

Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Rev. Deborah Bowsher

April 2018

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



On Sunday, April 1st First Presbyterian Church is welcoming NEW MEMBERS!

Yes, we know it's Easter... But did you know that in the earliest of times, new church members were traditionally welcomed on Resurrection Sunday? In those days new believers were educated in the faith by the elders for about two years before they would be baptized into Christ.

There is good reason for this. As Paul wrote to the Roman church: "we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Rom 6:4-5)

Here's a bit about them:

Over the last couple of months you've seen Francesca Lendrum singing with the choir each Sunday. A life-long Presbyterian, Francesca has been worshipping with this congregation for a couple of years. Though she's lived in California, Chicago and elsewhere, because she was raised here, she thinks of Huron as home. Francesca has an event planning business that is based here, but takes her on the road to help clients across the country.

Doug and Wendy Quinn are both from the Cleveland area and are both cradle Presbyterians. The two are able to work from home for their companies so were able to move to Huron a couple of years ago. Doug's involved with a large insurance corporation's motorcycle division. Wendy has sold eye wear to optometrists for over twenty years (you can tell that by the amazing glasses she wears!)

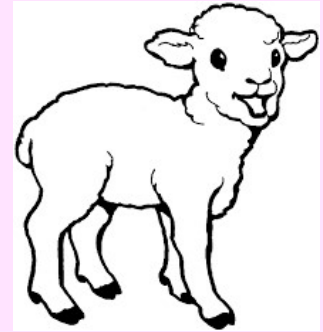
All three of these people are looking forward to getting to know you and becoming more involved with their new church. So please look for new FPCH's newest members in a pew near you!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

Dear Church,

No two ways about it: when creating Spring God's spirit soared!

- Foals and little lambs gamboling in spring green meadows
- Red breasted robins skittering across brilliant blue skies
- Purple violets and sunny daffodils nestled along woodland paths
- And that spectacular, brilliant green of lacy leaves as they unfurl on tree branches! WOW!



Spring truly is God's answer to the fierce Lake winds that blow away winter's snows.

OK. So where is it? Where is Spring? My central Ohio blood is still pretty thin.

Not that I mind winter. It has its joys too. And it isn't as though I'm not used to the cold. It just seems that winter lasts longer in Huron than it did "down south."

But that doesn't mean new life isn't bubbling beneath the surface around here. The red buds that hang on the maples are quite visible...

Not only that, but there are new signs of life here at FPC Huron too!

On Easter Sunday we'll welcome new members to our midst. (You can read more about them elsewhere in this newsletter.) Please take time to get to know them. They are so excited about becoming official parts of this congregation!

Also, the Christian Ed committee and I are making plans to offer a confirmation class later this Spring or early in the Summer. We hope that through such an experience youth age 11 and up can sort out their faith and be ready to publically profess their belief soon.

In addition to that, everyone is invited to meet with me on Sunday, April 22nd, and again on Sunday May 20th, for an opportunity to grow in faith. On those two Sundays we'll look for Presbyterian answers to your questions about faith issues.

And, if you or someone you know is into bicycling, on May 12th Mark Koch, Church Kaman and Clark Culbertson will be offering a "Riding Readiness" clinic in which they'll help you make sure your bike is tuned up and ready to roll all summer long!

Not only that, but on the morning of May 12th F&M is again sponsoring the annual Spring Cleaning for the church. From what I hear, that's a time for all semi-retired gardeners to get a little yard time in without having to maintain a garden all season!

BTW, April 23 - 29 I'm looking forward to letting my spirit soar down at the PC(USA) center at Montreat, NC (where the azaleas and rhododendron bloom!) for the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen's Triennial Conference. Who wouldn't want to be on a mountain near Asheville talking about Reformed theology and learning from those who have walked the path of ministry before?

Yes, like red buds on maple trees, there's many signs of new life opening up for this congregation. And I'm looking forward to sharing it with you!

In Peace,

Deb.

Looking Ahead....

