



Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Pastor Joel Stevenor

September 2016



God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. -John 4:24

Jesus' entire ministry pointed towards the worship of God. For him, worshipping God was seen not only in the temple, but in the everyday places of people's lives. Perhaps this is why Jesus' parables, healings and teachings were set in common, everyday life situations. His stories ran the gamut of illness, death, decision-making, sweeping, seasoning food, buying more than is needed, trimming the lamps, boating, fishing, eating, marrying, sowing seeds, investing talents, standing with the oppressed, misplacing loyalties, and relating to family members. Jesus used the articles and events of everyday life to illustrate his message of God's in-breaking Presence.

A more complete way of understanding worship is that it is both a private and public action highlighting our need for connection with God and others. So the purpose of worship is to create a "sanctuary" to connect with God and experience grace. This sanctuary allows us to enter into "sacred space" where we are ushered into the Presence of God through the characters and stories of the Bible, prayers, hymns and choruses.

So how is it with your worship? What aids your worship? What hinders your worship? How might you use the articles of everyday life to illustrate God's Presence to others? How can you worship God throughout the day?

Prayer: Spirit of Truth, breathe on me and help me make time to worship you.



Worship Times Change Sept 11

Early Worship at 8:30 am
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Regular Worship at 10:45 am

Joel's Fall and Winter Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 2 pm
and ANYTIME by appointment. Joel's cell is 419-239-7502.

Lydia Circle

All women are invited to join the Lydia Circle for a Bible study starting Tuesday, Sept 6 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This year's study will be "Who is Jesus?"

As Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?" It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you. "Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead); others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one." Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do *you* say that I am?" Now *that's* a good question! Through the course of this study, you will find your own voice and answer. So when Jesus asks you that question, you have an answer.



Enjoy a Concert September 10th

First Presbyterian Maumee welcomes critically-acclaimed Nashville singer-songwriter Matthew Smith and Indelible Grace at 7 pm Saturday, Sept 10. Tickets are \$10 in advance at firstpresmaumee.org and \$12 at the door.

“This concert isn’t just an evening of entertainment, it’s worship. It’s beautiful music wed to glorious truths,” said Pastor Dan Waugh in Bloomington, Indiana. “It’s an education in what worship can and should be—stirring, thoughtful, theological, Christocentric. Matthew and the band led humbly.”

At 5 pm, prior to the concert, Smith will lead an hour-long seminar, sharing his story of how he came to write new music to centuries-old hymn texts and why hymns are still important for the modern church. A community meal will be at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall (suggested donation \$5 per person). Child care is provided for kids aged 0-5 in our staffed nursery during the concert.

First Presbyterian Maumee is located at 200 E Broadway, Maumee.

First Responders Service

The Huron community will come together for a service to honor the courageous first responders on September 11th at 4:00 pm. The service will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church on Main Street. Please come to honor, thank, and celebrate our first responders.

To all who
Selflessly give of themselves
Day after day, we say ...
Thank You.



Cub and Boy Scouts

Huron Cub Scout Pack 31 will be kicking off the new scout year in September. New Scout Signup Night will be Wednesday, Sept 7 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our Back to the Pack event will be on Monday, Sept 12 at 6 pm at the Huron Boat Basin. Any boy interested can join at anytime, please come check out our meetings on Mondays at 7 pm. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts both meet at this time so all ages are invited. Please contact Chris Rager at 419-206-2739 or huronpack31@gmail.com for more information.



Thanks to all who donated school supplies. Your generosity is appreciated and made a difference to area children!

Donations are being accepted to help the flood devastation in Louisiana. **Checks** can be made out to **First Presbyterian Church Huron** with a notation on the check for **flood relief**. Pray for families impacted by flooding, for first responders, and for the communities as they work to rebuild.



Stranded residents are rescued in Baton Rouge, LA on Aug 14, 2016

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PDA has responded to the devastating flooding in the Gulf. Homes and churches are struggling to recover. Some have lost everything. In addition to trained National Response Team members, PDA is also providing grants. Volunteers will be organized by the Long Term Recovery Group over the next several months.

