
- 8 Maggie Prout
- 9 June Taylor
- 13 Marcie Muntz
- 14 Pat Koch
- 15 Gail Burke
- 15 Ward DeLamatre
- 15 Steve Koenig
- 19 Gloria Lyons
- 20 Katy McGraw
- 23 Kathleen Kirby
- 23 Carolyn Rudy
- 24 Sue Todd
- 26 David Fenn
- 30 Tom Kirby Jr.
- 30 Ellen Prout
- 30 Eldon Zimmer

The Fall Rummage Sale will be on Oct 8th. Donations can be dropped off after 2 pm on Monday, Oct 3rd.



You are invited to join our weekly Bible Study on either Monday morning at 10 am or Wednesday evening at 6 pm.

The retired teacher luncheon is October 14th . We need volunteers for set up, serving, and clean up. There is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall. Contact Kathy Kirby for more details 419-366-4065

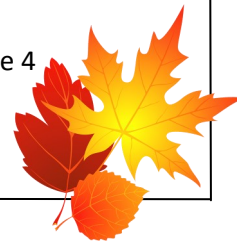
October 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Save the Date

Oct 2	Church Picnic and BBQ (starts at noon)
Oct 4	Lydia Circle (7 pm)
Oct 7	Set-Up for Rummage Sale (9 am to noon)
Oct 8	Rummage Sale (9 am to 1 pm)
Oct 8	A Night in the Cemetery (5 pm) see page 4
Oct 12	Christ's Community Meal
Oct 13	N&M Meeting (7:30 pm)
Oct 14	Retired Teachers Luncheon
Oct 19	Session Meeting (7 pm)
Oct 21	Steeple Notes deadline
Oct 22	Sole Hope (8:30 am) see page 4
Oct 26	Christ's Community Meal
Oct 29	Church Work Day (9 am)



Hot Dog Monday is Every Monday at Noon

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist	Children's Sermon	Flowers
Oct 2	Katy McGraw & Ellen Drumm	Sarah & Mike Prout	Cynthia Brown	Ann Pullano	Ron Ruble
Oct 9	Fern and Ward DeLamatre	Margaret Swords & Janet Gottwald	Janis Brewer	Carolyn Culbertson	Mark & Pat Koch Bob & Marcie Muntz
Oct 16	Rachel Pratt & Edwina Chamberlain	Jack & Marcia Arthur	John Blakeman	Janet Mueller	Dave & Jeannine Asher
Oct 23	Bill & Sharon Roose	Chuck and Bob Kaman	Agnes Toldy	Casey Wittmer	Brian & Katy McGraw
Oct 30	John & Sarah Blakeman	Toldy Family	Casey Wittmer	Marcie Muntz	Tom & Kathy Kirby

Communion Servers for Oct 2: Casey Wittmer, Bill Roose, Marc Martter, and Susan Martter
Terry Burke will do the set-up for Communion