



Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Rev. Deborah Bowsher

February 2018

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

Dear Church,

So it's February already...Or at least almost February, depending on when you read this!

And if you're like me, your body is feeling, well, as deeply chilled as if you've been living in the fresh veggie drawer of your refrigerator for a couple of months. I keep telling myself that after the last two super mild winters that inhabited the region, the earth needed to be deeply frozen in order to kill off disease laden insects.

All the same: Baby, it's COLD outside!

The question is – in this month that is all about Valentine's hearts – how warm is your heart?

Now I don't mean does it beat rhythmically inside your 98.6° body. The question is more about how spiritually supple and warm your soul is in your interactions with others and your love for Christ.

In seminary my Methodist classmates would ask this question another, much more Wesleyan, way. They'd say "How is it with your soul?"

The question invites us to step back from our daily lives and habits to consider where-how-if God is in them. It encourages us to wonder:

What are the things that I'm engaging in that bring my soul closer God? What are the things that I'm doing that are putting a wedge between God and myself? What are the things that I'm doing in my life that really make my soul shine brightly and flourish? What are things I'm engaged in that are draining the life out of my soul?

Whether we are retired or taking on a new job or somewhere in between, we tend to face life's activities with great seriousness and energy. We become so consumed and busy with every-day tasks that we don't notice that we're running on icy rails straight towards the end of the tracks.

We may take days off, but with cell phone in hand we're still connected to work, volunteer committees, and robo call sales gimmicks. Such over-connection actually drains us physically, emotionally and yes, spiritually. Our busyness easily disrupts our connection to God too many of us are in danger of losing our humanity – which is our connection to God.

Yet the cold and snow of winter offer us a legitimate opportunity to stay quietly indoors and spend time with the question of how it is with our souls – how is it with our relationship with the One who loves us beyond our imaginations can dream... the One who was and is and shall be forever more: God.

This is especially true this year, not because it's been so very cold outside, but because Lent begins on the day we celebrate St. Valentine, the patron saint of those who love others. So this February I invite you to ask yourself "How is it with my soul? Is my relationship with the God who loves me warm and alive? Or does it need some heating up?"

Regardless of your answers I have a second invitation for you:

On February 14th, come and enjoy supper with the Christ's Meal community at 5:00 p.m. It's guaranteed to warm your body – and your heart. Then stay to receive a visible reminder of how we push ourselves to the edge of disconnected exhaustion during our Ash Wednesday service that begins at 6:15 p.m. I'm confident that as you return home, even amidst the cold of winter, the ashes will rekindle the warmth of God's love in your soul and leave you more open to hearing God's small, quiet voice in your hearts throughout the 40 day journey to Jesus' cross.

In Peace,

Pastor Deb.



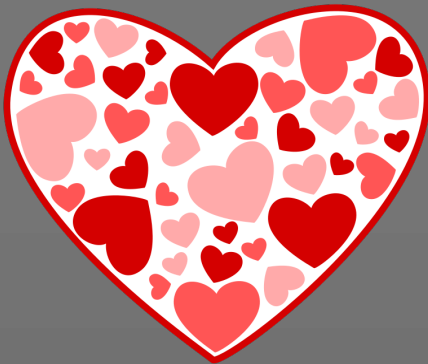
Looking Ahead....



SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4th

Join us for Scout Sunday on February 4th. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop & Pack 31 and their leaders will be leading worship. They will also be hosting the fellowship hour after worship. Please join us for this special worship service!



VALENTINE RECEPTION

Sunday, February 11th

Nurture and Mission will be hosting a special Valentine Reception after worship on Sunday, February 11th. Please join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

LENTEN SUPPERS & STUDY

Wednesday, February 21st– Wednesday, March 28th

Beginning Wednesday, February 21st at 5:00 p.m., you are invited to share in supper – with Christ's Meals friends when they gather and on our own when not. Then, at 6:00 we'll study one chapter of Adam Hamilton's book *Creed*. We'll meet through Wednesday, March 28th.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND STUDY WITH PASTOR DEB BEGINS 2/21 @ 5PM

We're used to answers popping up on a screen right in front of us. But when the questions examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life, finding the answers takes more than simply typing a few words and pushing a button.