A letter from John & Gwenda Fletcher serving in Congo



It was, as usual, a rather busy day and I was rushing to get to the morning surgery clinic. It didn't help that now someone was pulling me aside and wanting me to stop and talk with her. At first I was all about my rush to get to clinic, but gradually I began to realize that this was somehow more important. The young woman asked if I might remember her. She explained that almost 20 years ago she had been a patient at the Good Shepherd Hospital and I had taken care of her. She thanked and praised God because her life had been saved by the Congolese Presbyterian Church (CPC) medical program.

You might recall that in the beginning of the well-known story in Matthew (Matthew 14) about the feeding of the 5,000 there is a verse, which is often overlooked: "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and **healed their sick.**" The CPC, through their network of hospitals, seeks to provide that compassionate healing ministry to a population largely without access to medical care. This was precisely the compassionate care that was provided to the young woman who now had hold of my arm.

She (I will call her Tshibola) had fallen ill as a child just 6 years old and the treatment given to her by traditional healers and by the health clinic in the remote village where she lived with her family only served to worsen her condition. Tshibola's mother realized that her only choice was to take her daughter to the Congolese Presbyterian Church mission hospital, Good Shepherd Hospital, in the distant village of Tshikaji. They arrived after a long and difficult trip. When a careful evaluation had been completed, it was clear that she needed emergency surgery. When Tshibola had been stabilized and prepared for surgery, we prayed with her and her mother, and she underwent life-saving surgery. After a long recovery period and complete healing she came to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and felt God calling her to become a doctor so that she could minister to others just as we had ministered to her. That is why she had pulled me aside. She wanted to tell me that she, now a doctor, was the little girl God saved so long ago, and that she was a Christian doctor serving the population of the Congo in her community. Praise the Lord!

Rev. Zacharie Mboyamba, who oversees the CPC medical program, spoke to me about the importance of Presbyterian World Mission (PWM)'s emphasis on the alleviation of poverty, one of three "Critical Global Issues" identified in PWM's strategic directions. The others are Evangelism and Reconciliation. Health care falls under the poverty category because poverty leads to ill health and ill health leads to poverty—a vicious circle.



Happy mothers with children at
Moma Hospital



Saturday morning medical conference at Good Shepherd Hospital

As Pastor Mboyamba explained, Congo's families are living at the margins, with little room to cope with adversity. Illness and injury can easily drive them into unsurvivable poverty. At the same time poverty itself increases the risk that they will be injured or become ill, and once they fall ill they will not have money to pay for care and will be unable to seek medical attention. Pastor Mboyamba says that health care ministries are vitally important because "*in the Congo it is easy to die—but hard to stay alive.*"

I thank God that through partnership with the CPC I can participate in the healing ministries of the CPC as a medical educator and as a physician helping to provide healing—compassionate, loving healing as Jesus described in Matthew—to the people of central Congo.

Blessings in Christ, John and Gwenda Fletcher



Church Picnic

Join us for a fun afternoon of good food and games for all ages. Hamburger, hot dogs, and beverages provided. Sign up sheets for sides, salads, and desserts are in the Fellowship Hall.

Picnic will start following the 10:45 service on Oct 2nd.

Hope to see you there!

No God

No Peace

Know God

Know Peace

Very Special Thanks

To all those who provided 'special music' during the summer weeks when Chancel Choir took their "break!" We were easily able to 'fill the spots' for the ELEVEN Sundays! Occasionally our service was blessed with TWO 'special music' selections! THANK YOU for blessing our worship service!! Thus, MUCH APPRECIATION TO the following who shared their gifts with us:

CAROL and KRISTINA MASON , vocal duet, accompanied by CAROL MASON

GEOFF STEPHENSON, vocal solo, accompanied by KERRY GLANN

PASTOR JOEL STEVENOR, vocal solo, accompanied by JANN GLANN

JOEL STEVENOR and JOHN GLANN, vocal duet

accompanied by CAROL MASON

HANDBELL CHIME CHOIR, Two Sundays (!), JOANNA PHILLIPS, director

KIMBERLY RYU (cello), JANIS BREWER (violin), CAROL MASON (piano),

instrumental trio

JUDI PERRY, vocal solo, accompanied by CAROL MASON

JOEL STEVENOR, GEOFF STEPHENSON, KERRY GLANN, JOHN GLANN,

vocal quartet

ANN PULLANO and CAROL MASON, vocal duet

CAROL MASON, vocal solo and piano accompaniment

ADALEINE JACKSON, vocal solo, accompanied by CAROL MASON

ANNABELLE RYU and EUGENIA KIM, violin and piano duet

ERICA GOEBEL and ADALEINE JACKSON, vocal duet

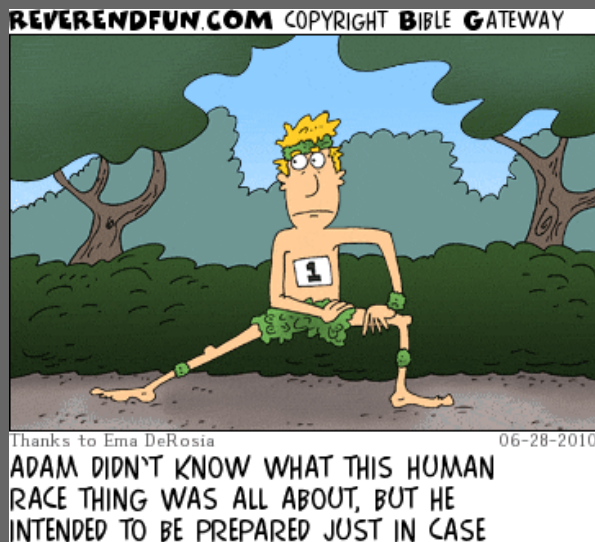
accompanied by MITCH MILLER

Join a PW Mission Tour of Ferncliff

Consider joining a hands-on mission tour of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Center, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, October 24–28, 2016. You will tour the facility, which is related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Arkansas; assemble Gifts of the Heart kits; receive PDA disaster response training; and visit the Heifer Project's headquarters and Clinton Library. Participation is limited to 20, so apply soon! The application (due no later than September 24). Contact Kathy Reeves, PW's associate for mission, at 502/569-5402 for additional information.

Godly Play Workshop

PCUSA Churches in Tiffin, Defiance, and Findlay present a learning opportunity geared toward Sunday School teachers and Children's Church leaders. This workshop is led by a certified Godly Play trainer (Deb Elgloff). Children have an innate sense of presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. The workshop will be held on Saturday, Oct 8, from noon—5:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Tiffin. Registration cost is \$8 and includes lunch. Contact Rev Katie Treadway at pastor@fpctiffin.com



Our Women's Association collected a total of 4 boxes of books and a box of religious pictures. They were delivered to Christian Resources International in Fowlerville MI and will be sent all over the world for Christian missions. This is the third year that our congregation has made a donation. Thank you.



Adopt a School

This national program, which began in Sandusky City Schools, is now in its second year in Huron. It is a way to show that Christians care and to extend Christ's love to children in the community. It is **not** to teach Sunday school lessons in school or to recruit.

Our church has adopted **Shawnee School** and with the new school year new programs are in need of volunteers.

What is needed? '**Classroom Angels**' are needed to pray for each class at Shawnee School. We have 12 prayer cards available of each child in each grade at Shawnee School, first name only, and ask that you pray daily during the school year for the teachers and student. **Interested?**

We have two volunteers for special classroom help, sometimes with reading or math needs, **we could use 3 more volunteers**. You would set up times and work with the teacher regarding a student's needs. A background check is needed, at no cost to you. **Interested?**

Grandparents Day will be coming and we had a great response from our parishioners last year....and those little ones were so appreciative. More details will follow as soon as we have dates and times.

Some of our members are part of **Breakfast Buddies** at Woodlands School, an interaction with the children when they arrive at school and have a little meal before school begins for the day. **Interested?**

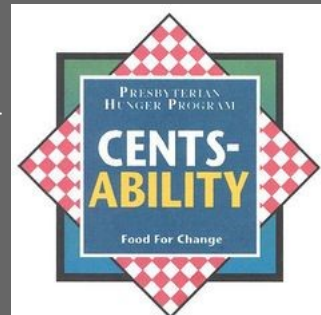
We would greatly appreciate any help you are willing to give. If you are willing to take a prayer card, volunteer in the classroom, or help in any way, please contact Sharon Velliquette by phone 419-433-3870 or by email Sharonv48@aol.com.