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 1st

Easter Sunday there will be a brunch provided by Nurture & Mission, which will be served from 9:30-10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will serve breakfast casseroles, fruit, rolls/muffins, juice, milk, and coffee. Our Easter Sunday service will follow in the sanctuary @ 10:45 am. We will be welcoming new members to our church family during this service!



RETIRED TEACHERS LUNCHEON

Friday, April 13th

The next Retired Teachers Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 13th @ noon. If you are to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up, please contact Kathy Kirby or Patti Smith.

POETRY READING

Sunday, April 29th

April is National Poetry Month. On Sunday, April 29, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., in the church Parlor, the Nurture and Mission Committee will continue its poetry mission series and host a poetry reading on the topic of "THE POET'S MUSE." Enjoy the poetic variety you will experience in thought, style, and delivery. If you would like to be a reader, contact Ron Ruble, ASAP, at rubes@bex.net or by calling Ron at 419-202-6526. Special music will be provided as well as tasty refreshments. Come and enjoy! Bring a friend!



EASTER'S APRIL FOOL!

In trouble with religion and government!
Judged and condemned by rigged "popular vote!"
Nailed to a cross to die in public shame!
Last breath helplessly looked at those below!

Challenged "accepted" systems!
Loved!
Hated!
End of story!

Put in a hollowed stone
Made to contain decaying bodies!
The flesh of it! - The spirit of it!
Stone rolled in front to secure it!

Man and message dead!
Locked away from more influence!
A single life! - A single event!
Over!

His words and actions gone!
Body still! - Swallowed up!
Beginning its journey into dust!
Only "fools" attracted to his story!

April fool!
Confinement did not stop the seed
Planted in minds of common people
On streets, along pathways, in assemblies!

April Fool!
The pageant of dying for other's sins continues!
Voices made silent, massacred, kept in enslavement
and poverty
Still rise up from tombs designed to deny them "life!"

"Crucifixion," "Tombs," - intent to silence!
Modern versions still being tried!
A modern "strategy"
By laws and rules designed to secure status quo!

People still put in "tombs!"
People in prison cells!
People trafficked as sex toys or servants!
Land and animals enduring pollution!

In tombs today!
Full time employees in poverty because of low pay!
Girls denied education - women paid less - male
domination!
Children abused by coaches, parents, teachers, minis-
ters!

Voters denied vote by gerrymandering!
Addicts drugged to their death!
Drug company markups and medical gouging!
Employs worked to hard, too long, by insensitive em-
ployers!

Religion locked in old concepts and creeds!
Refugees seeking a new life stopped by boarders!
A nation gridlock by political views!

Behind stone doors!

Easter's April Fool!!!!
Subversive hope - resurrection,
Voices crying "Freedom, Justice, Compassion,"
Cannot be stopped forever!

Bodies are not the vehicle of truth!
The soul stores and instigates "resurrection!"
Drives the pageant of new life and renaissance!
Emerging from paved highways!

Tradition stretched into new formation
Reminding of God-Man mystery!
New life, new ways, insuppressible!
Unexpected birth in unexpected places, in surprising
ways!

"Resurrection" still happening!
Women marching on streets and at capitals!
"Me too" confronting sexual abuse by powerful men!
Teenagers confronting NRA and gun laws!

Arts emerge to heal!
Yoga now mainline!
More information available than in all history!
Research unlimited - worldwide!

Bullies exposed!
Violence motif in games and sports challenged!
Sports ethics confronted!
"Everything" open to discussion!

Satellites looking in on earthly transactions like God!
Drones collecting valuable data and surveying!
Nano technology expanding human efforts!
Medical equipment and medicines free in countries!

Protest, encounter, passionate caring march in
streets!
Secrets! - "Back channels" exposed!
Documents of Jesus' time and beyond uncovered
New understanding of history and today's "roots!"

His story - "Saves only those who believe in him?"
"Used" to enhance a personal agenda -
To beat up others with judgment!
To punish those who differ!

To ignore is to put "treasure" into "trash,"
To bury "Easter's" reality in vain!
Responsibility, caring, sharing will find "a way!"
Silence no longer an option!