Author and theologian Adam Hamilton believes that powerful answers to many of our complicated questions are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. By studying that statement through his book, *Creed*, we'll explore not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe, and why it matters, which in turn leads readers to confront and examine our own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed's familiar words.

Beginning Wednesday, February 21st at 5:00 p.m., you are invited to share in supper – with Christ's Meals friends when they gather and on our own when not. Then, at 6:00 we'll study one chapter of the book. We'll meet through Wednesday, March 28th.

Our study will cover each section of the Apostles Creed:

1. God
2. Jesus Christ
3. The Holy Spirit
4. The Church and the Communion of Saints
5. The Forgiveness of Sins
6. The Resurrection of the Body



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women at First Presbyterian Church of Huron are members of the Presbyterian Women (PW) group. From September through June, PW provides a monthly Circle meeting which is a Bible study held on the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church. If you would like further information about Circle, please contact Sarah Blakeman at 419-433-5639. PW receives income from PW pledges, the two annual rummage sales, the quilters' efforts, and retired teachers' luncheons. These funds are used to pay an annual pledge to the church and the Presbyterian Women of Maumee Valley Presbytery which has a mission to support the church worldwide. Additionally, all proceeds earned by the quilters are donated to the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Fund. Each year, CWS distributes thousands of blankets around the world to families fleeing their homes and recovering from disasters. This year our quilters group donated \$943 to this fund. If you are interested in any of the activities of the Presbyterian Women, please contact the church office.

USHERS & HOSPITALITY

Starting in March, we will have a list of ushers and hospitality that will rotate just like the liturgist list. If you are interested in serving during worship in an ushering or hospitality capacity, please contact the office or notify Cynthia Brown Mathews. For now, there are sign-up sheets for the month of February on the table in the narthex.

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

For God so loved the world
that He gave
His only
begotten
Son
that whosoever
believeth
in Him
should not perish
but have everlasting life.

February 4, 2018

Christ Episcopal Church
Reverend Mike Floyd

February 11, 2018

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church
Pastor Tom Holzaepfel

February 18, 2018

St. Peter Catholic Church
Father Jeff McBeth

February 25, 2018

United Methodist Church
Pastor Roger Skelley-Watts

SPECIAL THANKS FROM KINDER CASA

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to KinderCasa Preschool. Your contribution has enabled us to continue the much needed work of building our Beloved School Community! Your support strengthens our commitment and helps us as we collaborate with others in striving to achieve our mission to: Provide a free, developmentally appropriate, Christian preschool for children of families whose primary language is Spanish, while realizing the importance of lovingly encouraging the uniqueness, creativity, curiosity, and self-esteem of each child, who is a precious gift from God!

May God Bless You,
Serena Bowles
Director/Treasurer of KinderCasa.

Did You Know?

You can reach Pastor Deb anytime - even if she isn't at her desk! Just call or text her cell number: **614-309-0417**. She even keeps the phone by her bed so you can call if you're facing a late night pastoral emergency. You can also reach her via email at **pastorfpchuron@bex.net**.

Her official office hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 am until 3 pm. She will also be in the office on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

BEER AND HYMNS EVENT

Sing Loudly, Drink Slowly, Make Friends

Maumee Valley Presbytery

Sunday, February 25th @ 7 pm

BLACK CLOISTER BREWING

619 Monroe St., Toledo, OH

Mark your calendars -- the next Beer & Hymns is coming up on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.! Need a lift from those bleak winter blues? Come to the Black Cloister to sing loudly, drink slowly, and make friends.



IN THE COMMUNITY



SOUSA CONCERT

HEART HEALTHY LIVING

Sousa Concert at EHOVE

Sunday, April 22nd @ 2 pm

at the EHOVE Career Center located at 316
West Mason Road, Milan, OH 44846

*Featuring Marcus Neiman and the Medina
Community Band*

FREE ADMISSION

Tuesday, February 13th @ 1 pm

It All Starts in the Kitchen

An interactive program on Heart Healthy
Cooking with demonstrations and taste testings!