Poetry Reading

On Sunday, Sept 18, at 3:00 pm in our church parlor, the Nurture and Mission Committee will continue with its 7th season in our poetry mission series and host a poetry reading on the topic: CYCLES. Life is full of cycles with the four seasons, the cycles of growth in people, animals, and plants, the cycles of education from elementary, middle, high school, and college/university life. Experience poetry written in a variety of styles and genres, on a variety of subjects. Readers will include our own church poets and members from the community as well. Music will be provided by Janis Brewer and Kimberly Ryu. Refreshments will be provided by the Nurture and Mission Committee. Come and experience the joy of poetry and music. Bring a friend! If you would like to be a reader, contact Ron Ruble at rubes@bex.net or 419-433-3820.

What is Cents-Ability?

2 Cents-a-Meal (or Cents-Ability) is a program that originated in 1976. It was begun by Presbyterian Women as a way to respond to world-wide hunger by involving individuals and families. The program supports local hunger ministries as well as national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Our Huron Presbyterian Church sends a portion of our money collected to the local food pantry housed at the Lighthouse Church. We put our collection buckets out the first Sunday of each month. One bucket is placed in the parlor and the other is in the Fellowship Hall. Please support this program!



Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner

On Sept 16th, the Boy Scouts will have their Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7:30 pm in our church's Fellowship Hall. This is open to the public. Dine in or carry out available. Tickets can be purchased from a boy scout or at the door.





On August 28th was a beautiful day to spend kayaking. A big thanks to Bill Graves and Erie Metro-Parks for providing the kayaks for our group of 18.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Sam Nikolajevs
- 1 Patricia Williamson
- 3 David Asher
- 6 Fritz Mueller
- 7 Lesa Guerrero
- 7 Gene Darby
- 7 Eileen Darby
- 9 Baird Pfahl
- 10 Daniel Ryu
- 11 Felicia Holloway
- 12 Charlene Schuman
- 14 Campbell Hagy
- 15 Ed Taylor
- 17 Daniel Jett
- 19 Virginia Parisi
- 22 Sarah Blakeman
- 22 Betty Fenn
- 23 Joyce Chapin
- 26 Jim Berry
- 26 Cynthia Zorn
- 30 Andrew Bickell
- 30 Karen McMillion

Save the Date

- Sept 2 Floors stripped and waxed. No foot traffic until dry.
- Sept 6 Lydia Circle in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm
- Sept 7 Cub Scout Sign Up Night
- Sept 8 Chancel Choir resumes weekly practice at 7:30 pm
- Sept 8 Handbell Choir resumes weekly practice at 6:30 pm
- Sept 11 Worship hours change (see page 1)
- Sept 11 First Responders Service at 4 pm (see page 2)
- Sept 13 Worship Committee Meeting
- Sept 14 Christ Meal starts at 5 pm
- Sept 14 F&M Committee Meeting at 7 pm
- Sept 15 N&M Committee Meeting at 7:30 pm
- Sept 16 BSA Troop #31 Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7:30 pm
- Sept 18 Poetry Reading at 3 pm (see page 5)
- Sept 21 Session Meeting at 7 pm
- Sept 22 SteepleNotes deadline (email 940phillips@bex.net)
- Sept 28 Christ Meal starts at 5 pm
- Oct 1 Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering in Bluffton, OH
- Oct 2 Church Picnic at 11:45 am (see page 4)



Hot Dog Monday is every Monday starting at noon



Our newsletter only has news in it if you share it.

At this time, the only information we have about this event is the date and place. Gail Burke will share additional information as it becomes available.

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist	Flowers
Sept 4	Chris and Robert Hakeman	Janet Mueller	Janis Brewer	Mark and Pat Koch for Meghan and Andy
Sept 11	Rita and John Phillips	Chris and Robert Hakeman	Terry Burke	Carol Mack for first responders
Sept 18	Debbie Schippel and Joanna Phillips	Sarah Blakeman and June Hanes	Steven Koenig	Dave and Betty Fenn For loved ones
Sept 25	Carolyn and Clark Culbertson	Sarah and Mike Prout	Tammy Boos	Patti Smith for God's Glory John Bickell for Andrew

Communion Servers for Sept 4: Michael and Sarah Prout, Jack Arthur, and Jeanne Schafer
Janis Brewer will do the set-up for Communion