"Resurrection!" Is a reality!
Truth, justice and love can not be confined to graves
of stone!
Creativity, hope, love always finds new life!
"Surprise" faster than we can imagine!

Written by: Rev. George L. Bell
March 15, 2018



PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

April 1, 2018

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church
Pastor Tom Holzaepfel

April 8, 2018

St. Peter Catholic Church
Father Jeff McBeth

April 15, 2018

United Methodist Church
Pastor Roger Skelley-Watts

April 22, 2018

Zion Lutheran Church

April 29, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
Reverend Deborah Bowsher

HELP WANTED

Beginning this month, 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 to be placed on this rotation list. **We would truly appreciate your help!**

PER CAPITA

Per Capita" is how PC USA and each individual Presbytery is funded. It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship.

Per Capita for 2018 is \$30 per member. If you have not yet paid your 2018 Per Capita, please try to do so. Mark your check or offering envelope "per capita."

PRAYER PATH WORK DAY

Please come and join us on Saturday, April 14th for the Community Prayer Path Work Day. Work starts at 9 am and ends at Noon. Lunch will be provided at noon. The prayer path is located behind the Zion Lutheran Church. at 930 S. Main St., Huron, OH 44839.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

It's almost time for our annual Spring Rummage Sale!

It will be on Saturday, May 5th from 9 am to 1 pm

Donations can be placed in the Fellowship Hall starting April 30th after 2 pm.

Volunteers are needed for set up on May 4th (9am to noon), during the sale, and clean up after the sale.



THE NEED IS GREAT AND SO IS OUR CALLING.



YOUR GIVING REPAIRS THE BREACHES THAT SEPARATE PEOPLE FROM LIVES OF WHOLENESS

When the forces of chaos and calamity rip the fabric of human life, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are there to sew it back together.

Your generosity fulfills a vision rooted in the biblical witness and beautifully stated in Isaiah 58:12. The prophet writes: “You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing ministries bridge the divides that tear apart the lives of individuals and communities.

In Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory that was devastated by Hurricane Maria last year, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance promised help to the island’s Presbyterian leaders even before the storm made landfall. Days after Maria hit, the first wave of PDA grants arrived and immediately pressing community needs were being met. Desperately needed items such as food, water, diapers and medical supplies were in the hands of hurricane survivors swiftly. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing made it possible for PDA to act promptly in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida and other places when disasters struck in rapid succession last year. In addition, PDA will continue working in these communities long after other groups leave.

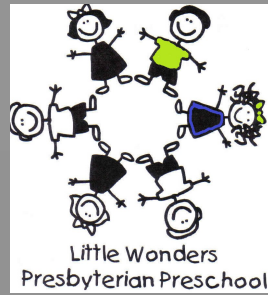
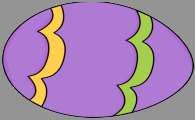
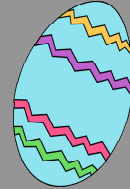
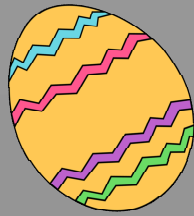
In Akron, Ohio, Diretha’s recovery from drug addiction was threatened by more than a decade of unemployment. She says her decision to join the Front Porch Café community helped her get a job and remain drug-free. The Front Porch consists of individuals who struggle with drug addiction or who seek to re-enter society after spending time in prison. At the Front Porch, they can eat a good meal, learn and grow among others who have experienced similar struggles, and receive guidance on employment opportunities. A Self Development of People grant, made possible by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, helped renovate and equip the building that houses the café.

“If I hadn’t gotten involved with the Front Porch, there is a chance I would have started using again and been in prison or even died,” Diretha says. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing gifts contribute to positive change that lasts.

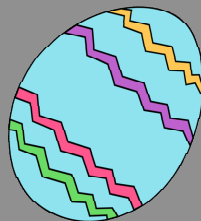
In Uganda, Najjuma, a 56-year-old widow, depends on eight acres of farmland to feed three children and eight grandchildren left orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, her in-laws ordered her to leave the land her late husband had inherited. Thanks to training programs held by Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Najjuma knew the law was on her side. She successfully appealed for help through local land-governance structures. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts helped Najjuma continue to farm the land and improve farming techniques in order to feed her children and grandchildren.