Kingston Residence of Vermilion

6010 West Lake Rd

RSVP to 440-967-2424

For questions, please call Lianep Carrion at
440-653-3095.

LifeTree Café will meet on Monday February 12th at 7:00 pm at the Huron Public Library. The program, titled **“Whistleblower: The True Story of an FBI informant,”** will explore why Mark Whitacre participated in a crime that defrauded millions of American consumers. It will also explore the effects of his decision to cooperate with authorities in prosecuting the crime. During the session Lifetree participants will have the opportunity to discuss times they’ve faced difficult moral decisions.

The Monday, February 26th program titled “Does God Have a Plan for You?”—features a filmed interview with Operation Baby Lift volunteer LeAnn Thieman. In the final days of the Vietnam War, Thieman who originally traveled to Vietnam to escort six orphans to the United States. Upon arrival, she learned she would have a very different mission.

Admission to the 60-minute event is **free**. Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual, comfortable setting.

For more information call 419-433-4955.



Sandusky Alzheimer’s Support Group

Come join us for our upcoming meeting @ 7 pm

Firelands Regional Medical Center in the

South Campus Cafeteria

Topic: Advanced Care Planning- “Making Difficult Decisions” **Speaker:** Katherine McGraw RN, MSN, NP-C, ACHPN



- February 3 Dan Robertson
- February 5 Harold Behnken
- February 8 Lauren Mueller
- February 10 Thomas Work
- February 11 John McMillion
- February 12 Ashden Haase
- February 13 Craig Johnson
- February 14 Harold Wright
- February 14 Doug Brown
- February 17 Martha Eileen Stewart
- February 18 John Arthur
- February 22 Patti Smith
- February 25 Ann Wright
- February 25 Witmer Symmonds
- February 25 Debbie Schippel
- February 26 Phillip Hopkins
- February 26 Jenny Hagy



- February 4 Scout Sunday
- February 5 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- February 6 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am
- February 7 Worship Meeting @ 7 pm
- February 8 N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- February 9 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon
- February 11 Communion & Elder Installation (during worship)
- February 11 Valentine Reception
- February 14 Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:15 pm
- February 14 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
- February 19 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- February 19 March Steeple Notes Deadline
- February 21 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm
- February 21 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
- February 28 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
- February 28 Lenten Supper/Study @ 5 pm/6 pm

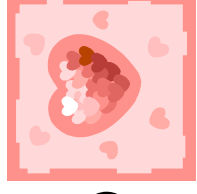


Pastor Deb's Office Hours:
 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday~ 10 am– 3 pm
 * She will also be here on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
Feb. 4	Ron Ruble & Rich Haase	Chuck Kaman	Troop & Pack 31	Ron Ruble
Feb. 11	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Karen Brown	Valentine Reception	Bob & Marcie Muntz
Communion Servers: Mark Koch, Ron Ruble, Richard, & Barb Haase Set-up: Carolyn Culbertson				
Feb. 18	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Agnes Toldy	<i>volunteer needed</i>	
Feb. 25	<i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Janis Brewer	<i>volunteer needed</i>	



FEBRUARY 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	2	3
4 Scout Sunday Worship @10:45am (2-Cents-A-Meal)	5 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30 am Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	6 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am	7 Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Worship Meeting @ 7 pm	8 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm	9 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon	10
11 Worship @10:45am (Communion/Elder Installation) Valentine Reception	12 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30 am Hot Dog Monday @ noon	13	14 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:15pm	15 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	16	17
18 Worship @10:45am	19 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30 am Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	20	21 Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm Session Meeting @ 7 pm	22 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	23	24
25 Worship @10:45am	26 Women's Bible Study @ 9:30 am Hot Dog Monday @ noon	27	28 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Lenten Supper/Study @ 5pm/6pm Women's Bible Study @ 6 pm			