In places far and near, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts repair breaches that pierce the wholeness that God wants for everyone. Please give generously.

***We look forward to receiving your One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings on Easter. Please mark the envelope and/or check memo line with “One Great Hour of Sharing.”**



Happy Easter from Little Wonders!



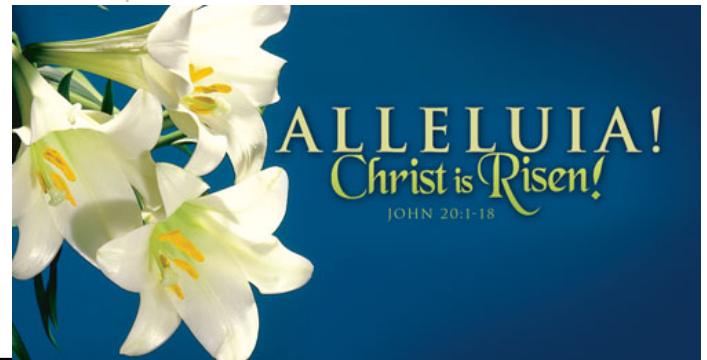
- April 1 Easter Brunch @ 9:30-10:15 am
- April 1 Easter Service/Welcome New Members @ 10:45am
- April 2 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- April 11 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
- April 11 F&M and Worship Meetings @ 7 pm
- April 12 N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- April 13 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon
- April 16 Prayer Group @ 1 pm
- April 18 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
- April 23 May Steeple Notes Deadline
- April 25 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm
- April 29 Poetry Reading @ 3 pm



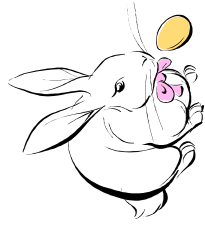
- April 5 Nancy Luke
- April 6 Judi Perry
- April 9 Abigail Cook
- April 10 Guinevere Bihun
- April 13 Paul Todd
- April 15 Bom Kimberly Ryu
- April 19 Beverly Johnson
- April 19 Victor Nikolajevs
- April 21 Sarah Prout
- April 24 Clark Culbertson
- April 26 Rachel Berry
- April 26 Ethan Ransom
- April 29 Jann Glann

He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

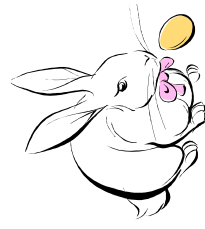
- Matthew 28:6 (ESV)



	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
April 1	John Bickell & June Hanes	Janeane Hopkins	Easter Brunch	Mark & Pat Koch
April 8	Rachel Pratt & Patti Smith	Carolyn Culbertson	Steve & Becky Koenig	
Communion Servers: June Hanes, Jack Arthur, Tammy Boos, and Sarah Blakeman				Set-up: Steve Koenig
April 15	Kathy Kirby & Ron Ruble	Cynthia Brown Mathews	Grace & Ava Moser	Ron Ruble
April 22	Chuck & Bob Kaman	Janeane Hopkins	Ann Pullano	
April 29	John & Marcia Arthur	Steve Koenig	June Hanes	



APRIL 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Easter Brunch @ 9:30-10:15 am Worship @10:45am (2-Cents-A-Meal)	2 Office Closed Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm	3 PW Circle @ 7 pm	4	5 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	6	7
8 Worship @10:45am (Communion)	9 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	10	11 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm FS&M and Worship @ 7pm	12 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm N&M Meeting @ 7:30 pm	13 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ noon	14
15 Worship @10:45am	16 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm Little Wonders Advisory Board Meeting @ 4:30 pm	17 Staff Meeting @ 11:30 am	18 Session Meeting @ 7 pm	19 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	20	21
22 Worship @10:45am	23 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	24	25 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm	26 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	27	28
29 Worship @10:45am Poetry Reading @ 3 pm	30 Hot Dog Monday @ noon					